

# THE SUGARHOUSE TIMES

APRIL 13, 2020, ISSUE 2

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- **Masks: Harmful or Helpful**
- **The Inside Scoop on the Boxelder Bug**
- **Teddy Bear Tidal Wave**
- **Distance Learning, A Teacher's Perspective**
- **Knock-Knock, It's a Riddle!**
- **Matias's Maze!**

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## Masks: Harmful or Helpful?

By Nena Nystrom

Due to Coronavirus (COVID-19) lots of people are wearing masks. Are they helpful or harmful? The CDC (Centers for Disease Control) recommends everyone in the United States should wear a mask to a public space. Scientists found that in countries with the Coronavirus, the more people wear masks the more the spread of the virus decreases. There are still questions about masks.

Where should you wear a mask?

You should wear a mask to the grocery store, doctor's office, or take-out restaurant. If you were thinking of going on a hike or to a park, you could wear a mask if you decide to stand close to other people, but if you're going to stand or walk more than six feet away you wouldn't need to wear one. You might not want to wear a mask in your car, in your house/apartment, or to visit a family

How do you put on and take off a mask?

member. There are situations where you should or need to wear a mask and others where you don't have to, but you can if you want.

Are homemade masks as effective?

No, homemade masks are not effective as medical masks, but it's better than wearing nothing. Studies from the University of Edinburgh tested all different kinds of masks to see if they could block particles smaller than the Coronavirus. They found out a cotton handkerchief (a homemade mask) blocks 28 percent of particles. Surgical masks block 80 percent and an N95 mask blocks 95 to 99 percent of particles. If you find yourself choosing which mask you should wear, homemade or N95 you should choose N95 so you don't breathe in too many particles, only a few.

It's important to know how to put on and take off a mask without touching your face or the inside of the mask.

# THE SUGARHOUSE TIMES

APRIL 13, 2020, ISSUE 2

## Masks: Harmful or Helpful? (cont'd)

The first step is to wash your hands or use hand sanitizer before you even touch your mask. The second step is to take your mask by the strings. Once you're holding it you can put it on your face covering your nostrils and mouth. The third step is to do step one again (wash your hands or use hand sanitizer). The fourth step is finally after you're done with your mask you untie or slip off the strings and put it into the wash if it's fabric (wash it with warm water and a warm dryer). Also, if it's a paper mask you should throw it away.

Can you reuse a paper mask?

Ideally you would throw a paper mask away, but since they're in short supply you might need to reuse them. If you do need to reuse one you take it off carefully and store it in a paper bag. Some paper masks are not flammable (will burst into flames if it gets too hot), if yours is not flammable you can put it the oven for 30 minutes at 158 degrees Fahrenheit and it will kill all the Coronavirus on it without

destroying your mask. Something else you could do if you want to kill the Coronavirus on a mask is you can hang it above a pot full of boiling water for about 10 minutes, but you would have to air dry your mask afterwards.

All together there are certain places where you should wear a mask to and others where you don't have to. You also shouldn't make a homemade mask over just buying a N95 mask. Now you know how to take off and put on a mask no matter if it's homemade or store bought. Also, yes, you can reuse a paper mask if you're running on short supply. Some masks can be harmful and others helpful. For the future you will know how to use masks.

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## THE INSIDE SCOOP ON THE BOXELDER BUG

BY AMALIA SANTOS



Even in quarantine, you may still have some (unwanted) house guests. You might have seen a little black and red beetles crawling around inside your house. Here are some facts about these little critters so you can get to know them better.

The Boxelder bug got its name from where you mostly find them – Boxelder trees. They are commonly found in western United States and sometimes in Canada- wherever Boxelder trees grow. Adults are about 12.5 millimeters long. They are dark brown or black with red wing veins and markings however, the babies are bright red when born. This bug has 6 legs and is actually a beetle. They live from a few days to a couple weeks. For food they like the juice from boxelder tree seeds which is sweet; occasionally they eat the juices of plums and apples.

But, why do the boxelder bugs come in the house? The boxelder bug cannot produce enough body heat on its own, so it uses the heat from your house to stay warm; they have the capability to produce a bad smell (they are related to stink bugs) when they sense a predator and so they aren't afraid to be out in the open.

### LET'S SEE WHAT YOU KNOW:

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1) What is in the same family as Boxelder bugs? | 5/5= Boxelder expert      |
| 2) Why do they come in the house?               | 4/5 = Junior entomologist |
| 3) How did it get its name?                     | 3/5= bug collector        |
| 4) Where are they found?                        | 2/5= bug brain            |
| 5) What colors are baby Boxelders?              | 1/5= phew! You stink!     |

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## *Jeddy bear tidal wave!*

*By Amalia Santos*

Because people have been taking more walks lately, people have started putting teddy bears in their windows. It has turned into a kind of national scavenger hunt that was inspired by the book "Going on a Bear Hunt".

You can participate by putting a teddy in a window facing out to the sidewalk. If you don't have a teddy bear, (like me) you just put out a stuffed animal like a panda or a polar bear.

Next time you go out, have your own bear hunt. How many can you find?

## Distance Learning, a Teacher's Perspective

*By Amalia Santos*

**D**istance learning is new for a lot of people. I have a student's point of view, so I wanted to know about a teacher's experience. I could guess that teachers probably spent tons of time preparing online school, but I wanted to learn more. Fortunately, I am lucky enough to have an aunt, who is also a teacher.

