

I'M IN, I'M INTER

# INTER

CONNECTED

## THE VISION OF OUR FOUNDERS

THE STORY BEHIND OUR CAMPUS

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BACK TO SCHOOL ALL  
AROUND THE WORLD

INTERAMERICANO



FEBRUARY 1, 2021

# THE VISION OF OUR FOUNDERS

*Expanding Our Footprint*

1970's



For over 40 years, Colegio Interamericano has been growing our student population in Guatemala city. As such, there was the need to expand learning spaces. Six years ago, Fundación Educativa Guatemala, a not for profit foundation created with the objective to contribute to the development of the country through education, came together to lay out the plans known as Project Journey, aptly named to evidence the growth and future plans of Colegio Interamericano.



Today, as we welcome the completion of this Journey, we have to wonder if the Founders had a special gift to foresee the future. There is no better time, than this disruptive time in history, to receive the additional space: social distancing is at the forefront of our minds.



From 9 acres of property and buildings, Interamericano now covers 15.5 acres, and includes 63,308m<sup>2</sup> of beautiful terraced land divided into five distinct areas: Early Childhood Education, Elementary School, Middle School, High School and Administration. Our campus now encompasses 121 classrooms, eight state of the art science laboratories, two maker spaces, an art wing and purpose built music rooms, five computer labs, a two-story library, an amphitheater and two cafeterias. Among the sport and recreation areas, the school now has a large synthetic soccer field surrounded by built-in stadium seating, two covered basketball and volleyball courts, Early Childhood and Elementary playgrounds and multiple student's common areas. Key to the design of our new building is the numerous outdoor collaborative spaces. We are excited to enjoy the flexible, dynamic learning spaces to support our evolving programs and pedagogy.



The landscape for our students is continuously evolving and to be 'Future Ready' our new building encourages creative, intentional approaches to learning. Each of our divisions will benefit from this project as it allows all to expand their footprint. We know our students, faculty and staff will further strengthen our sense of community with these spaces. Collaboration, team building and fostering relationships are key components to our INTER experience, and our new buildings will ensure these goals are supported. Engaging our parent community is key and we now have the venue to host a variety of parent events. We are excited to have our parents, in all divisions, join us for catalytic conversations, student performances, social events and opportunities to further our relationships in our amazing new spaces.



While our students are not on campus yet, they can see the roof of our stellar INTER - HUB in the Guatemalan horizon. We are eager to return to campus and benefit from the spacious vision of our founders.

2020

# AWARENESS CHECK CLUB

Article by: Ceci Zúñiga

Have you ever sat down with a couple of classmates and realized that things need to change? That is precisely what Isabelle Canadine, Siwon Woo, and Minji Park of 10th grade did, which created the Awareness Check Club. The small conversation about everything that needs to change regarding mental health, sexism, and overall treatment towards women in a breakout room inspired them to change their community. At that moment, they decided to create a club that openly talks about those topics and brings awareness to these and many more things wrong with our society.

They started creating the club back in November of last year to have everything done and ready to begin in January 2021, when in-person classes will start. With the whole COVID-19 situation, many of the members, including the club's co-founders, won't be attending in-person classes. Isabelle Canadine, one of the co-founders, described it as a "funny situation" since she won't be going back to levels even though they prepared the club to see each other in person.

The club's overall purpose is to raise awareness in our school's community about issues that are usually seen as taboo or are not understood. They hope that with the club, students will feel more comfortable with who they are and what they live through- to become more comfortable with themselves and others.

Along with their purpose as a club, they also want to change the school and its visions largely. They want to have an enormous impact on the students and faculty; to become something that people talk about freely and comfortably, such as the Student Government (STUCO) or the National Honors Society (NHS), ultimately become part of the school. The club is there to help others understand topics that may not be touched in school. Many students at Interamericano study abroad and the co-founders want them to leave with an open mind. Maybe even become the person who teaches others what they learned in the Awareness Check club and spreads it worldwide.

Clubs like these are significant, especially in a society like the one we live in today. There is no judgment; they are all there to help and hope you decide to join and help others. We can't wait to see what more this club has to offer and the great things they will achieve in Colegio Interamericano's Highschool student body today and in the future.

If you or any friends are interested in joining the Awareness Check club, you still can! Send an email to one of the co-founders to express your interest in the club!

