

SCHOOL OF TEXAS  
**St. Mark's**

  
MARKSMEN  
**2021**  
VOLUME 62  
DALLAS, TEXAS

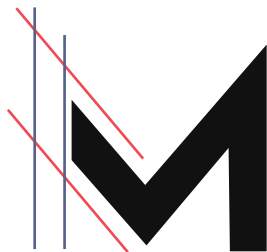
 MARKSMEN**2021**

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Prequel I



\*these pages comprise the "Prequel," a ten-page 4.5x4.5 inch minimalist introduction to the book; this addition is integral to the theme



Harkness chairs, stashed.  
The hallways, once brimming, now empty.



# AMISS

Deafening silence.

# IMPROVISED

Different, somehow. Yet, the same.



Football gear: towel, gloves and mask.  
Pecos gear stranded on campus.



Prequel **IV, V**



Masks protect  
but also hide.  
Four feet on the floor.  
Six feet apart.



# MINDFUL

With adversity, determination. Out of disaster, compassion.

Prequel **VI, VII**

# ACCOMPLISHED

Iconic culture — honing traits to build our character.



The future requires Winn-ing solutions.  
The logo, the colors, the spirit prevails.



Prequel **VIII, IX**

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A senior looks onto campus with hope.

# MARKSMEN

Bound together in our preparation for life.



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Yes, at times, we felt amiss.  
But mindful of the challenges of the year,  
we improvised.

Traditions were re-imagined.

Daily life brought routine, accomplishment.  
Despite the unpredictable, we persisted  
throughout the **2021** school year.

Indeed, we took comfort in knowing  
we would always be **Marksmen**.



**Home turf** Seven major academic buildings extend across the 42 acres that comprise the campus.

**St. Mark's School of Texas**

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Volume 62

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[www.smtexas.org](http://www.smtexas.org)

903 students

SPC Division I



We could not stop the EF3 tornado that left a school bus thrown into a tree and evicted Marksmen from their homes.

We could only get the bus down and begin cleaning up our neighborhood.

We could not mitigate the pandemic that has killed 554,000\* and crippled the economy. But we can comfort and carry forward our community.



