



# The Sequoyah SCRIBE

A student publication of John Sevier Middle School, Kingsport, Tennessee

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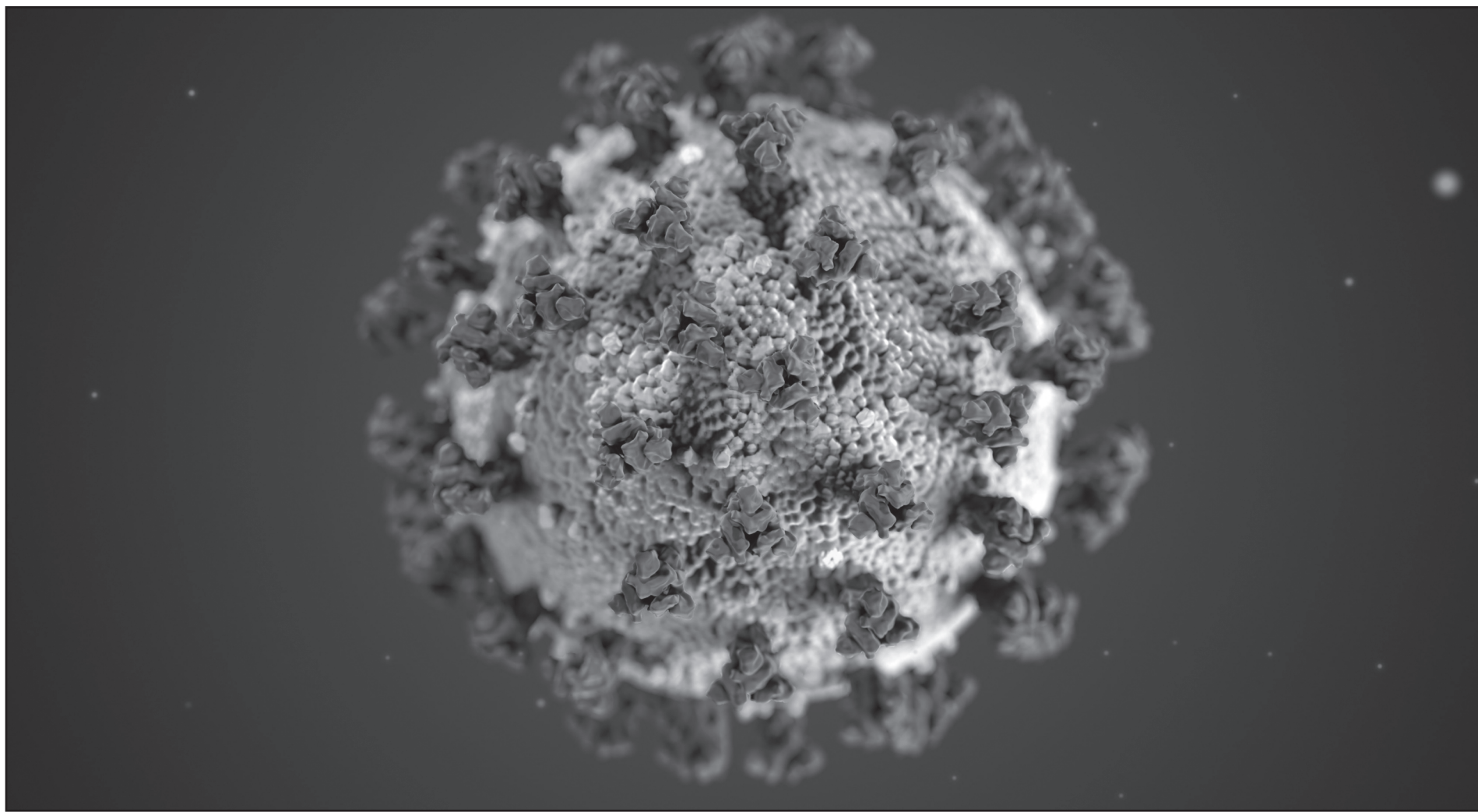


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## COVID-19 virus shuts down Kingsport schools



CDC/ALISSA ECKERT, MS; DAN HIGGINS, MAMS

**SMALL VIRUS, BIG PROBLEMS.** *This illustration, created at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, reveals the structure of the coronavirus. Since the virus has arrived in the United States, it has shut down schools and business all over the country.*

BY MEREDITH MOONEY

People all over the world are buying massive amounts of toilet paper to protect themselves against a world-wide fear: COVID 19. This massive illness has shut down schools all around the world, including Kingsport City Schools.

COVID-19, or coronavirus, is

a respiratory illness that develops through close contact with an infected person and when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

COVID-19 is particularly terrifying because of its ambiguity.

Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health has publicly stated that the difference between the flu and COVID-19

is that people have more experience with the flu.

People know when the flu hits, how to treat it and what its effects are. However, people don't know how COVID-19 is going to affect society.

Many people are doing unprecedented things, like buying in bulk or closing buildings, because they don't know how bad

things could get.

COVID-19 has impacted many people, workplaces and schools all over the world.

What began as a few cases in Wuhan, China at the end of 2019 has sparked massive outbreaks, causing the World Health Organization to declare COVID-19 a pandemic, or worldwide illness.

The countries most affected

by COVID-19 are those with the highest populations and tightest living spaces. The virus mainly affects those with compromised immune systems, such as the elderly, those recovering from cancer or those with autoimmune diseases.

See **CORONAVIRUS** page 4

## Former Sevier orchestra teacher Ashley Guice loses battle with cancer

BY ANNA HARRINGTON

You can lose a part of yourself and never know it.

Former Sevier orchestra teacher Ashley Guice recently passed away after a brief struggle with cancer. Guice has taught many students in the Kingsport school system, since she taught at several different schools.

Likewise, lots of teachers have had the chance to work with her. Both students and teachers have been greatly affected by this loss.

Guice was raised in Henderson County, North Carolina. She

started playing the violin when she was 10 years old and fell in love with music. She studied violin at Eastern Carolina University, Florida State University, the University of South Carolina, and Converse College, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Violin Performance in 2010.

After graduating from Converse, Guice moved to Kingsport to direct the John Sevier Middle School Orchestra. During her time at Sevier, Guice did many things for the students and faculty.

One of her most impactful programs was the faculty or-

chestra. She did this to show students that their teachers weren't so different from them and had to work hard to learn new things, too.

"Sometimes, kids in orchestra get picked on, and I do not take it well," Guice said in a 2013 interview. "[The] Faculty Orchestra was created to show that anyone can do anything and to give kids the opportunity to see that teachers are just like students."

Guice made many friends at Sevier, including STEM teacher Jenny McKlveen.

See **GUICE** page 4



Photo/COURTESY OF AMY ROBERTS



Is listening to music in class a positive influence or a horrible distraction?

READ IT ON PAGE 3

On November 19, Dobyns-Bennett High was placed on lockdown. Then, social media interfered.

READ IT ON PAGE 5

Several school systems across the U.S. have been hacked. How does KCS prevent this problem?

READ IT ON PAGE 7

School sports are great for students, but they are also very expensive.

READ IT ON PAGE 14

## NEWS BRIEFS

BY KARMELA WHITESIDE

CNN reports  
Trump made 15  
false claims in a  
single week

According to CNN fact checkers, president Donald Trump made 15 false claims during the second week of January. The news outlet claims that, before that week, Trump averaged about 62 false claims since July of 2019. Since he spent most of that week in his Mar-a-Lago residence in Florida, he made very few public statements. The report shows the relationship between the president and many news outlets. CNN claims that president Trump makes many false claims, whereas Trump claims CNN is biased against him.

Ballad Health plans  
new urgent care  
locations in the  
Tri-Cities

According to the Kingsport Times-News, Ballad Health will be opening a new Medical Associates urgent care center in Kingsport. It will include both primary care and diagnostic services.

In addition to the Kingsport location, Ballad Health plans to open another location in Banner Elk, North Carolina. These plans are subject to final closing on a site in the West Park development at the corner of West Stone Drive and Netherland Inn Road, near the the Allendale community.

Coronavirus  
strands travellers  
on cruise ships

ABC News reported that U.S. citizens should be prepared for the spread of the new wuhan coronavirus. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention is still investigating whether 14 days is the most accurate incubation period for the virus. Still, the CDC predicts additional cases of the virus in the United States are likely. In Japan, a cruise ship named "The Diamond Princess" was quarantined for over a week. Several U.S. citizens were even eventually evacuated from the cruise ship.

## GUICE: former teacher leaves a legacy of love



Scribe Photo/SARA WHITLEY

**IN THE MIDST OF HER KIDS.** *In this file photo, Ashley Guice directs the Sevier Middle orchestra through a practice session. Guice was known to fight passionately for all of her students.*

*continued from page 1*

"What a woman of integrity," McKlveen said. "My most vivid memory is of Ashley rushing in to the 7th grade workroom to put a lunch box in the refrigerator. When I asked her what she was having for lunch, she reluctantly told me it was for a student who was very poor. He wanted to belong with the 'in crowd' so badly. So, she made sure he had his own lunchbox every day."

Music and teaching weren't the only things Guice loved. She also adored animals.

"She was so much fun and had many stories to tell," administrative assistant Vicky Stoops said. "My best memories of her are all the stories about her dogs. Ashley would go home during the day and check on her dog. He was her baby."