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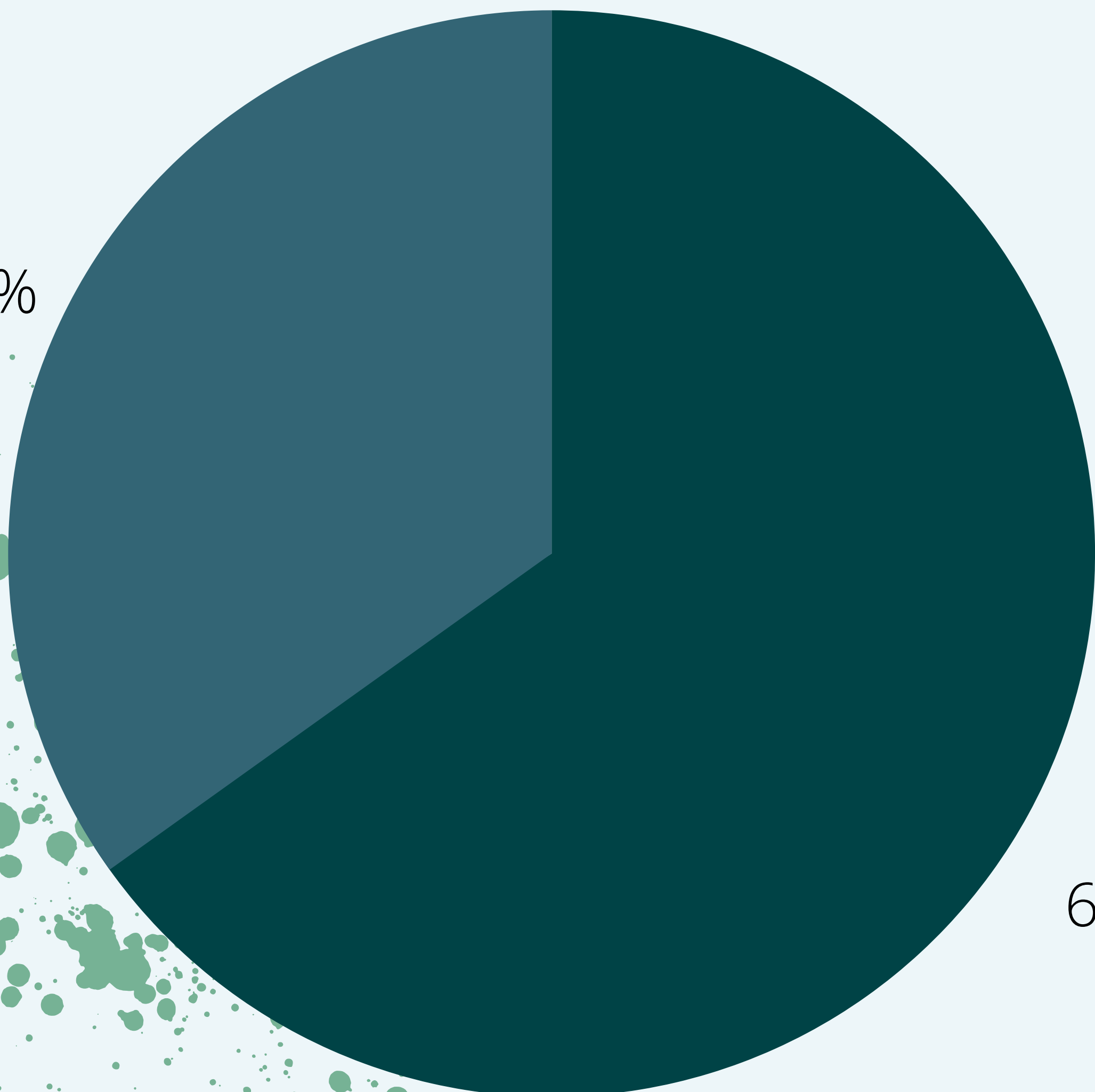


# WILL YOU GET THE VACCINE?

Article by: John Naser

This survey is a questionnaire to see how many students would get the vaccine when available. There are two opinions on the vaccine. Some people think that the vaccine is a blessing, a chance to go back to the life we used to know before COVID-19. Others believe it is a hoax; that its side effect can lead to deadly diseases. On average, a vaccine is available to the public in four to five years. However, the COVID-19 vaccine was available within a year. Therefore, some people do not trust the vaccine even if it is safe.