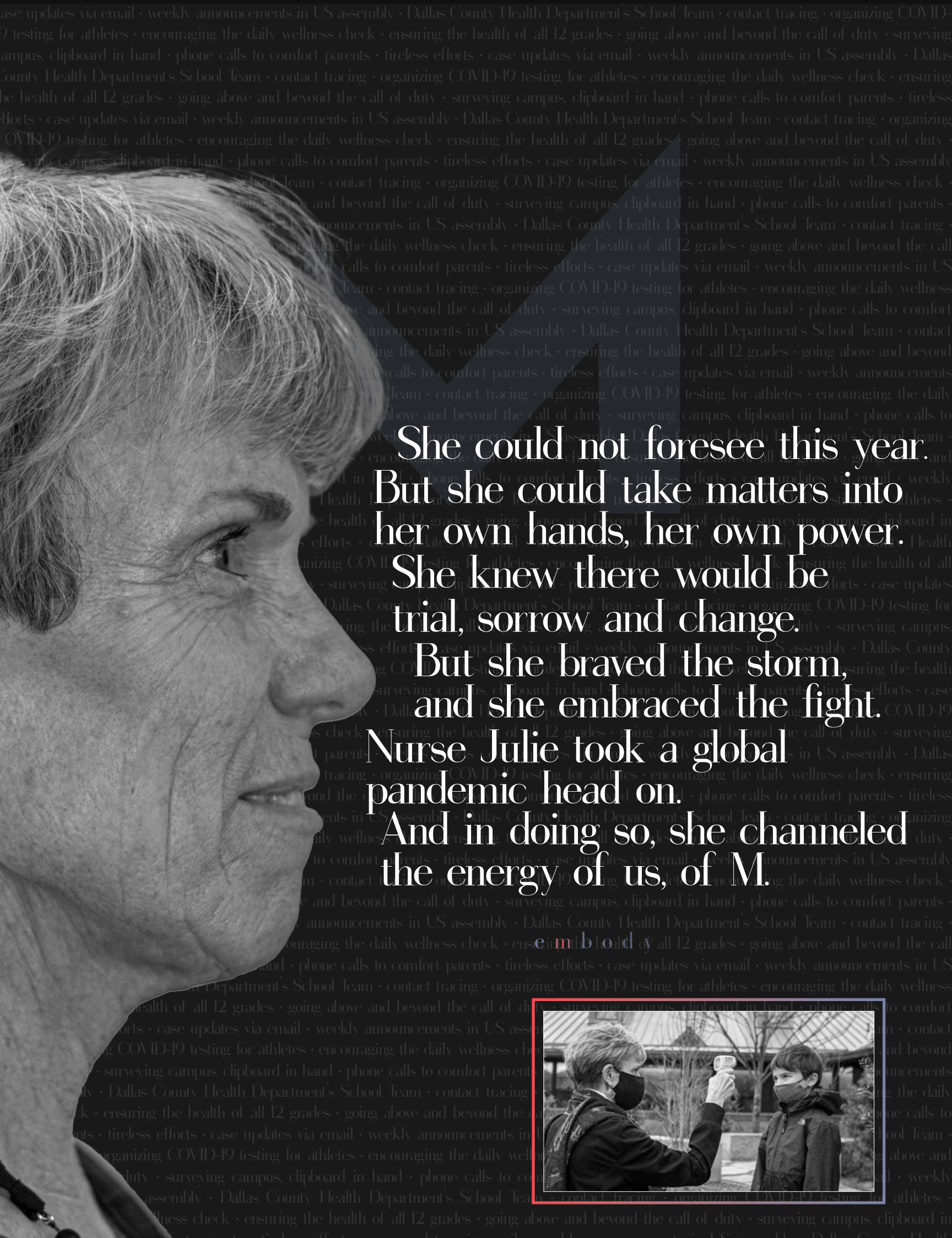
The bow-tie on top Playing his violin, sophomore Akash Raghunathan performs during an orchestra concert despite the empty audience due to restrictions. Family Junior Corvin Oprea and senior Sarbik Saha (opposite) look up into the crowd before an intense basketball game, feeling the welling Marksmen pride.

\*As of April 3, 2021

We can never understand the pain of George Floyd, of Breonna Taylor, of racial injustice. But we can take difficulty, death and devastation as launchpads for conversation. We will never forget what our St. Mark's experience has given us — answers and, admittedly, questions. But we lift one another onto our shoulders. We take the tears and laughs, the ups and downs, the failure and success. We hone our calling. **M** We embody our



Tradition and strength On the Perot Quadrangle during the Christmas Party — held outside for the first time ever — seniors carry their little buddies on their shoulders toward the Path to Manhood statue. T-pose touchdown Watching sixth grader Mitchell Walker score a touchdown on the Quad, sixth grader David Dickson strikes a “T-pose” in celebration.



She could not foresee this year.  
 But she could take matters into  
 her own hands, her own power.  
 She knew there would be  
 trial, sorrow and change.  
 But she braved the storm,  
 and she embraced the fight.  
 Nurse Julie took a global  
 pandemic head on.  
 And in doing so, she channeled  
 the energy of us, of M.



DEDICATION  
**NURSE**  
**JULIE**  
 DOERGE

**On duty** Following a morning of phone calls, school nurse Julie Doerge walks across the Quad to speak with administrators about social distancing policies.  
**Check-up** Nurse Julie (opposite) points her infrared thermometer at first grader Fletcher Carron's forehead as part of COVID-19 precautions.

The first weeks of school were hard because of the added stress of COVID-19. Embracing uncertainty scared us, and things were tough.

— SOPHOMORE STICE NEUHOFF

The school did great in keeping us safe and in-person, but I was worried about them prolonging virtual learning like they did in spring of 2020.

— FRESHMAN HENRY HOAK

Being online was weird. I couldn't find my work a lot, and my iPad would glitch.

