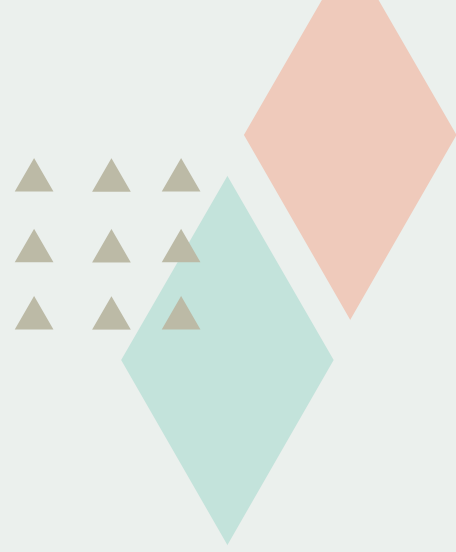


COVID-19 ARCHIVE

Huyen Tran

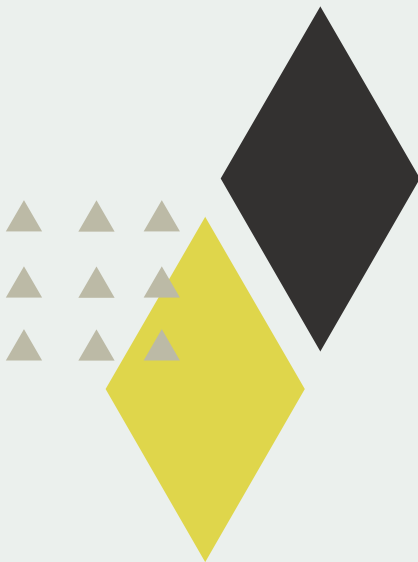



Dear future self,

It is May 31st, 5:14 p.m. I have so many questions for the future. Exactly a year from now, you'll be a high school graduate! Is it scary? Exciting? How are you feeling right now? Currently I am in a state of confusion. We're only halfway through 2020 and so many things have happened. They're all horrible! Never in my life have I thought about being a part of a history book.

Starting with January - human actions along with climate conditions have started and spread wildfires in Australia, the assassination of general Qassem Soleimani has kept the nation on edge about World War III. February - a helicopter crash took away many innocent lives, including Kobe Bryant and his daughter Gianna Bryant (this was truly heartbreaking, he was an inspiration to many). March - coronavirus is now a global pandemic, killing thousands of people around the world. April - national lockdown, school is cancelled, murder hornets. May - UFO's footage? parallel universe? revolution? civil war? What's next?

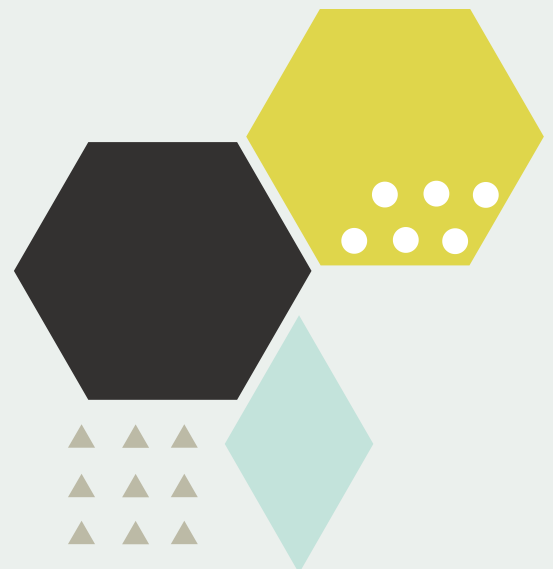
Friday the 13th of March was where it all started. I remember receiving an email for school closure right after school. It hit me that day that COVID-19 was a lot more serious than I had thought. I can't say I cared about it when it first broke out in China, my friends and I joked about it constantly. March 14th was supposed to be my first ever SAT, drove 30 minutes to my testing location just to find out it had been cancelled due to instructors' fears. I was still very hopeful, counting the days until we go back. Next thing I know, the return date kept being extended. Finally, no more school for the rest of the year. Everything kind of escalated quickly as my school routine was taken away from me, not being able to see my friends, and endless hours of sitting in front of my computer screen.

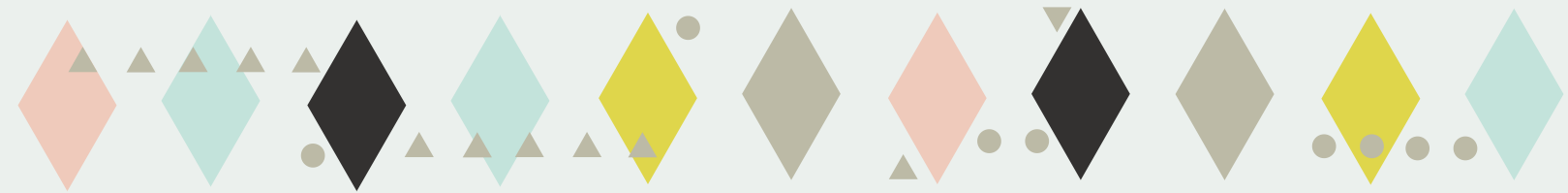




Not proud to say I've developed unhealthy coping mechanisms over the past 2 months of quarantine, such as: crying over literally everything, eating because I'm bored, spending 6 hours a day on Tiktok, etc... The only thing that's keeping me sane right now is the corona diaries I've started with Kimberly :) We'd write daily entries and currently have 145 slides right now, it makes me wonder if we're going to continue after all of this ends since we've been keeping up for so long. My best friend Kimberly and I would often visit each other and wave from our cars, it's the little things that make my day. At times, we would bring food over to each other's houses and have meals together. 6 feet apart, of course. We even went back to the old school way, by writing letters and sending them. I'm glad to say our friendship is only growing stronger from here. Thankful for her, always!

Some positive things from this quarantine would definitely be more time for self-care. For the first time, I'm not so busy? Life was hectic before, from waking up for 0 period class and participating in school events. Now, I can manage to do a lot more things! Like working out daily, cooking nice meals for myself, and planting a bunch of flowers. My family is small, just me and my parents. We've always been so busy with our own lives that this is the longest we've been together since when I was a 3rd grader, probably. For the past few months, I've learned a lot more about them than ever. I'm grateful for this opportunity. We're also been taking late night drives which is very nice. Special shoutout to my biggest supporters ♡





I'm sorry that junior year has to end this way. I'm sorry that my friends and teachers did not receive a proper goodbye. I'm sorry that things feel hopeless at times. But remember that life will eventually get back to normal!

Yes, the world is a scary place right now. I know it's hard to grasp the severity of the situation right now, even adults are failing to do so from what I'm seeing. I'm trying to look on the bright side, it's a time for a change. People are standing up against discrimination. People are fighting for their rights. People are uniting. I really do hope that everyone can contribute during this unprecedented time. Spread awareness, sign petitions, make donations, educate yourself and others, have those uncomfortable conversations. This is time for growth.



Lastly, present self status: I think I'm doing a good job of keeping myself together. School work is manageable right now. At home AP tests went well, surprisingly. Teaching myself how to play Minecraft. Anyway, I hope you are exactly where you wanna be, future me!

P.S. Is quarantine over? Have you been accepted into your dream school? Where are you going? What major did you decide on? Are you and Kimberly going to the same school? How's your mental state? Do you still have the same people in your life? Was senior year good or bad? Are you still crushing on VVS? Will you always overthink everything? What are you afraid of? Are you a bad driver? No matter the answer, I just want to say that I am proud of your accomplishments and keep staying positive.