No  
34.9%



Yes  
65.1%

# GUATEMALA

## AND THE COVID-19 VACCINE

Article by: Luis Muñoz

After several Coronavirus vaccines were accessible to the public, countries such as the United States, Canada, China, and Russia have prioritized giving their people access to them. While this process has been a hard, expensive, and problematic one, these countries have succeeded, which raises the question of what Guatemala will do to ensure access to its citizens.

To put it in context, José Luis Ranero, president of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Guatemala, assured that Guatemala does not occupy the first places in the list of countries that await the vaccine. However, they will program the distribution as soon as possible to mitigate the impact it will have. The doctor predicted that in Guatemala, the vaccine could be available in mid-March or early April. Regarding the distribution of the vaccine, Ranero considers that it will depend on the laboratories' volume of production to reach the country and how they will program the distribution on a global scale.

Therefore, the effective distribution of this vaccine is challenging to carry out. However, at the beginning of January, the Guatemalan Congress approved by a large majority a law that facilitates the purchase of vaccines against Covid-19 with an allocation of almost US \$200 million to acquire them from various companies. President Alejandro Giammattei had presented the bill on Monday. It was approved with 142 votes in favor, three against, and 15 absent.

To distribute these vaccines in the best manner, there will be 11 more freezers, and in a month, they will reveal the mass distribution plan of the vaccines. It will be divided into phases and between different groups. The first phase of vaccination includes health workers, firefighters, funeral home workers, and medical students. With this information, we can conclude that while Guatemala has a reasonably acceptable plan for distributing the Pfizer vaccine, the act of spreading it is something that will take a long time and more likely will not be 100% effective.



# THE MIGRANT

## *Caravan*

Article by: Sara Roselló

On Friday, January 15, around 8,000 Hondurans attempted to cross the Guatemalan border to reach the United States. The caravan's advance was given rise to by president Joe Biden's comment on changing the Trump immigration laws. More than that, Honduran people are running from a crisis in their own country, one that not only stems from recent tragedies but long-standing systemic issues. Decades of persecution, poverty, and violence, which have only become worse due to the pandemic, a neglectful government, and the aftermath of hurricanes Eta and Iota, have left them with no option but to try and seek refuge in the United States.



With that goal in mind, they set to cross the Guatemalan and then the Mexican border; however, as they neared Guatemala, a group of soldiers blocked the roads and stopped them. Nonetheless, the migrants persisted and the situation escalated ending in several people injured. Despite these efforts succeeding in stopping a fair share of the caravan, approximately 4,000 people reached Mexico's southern border. At that point, however, the Mexican government intercepted and dismantled the caravan.

It is also essential to keep in mind that many of these immigrants are not taking precautions against the virus, confirmed with tests the Guatemalan Government administered on some of the injured Hondurans, that 21 of them have Covid-19. Since only a small fraction of people were tested, it is safe to assume there are many more cases among the caravan.

Regarding the migrant caravan, the Guatemalan government later said it would not allow these "illegal mass movements" and that it was working with neighboring countries to solve the issue. While this may seem ironic coming from a country that also suffers from some of the same conditions that forced those immigrants to leave their country, it is important to remember Guatemala, along with Mexico, feel pressure to keep immigrants out as part of a deal it made with the U.S. under the Trump administration.



These recent events will likely put more pressure on the U.S. to reform its immigration policies, and it has already started, seeing as how Mexico's President Andrés Manuel Lopez Obrador has already urged the U.S. to alter its policies on the matter. The Biden administration has already established that it will give priority to undocumented immigrants inside of the US first. These caravans have almost become a yearly tradition and they only serve to reflect the poor conditions many people encounter in countries like ours. But it is up to more than just the U.S. to reflect and make a change on the matter.

# SPACEX SETS NEW RECORD!

ARTICLE BY: NICOLLE DARDÓN

On Sunday, January 24, SpaceX launched a Falcon 9 rocket Transporter-1, setting the new world record for the number of satellites launched in a single rocket with about 143 satellites. SpaceX, an aerospace company, led by CEO and founder Elon Musk, is a private company with the mission to not only colonize Mars but take humans across the solar system in reusable rockets. Ever since it was founded, SpaceX has been pushing the limits of space exploration. They have had many accomplishments, including the delivery of cargo to and from the International Space Station in a commercial spacecraft and the first private company to take humans to the International Space Station. Their most recent achievement is setting the new record for satellites launched in a single rocket. About 10 of those rockets were SpaceX's Starlink internet network, an internet provider based on 1000 satellites around Earth that are currently in beta-testing, and about 130 satellites for customers like Planet and ICEYE.