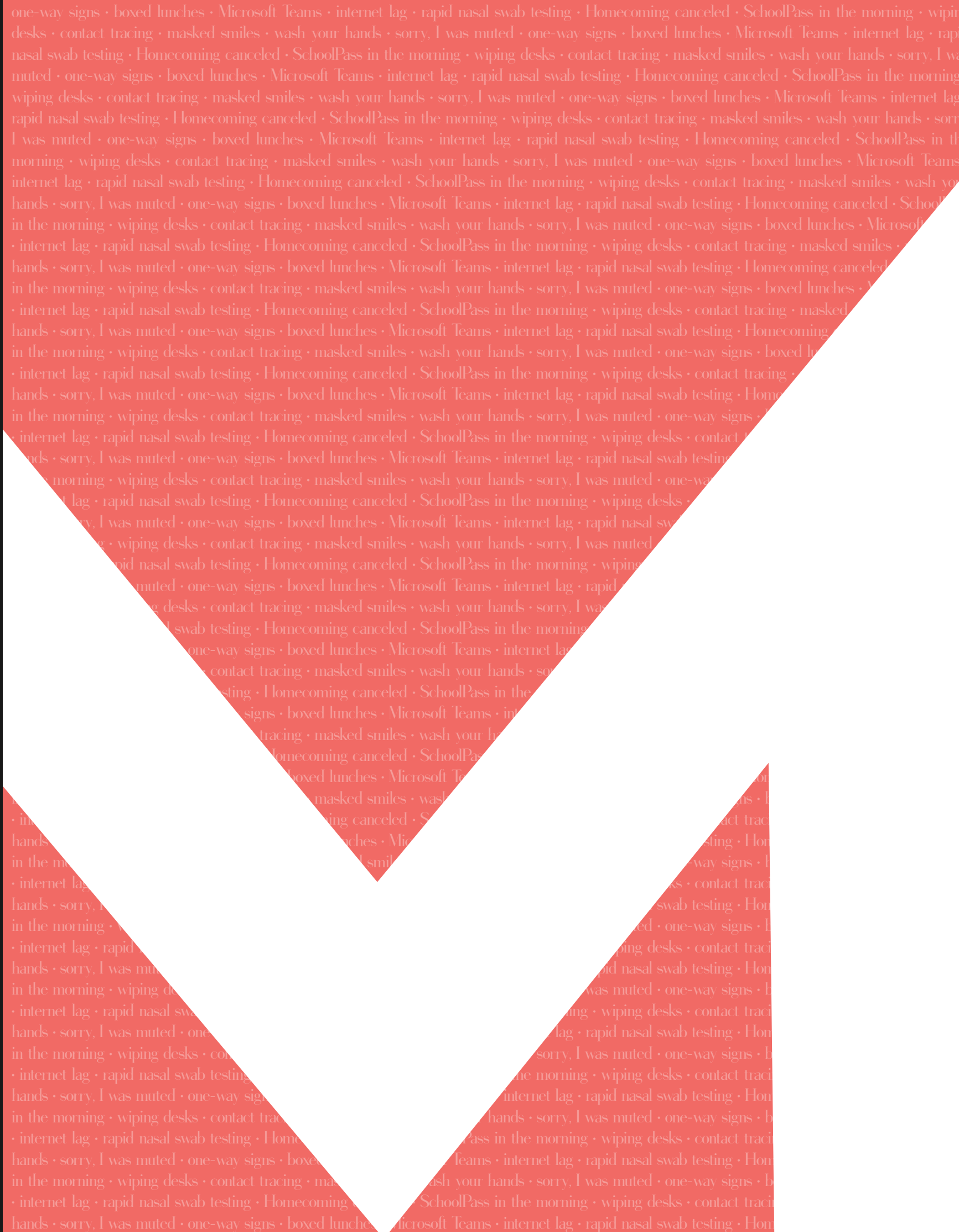
— FIRST GRADER SEBASTIAN HAIDENBERG

### just maybe

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Head in, head up After running around Decherd Auditorium with his friends, third grader Emory Villarreal rests in the seats and looks ahead at the stage.



• I had to deal with switching back and forth from in-person school to online school, making up work from a concussion and changing my study habits to adapt to the new schedule. But being a Marksman means taking the obstacles head on.

— SOPHOMORE PATRICK FLANAGAN

• Coming up with new study skills is the name of the game. With challenging classes and new teaching styles, we have to adjust.