Guice had a passion for teaching and truly loved and cared for her students. Although she never worked with Guice directly, Sevier nurse Traci Bowen had the chance to hear

her play violin at a choir concert.

"She played with a passion for music that was evident to everyone," Bowen said. "She made a special point to introduce herself to my daughter during a rehearsal and tell her that students like her were the reason she lived. I will be forever grateful to her for instilling that confidence in [my daughter]."

Guice also had a fiery and strong spirit. She taught all three of Amy Roberts' children, and the two became fast friends.

"She was there for us when we took in our youngest foster child," Roberts said. "She had a huge fear of enclosed spaces, like elevators. When she couldn't find the stairs to come see me and the baby at the hospital, she sent my food up in the elevator, cussed me, then got in the elevator to come help me."

Hunter Mullins, the current band director at Sevier, knew and worked with Guice.

"Ashley was a talented violinist and fierce advocate for her students," he said.

Social studies teacher and journalism adviser David Flanary was also very fond of Guice.

"Ashley was a good friend and a great person," he said. "She had such a remarkable capacity for caring about others. Her sense of humor was razor sharp. She did not put up with anybody's nonsense. Most importantly, I don't think I've ever met anybody who cared about students more than she did. The world seems a little less bright without her in it."

Guice transferred to Andrew Jackson Elementary to teach general music to young children. Next, she was an interim music teacher in Elizabethton City Schools. Most recently, she taught general music and was choral director at Church Hill Middle School in Hawkins County.

When she was at Church Hill Middle School, she taught the students a song that she would lead during lunch for birthday celebrations.

"The study body has made the decision to continue this tradition, taking up the mantle, if you will, to honor Ms. Guice," Scott Jones, the principal of Church Hill Elementary, said. "During lunch, the students have engaged each other and are honoring Ms. Guice by singing as loudly as they ever have."

Guice's fondest wish was for everyone to treat each other with respect.

"We are all in this together and if you say one nice thing to someone that you barely know every day, we could really change the atmosphere at school," Guice said in a 2013 interview. "Cheer each other on in everything. Change our world with your attitude."

Guice taught for twenty-five years. Her favorite aspect of teaching was her relationship with her students.

"If you do not love teaching with all your heart, do something else," Guice said.

She truly loved it with all of her heart.

## CORONAVIRUS: KCS feeds students during closure

*continued from page 1*

Although young people are the least likely to die from COVID-19, they can still show symptoms and spread the virus to people who can die from it. The dangerous thing about COVID-19 is that the virus can stay alive on a surface for six to eight hours, four times longer than the flu.

The "Guardian" reported that the cases of COVID-19 rose from 798 to 1,140 in just 24 hours. According to the CDC, there have been over 100,000 cases in the United States.

Because of the rapid growth of this illness, many companies and buildings have been shut down to prevent the pandemic from spreading. These include Bristol City Schools, Sullivan County Schools and Kingsport

City Schools.

Annette Tudor of Bristol City Schools, Jeff Moorhouse of Kingsport City Schools and David Cox of Sullivan County Schools sent a joint letter to students and faculty informing them of the school closure.

"As a community, we are all concerned with the health and well-being of our citizens and feel this is the most appropriate measure for Sullivan County's students and families at this time," the letter said.

Across the globe, 300 million students are missing class, from college students to preschool students.

Schools included in the joint letter were scheduled to be closed for two weeks, but they extended this break through April 24.

"The closure of Bristol City

Schools, Kingsport City Schools, and Sullivan County Schools has been extended through Friday, April 24, 2020," a follow-up letter said. "This includes all extra-curricular and athletic activities."

In a public address on March 16, Tennessee's governor, Bill Lee, urged every school district in Tennessee to close as soon as possible.

"Schools should remain closed through March 31, 2020 to further mitigate the spread of this infectious disease and we will issue further guidance prior to March 31," he said. "Every Tennessean has a role to play in preventing the spread of COVID-19 and I urge Tennesseans to be quick to help neighbors as new needs surface with the closure of schools."

During the closure, Kingsport City Schools has offered free

breakfast and lunch to any child under eighteen, regardless of whether they attend the schools or not. KCS busses will drive to meeting spots to drop off the food in order to reduce the spread of germs.

"To help meet the nutritional needs of our community while Kingsport City Schools is closed due to COVID-19, the KCS School Nutrition Services department will be providing free breakfast and lunch to any child age 18 or under on all weekdays when school would have been in session," Assistant Superintendent Andy True stated in a phone call to parents.

Overall, the school districts of Sullivan County are trying to do their part to help prevent the spread of what could go down in the history books as an international crisis.