This launch was announced in 2019 and is their third launch in 2021. Transporter-1 was the second mission since 1969 to use the polar corridor route from Florida. The goal of this launch is to deploy dozens of microsatellites and nanosatellites into a sun-synchronous orbit for both government and commercial customers.

**YOU CAN WATCH THE REPLAY IN THE THIS LINK:  
[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/SCHI1CBKUV4](https://youtu.be/SCHI1CBKUV4)**



# BACK TO SCHOOL

Article by: Isabel Chang  
& Natalia Montes

## SWEDEN

At the start of the pandemic, unlike other countries, and what you might expect, Sweden did not close their schools. Only students who were 16 or older participated in a home-learning system. Additionally, the Swedish government makes sure to highlight the importance of personal choice and trust. That's why masks were recommended but not obligatory. There was some opposition from some parents of the students to this COVID-19 strategy; however, there would be consequences if children did not attend school. Eventually, Sweden closed schools towards the end of the year, stating that schools will reopen in early January.

## JAPAN

Like Sweden, kids continued to attend classes at the very start of the pandemic. In contrast, the academic year in Japan ends in March and starts in April, divided into three trimesters. The government changed the academic year entirely, stating that the school year will begin in September, and even considered restarting it in 2021. Some schools started receiving students in May, but officially all schools reopened in September. It's important to consider that by September of 2020, the population of Japan is equivalent to 38% of the USA, and have only 1% of confirmed Coronavirus cases.

## URUGUAY

Uruguay was one of the first countries to have schools reopen their doors to students. Rural educational centers reopened in April. In comparison to other countries, UNICEF tells us that "The return was not organized by grades, as in other countries, but instead prioritized dimensions such as geographic density, the educational vulnerability of students and completion of educational cycles, in addition to considering the health conditions of the area in question and of the educational centres themselves." All the primary cycle educational centers that serve vulnerable populations and students in their last year of secondary education began to operate on June 1st, 2020. On June 29th, 2020, the reopening of all other primaries, secondary and technical education centers, both public and private, was enabled throughout the country.



# ACROSS THE WORLD

## ENGLAND

The estimated number of cases of Covid-19 in England has not decreased as the government wanted to since the end of last year so that plans of return to school could take place starting February. Now, the priority is for pupils to return after Easter (the first week of April). There has been a downturn in young adults' and parents' mental health and wellbeing since the beginning of the pandemic as lockdowns have taken an extra toll on them. Since the beginning, the government has attempted to maintain education levels by supporting educators and students with resources. In the plans to continue supporting education accessibility, the government will give about 1.3 million tablets or computers to those who need them. Additionally, they will partner with mobile data providers to facilitate internet access to students. In the urgent plans for a safe return to school, the government will provide vaccines to teachers and school staff as a fifth group in the vaccination plan they have in place. The start of the vaccination for the group would be March 9th. All in efforts to get students in the early educational years and students who take exams in summer (prioritized for college admissions) to return as soon as possible.

## GERMANY

As Germany's health officials report high numbers of new Covid-19 cases every day, a return to school is possible. Even if strict measures and regulation protocols were to be implemented (including the use of masks at all times), it would be a risk for most states of the nation. The government does consider schools to be dangerous and a threat to the current plans to lower the number of cases. Although, depending on the number of cases reported, there are plans for school opening depending on the states. Some states have been maintaining low infection rates and can take on face-to-face classes. This plan will take place starting February 14th under strict revision. After the holidays, the government has required employers to pay employees with daycare aged children, a paid leave of absence for at least three weeks. The further development of restrictions will determine the extension of this period. The government is prioritizing maintaining citizens' safety and decreasing the sprouting of new cases.

## NORWAY

Schools in Norway have opened since April 2020, with a "traffic light system." This system allows regulations to be enforced depending on the color (red, yellow, and green). The color of the "traffic light" is determined by the infection rates. Even in red, schools are open. However, classes have fewer students and follow strict social distancing, pupils attend school at different times, and students that are ten years old or older are obligated to use masks. Since November, the "traffic light" has been yellow. While people keep following the distancing regulations, increased classroom ventilation, and correct use of masks, schools will remain open.