— EIGHTH GRADER AUSTIN DUNBAR

• My best friend is in the other homeroom, so we can't have recess together. But we find ways to hang out: video games and friendly waves.

— THIRD GRADER NATHAN AURORA

## challenge met

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**Big brother bonding** Meeting for the first time in-person, third grader **Wils Brous** and senior **Leo Ohannessian** hold a pool noodle to enforce social distancing while talking about plans for the winter holidays.



It's nostalgic to reflect on this year and my personal growth. But knowing our whole class will soon have one year left here inspires me. We gotta make the best of it.

— JUNIOR ALEX GENG

My biggest challenge was the time when we were online: focusing to get work done was tough, but with friends and family, I got work done. Now, I'm in a groove.

— SEVENTH GRADER JACK PLANKINTON

Everyone in my grade fought. We made it through this tough time. And now, we expect the unexpected. It's honestly been crazy to see our progress.

— FIFTH GRADER SEBASTIAN GARCIA-TOLEDO

feel the **mojo**

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Celebration nation Running in full sprint, varsity soccer captain Henry McElhaneey meets up with senior Christian Shadle and junior Lars Ochs to celebrate netting another soccer goal in a 2-0 win against Prestonwood Christian Academy on Dec. 7.

• I like how the teachers are concerned about us this year. I have really enjoyed Lower School, and I am excited to take new classes in Middle School.

— FOURTH GRADER TREVOR HSU

• Honestly, this year has just been crazy and wild. But now that we're getting used to the new ways of life, I feel way more comfortable. We're really doing this.

— SIXTH GRADER HARMAN POPE

• I love teaching because every day provides an opportunity to be challenged, to learn something new and to have fun. Yes, have fun.

— CECIL H. AND IDA GREEN MASTER TEACHING CHAIR SCOTT GONZALEZ

## f o r m a t i v e

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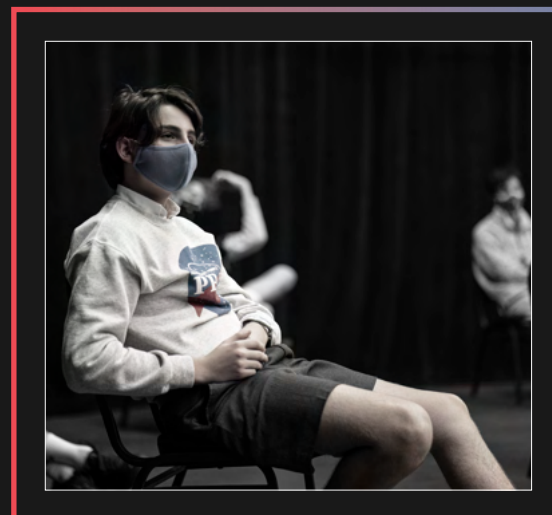
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**Yes, and...** Known for his eloquent speech, junior Owen Simon listens as he and his classmates gear up for after school rehearsals with the Improv Troupe.

There are few people in the world I'd want by my side in this pandemic. The Class of 2021 has all of them.

— SENIOR SID SINHA

Our class has never stopped supporting one another, whether on or off campus. No Homecoming or retreat hurts, but we look out for each other. Always.

— SENIOR SEMAJ MUSCO

We've had a senior year, and that's something that I don't think a lot of other kids can say. For that opportunity, I'm grateful.

