

May 2020



Prevention Prism 4 Class of 2020

Graduation is an exciting time! It's one of those rare things that share both a beginning and an ending. It also leaves you with a sense of accomplishment that no one can take from you. I find solace reminiscing about past high school memories filled with friends and favorite teachers. I still get nostalgic feelings looking through my old high school year book. What sticks out to me the most during these trips down memory lane are the back stories that the pictures don't show; the tears of hugging a crush goodbye that only you knew, the memorial of the beloved student that lost their life way to soon, and the final glance goodbye as you walk away from the building where you made what seemed like the most important decisions of your life.

It was at that moment, I started to REALLY think about the Graduating Class of 2020. The seniors of today seem to come with a very interesting history that began long before they became known as "The Class of Covid-19." I found it interesting that 9/11 is a historical event for them, rather than something most of us lived through. I can still recall exactly what I was doing and where I was when this happened. One of the most ironic fun facts that I came across is the high school AND college Class of 2020 are younger than texting which was invented in 1992.

Unfortunately, my thoughts saddened as I thought about virtual graduations, and the "traditional" stage the graduating Class of 2020 will not experience. I also considered the many unresolved senior traditions that will go amiss. Past and future graduating classes will talk about prom, remarks written in yearbooks, and saying farewell. Class of 2020 will talk about Covid-19 and remember how their final months together were lost to the pandemic.

All is not lost in the interesting history of Class of 2020. Watching the unique way this class has banded together in support of each other has been nothing short of inspiring. They have taken TikTok over with so many creative and very funny challenges. The pandemic has even awakened ambitious teenage entrepreneurs who bravely are standing in the gap and bracing for what the future holds. My personal favorite creation birthed from this graduating class, are the Class of 2020 face masks. What a way to "face" the coronavirus head on!

If I may, I would like to challenge everyone reading this newsletter to reach out to a senior and give them some extra TLC. Send them words of encouragement or whatever action is placed upon your heart. These teens deserve to know they are supported and loved. I'd like to send a super shout out to Alliance for Healthy Youth's C.A.T.C.H. Program. In celebration of the senior Class of 2020, all senior C.A.T.C.H members will receive a senior gratitude bag that will include: a T-shirt, handwritten thank you note, specialized cookie from a local bakery, and a gift card!

To the graduating Class of 2020, we know this year isn't what was expected and it came as an unimaginable surprise. However, WE are inspired by your resilience. WE are in awe of your strength, and WE are so Very Proud of You!

Congratulations!

(Pictured below is Prevention Prism's Erica Wright shown with her Class of 2020 cousin, Aubrey Richardson)