# NEW YEAR NEW GAMES

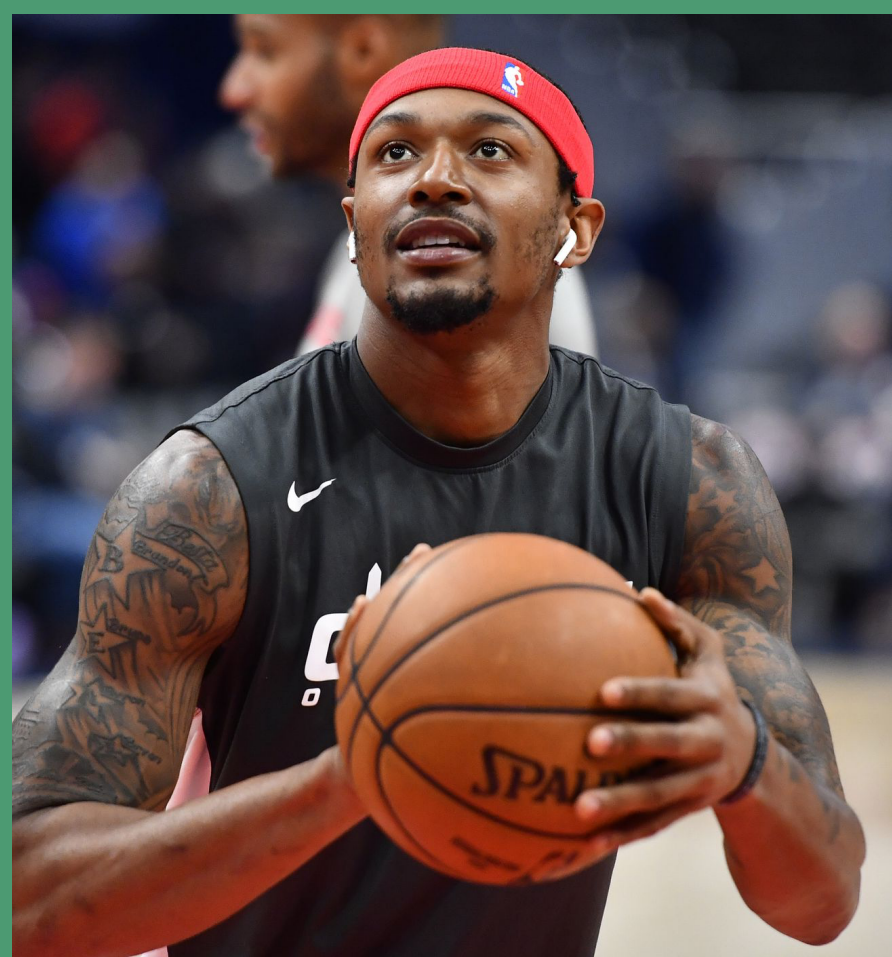
ARTICLE BY: DANIELA LOMBARDI

For the sports world, 2021 has started on the right path. A new year in sports means recent changes, games, championships, and new beginnings.

Let's start with the NFL since it is coming to an end and the games are going crazy. If you're a football fan, you may know that December, January, and February, are the most fantastic months for every team. They're the craziest because every team is trying to stay on top to be a part of the playoffs. Sadly, not all thirty teams can make it; instead, only the fourteen best can participate in the playoffs. These were the following teams that were cut: Cleveland Browns, Pittsburgh Steelers, Indianapolis Colts, Buffalo Bills, Baltimore Ravens, Tennessee Titans, LA Rams, Seattle Seahawks, Chicago Bears, New Orleans Saints, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Washington Team, Kansas City Chiefs, and Green Bay Packers. Throughout those weeks, four finalists made it to the NFC and AFC Championships. On January 24th, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers defeated the Green Bay Packers 31 - 26. That same day, the Kansas City Chiefs dominated the Buffalo Bills, leading them to the SuperBowl for the second time in a row; the score was 38 - 24. This means that on February 7th SuperBowl LV will be hosting the Kansas City Chiefs vs. Tampa Bay Buccaneers. It's going to be a fantastic game to see who will be the new owner of the Lombardi trophy for SuperBowl LV, so get ready!