My aunt, Kristen Santos, has been teaching for 2 ½ years. Her class is Pre-K where with children from 3-4 years old. For her, the most rewarding thing about being a teacher is teaching the little kids the skills

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APRIL 13, 2020, ISSUE 2

## Distance Learning, a Teacher's Perspective, (cont'd)

they need that will be the foundation for the rest of their learning, like holding a pencil properly, cutting in a straight line, and beginning critical thinking. Ms. Santos shares, "In the beginning, I see some kids who can only scribble, and by the end of the year, they can draw circles and shapes."

She finds that the most challenging thing about online school is that she isn't there to explain the directions to her students in person. "It is hard to teach through a computer," Ms. Santos explains. For younger children, it is difficult because a lot of the time they need physical directions. For example, if you are teaching a 3-year-old how to use scissors, you have to guide their hand into the holes and put the paper in between the blades.

One of the positive lessons that have come from online school is that she has to be more focused with her directions. Ms. Santos thinks that this is a skill that she will use in the future, even when everyone goes back to school. She also has a deeper appreciation for the classroom setting and her materials because of the challenges that come from being physically separated from her students.

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## *Knock Knock, It's a Riddle!*

### *This week's riddles are...*

- 1) My house has no windows or doors. When I want to get out I have to break out. What am I?
- 2) When you say my name, you break me. What am I?
- 3) You throw me out when you want to use me, and bring me in when you don't? What am I?
- 4) What kind of ring is square?

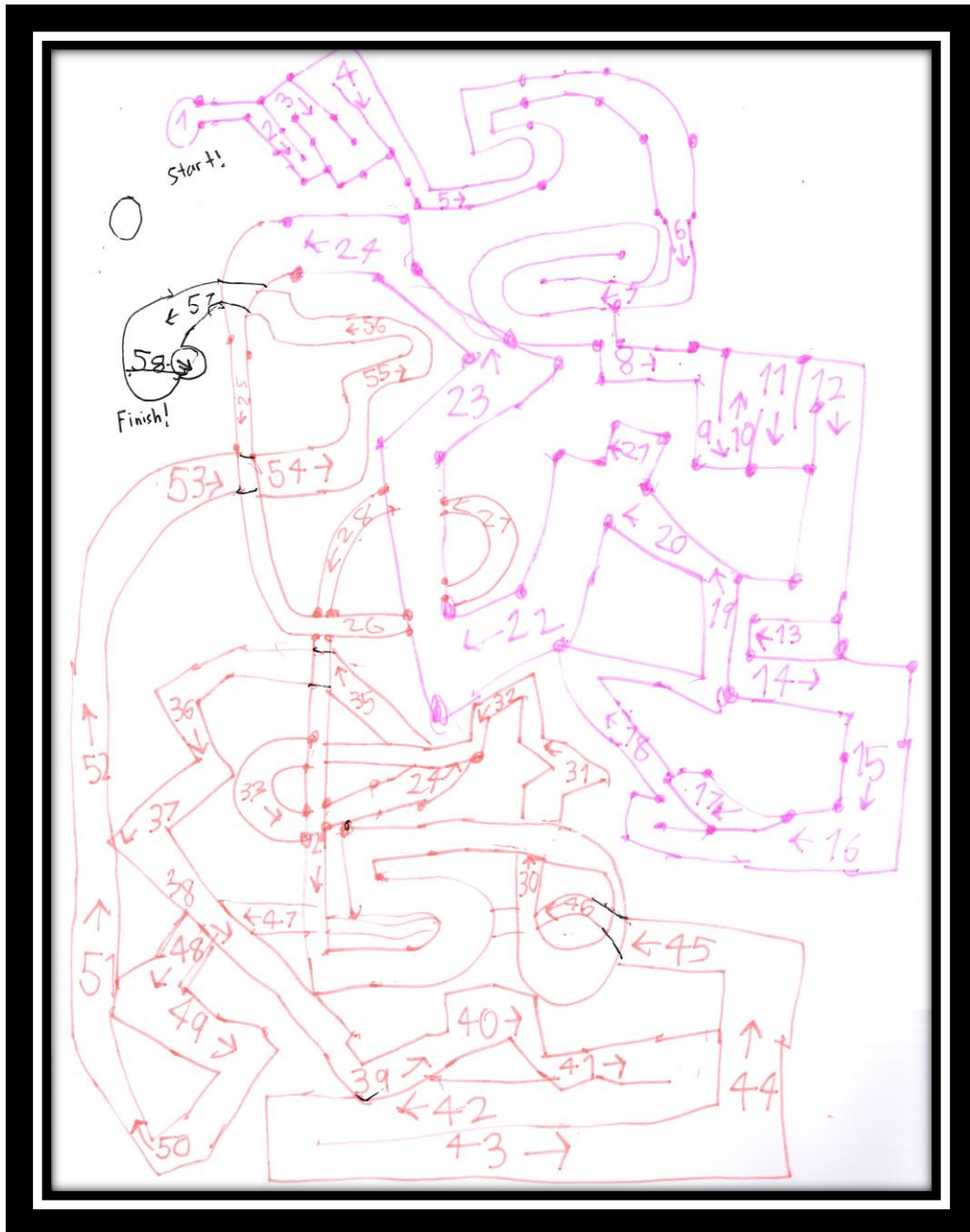
Answers: 1) a chick in an egg 2) silence 3) an anchor 4) a boxing ring

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## Matias' Mazes!

Based on the 3D marble maze ball, Perplexus, my brother Matias made this maze. Print this out and draw a line from the start to the finish. Have fun!





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THANK YOU FOR READING THIS WEEK'S  
EDITION OF THE SUGAR HOUSE TIMES!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE,  
PLEASE EMAIL AMALIA AT:

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SEE YOU NEXT WEEK!