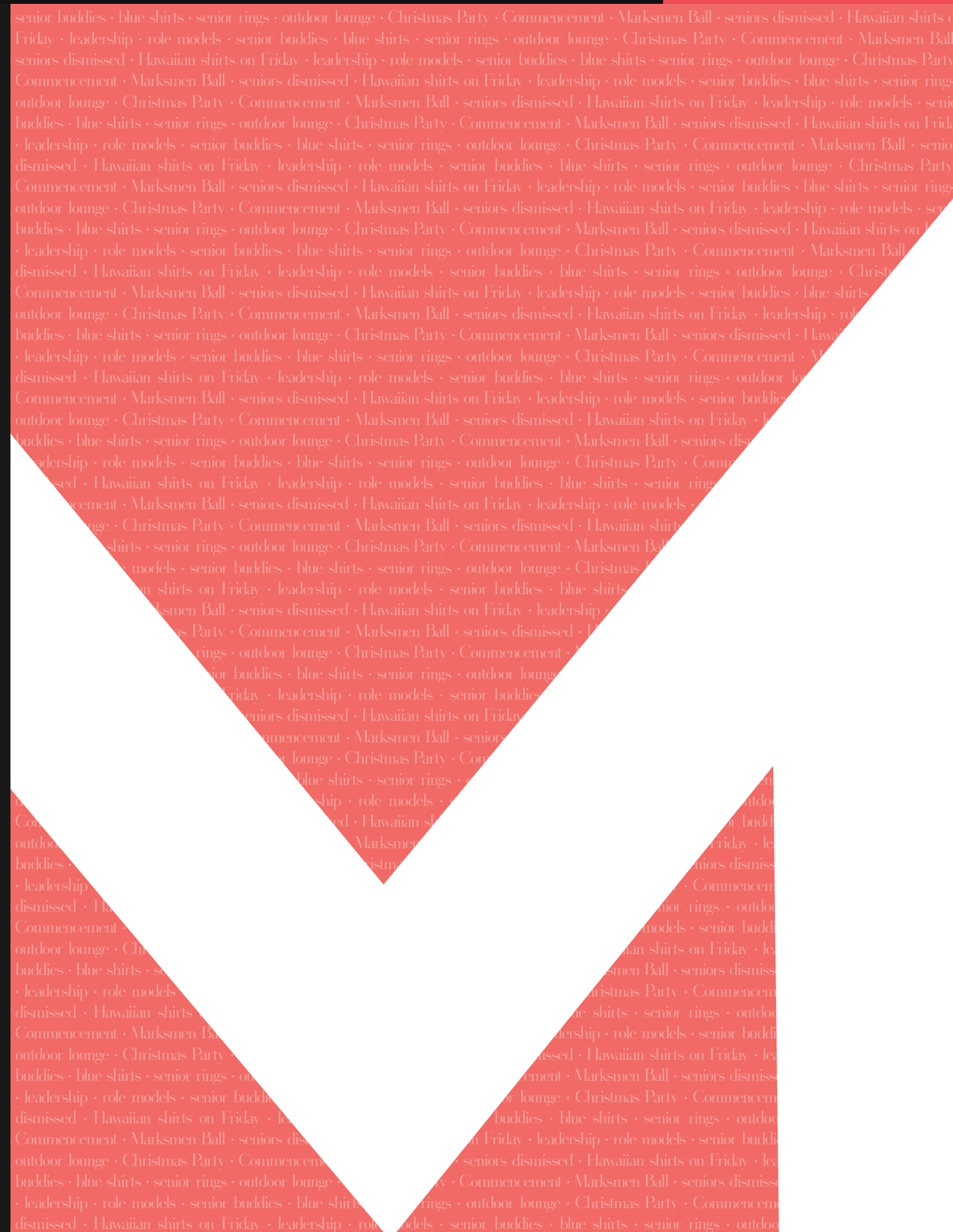
— SENIOR JACK PALMER

emblematic

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Decked out Senior Vatsal Vemuri tosses a football on the newly-christened outdoor Senior Lounge: the lawn in front of the chapel adorned with "Class of 2021" Texas flags.





We didn't know what hit us.  
 Virtual starts. Daily emails on  
 COVID-19 cases. Weeks at home.  
 But we still did our job.  
 School? Check.  
 Extracurriculars? Check.  
 Good times? Absolutely.  
 Just a bit different.  
 At the end of the day, this  
 year was our crucible.  
 And yes, this chapter now  
 draws to a long-awaited close.  
 But M?

amplify



**Disc day** As athletic trainer **Doc Browning** launches his frisbee into the air, second graders **Rayaan Sadruddin** and **William Medland** begin their pursuit of the flying disc. **Just keep readin'** Third grader **Jonah Kaufman** (opposite) tears into his book during class, building his reading acumen.

e m b r a c e



**Stick together** With vaccines rolling out to the general public effective March 29, seniors **Buck Elliott** and **Blake Hudspeth** bump elbows knowing that the light is at the end of the tunnel: a vaccinated, safer future.

**M** is always us.