We hope basketball fans are happy because the NBA has officially started this year and the competition is real. Unlike last year, many of the great NBA stars were injured and unable to play last season.



This year, we are glad that all these amazing athletes are back to work and healthy to play for their team and fans. Even though it's early days, we can see that some groups are ready for the battles heading towards them and are already on top of their division. For the Eastern division, we have three dominant teams with a fantastic season already.

These teams are the Philadelphia 76ers, Milwaukee Bucks, and Atlanta Hawks. For the Western division, there are also three teams leading their divisions, which are: Los Angeles Clippers, Memphis Grizzlies, and Utah Jazz. Mr. Krockers Toronto Raptors have a lot of work to do!

## GOOD LUCK!

*As a sports fanatic myself, I know how it feels to see your favorite team or player each week trying to win games, so I hope that you enjoy whichever sport you like and that the team you admire has a great year and a winning season.*



# DEAD POETS SOCIETY

ROBIN WILLIAMS ETHAN HAWKE ROBERT SEAN LEONARD

SCREENPLAY BY TOM SCHULMAN

MUSIC BY MAURICE JARRE

DIRECTED BY PETER WEIR



Review by: Matias Vico

# MOVIE OF THE WEEK

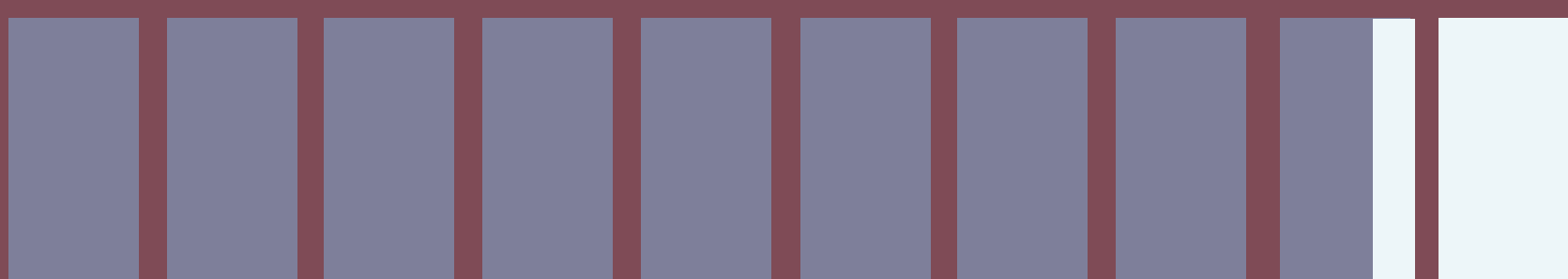
## DEAD POETS SOCIETY

1989 – Drama/Teen – 2h 20min

Directed by: Peter Weir

*Dead Poets Society is one of the best coming of age movies. The story introduces these groups of friends enrolled in a very prestigious private school with a very strict, harsh, and “traditional” learning environment. The boys entered the English classroom like it was just going to be the same old one and boy, were they wrong! The movie introduces their new English teacher, John Keating, who, since the beginning, has a very nontraditional and mind-expanding way of teaching. Throughout the semester, you can see that the movie touches themes of individuality and the extraordinary uniqueness of life in such a fun and quirky fashion. As the film progresses, you can see immense character development and story development.*

*Once again, Robin Williams gives a very heartfelt and warm performance without taking away his incredible charisma. It is a delightful movie to watch, and it will inspire you and enlighten you about the cool and beautiful things about life and literature.*



Matias's rating:

8.4/10



# NHS *Valentine's* Raffle

Win amazing prizes by helping  
AYUVI and HELPS International!  
February 11th, 5:00 pm  
Via Zoom

**Tickets available for  
Q25 in the google  
forms (HS classroom)**

THANK YOU!

# WHO ARE WE

Hard times like these require more efforts to maintain communication with everyone at school. We are really excited to introduce Inter-Connected, the new official student-managed Interamericano magazine, created with the hope of keeping you entertained while at home. We hope you enjoy it as much as we did!

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Marcela Billingslea - Coeditor

Ana Isabel Herrera - Designer

A Young Choi - Designer

Daniela Lombardi - Writer

Luis Muñoz - Writer

Isabel Chang - Writer

Natalia Montes - Writer

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