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EXCELLENCE



INTEGRITY

COVID SURGE EXTENDS HBL

Authors: Nayla Zaki and Kanaya Ozora

As the new school year rolls in, MISJ students are yet again expected to attend another semester of school via Home-Based Learning (HBL). The familiar sense of sitting in front of a laptop screen for more than 5 hours a day and having to do school tasks online returns to both students and teachers alike.

However, just a month ago, this would have not been the case. MISJ, like many other schools in Jakarta, had planned an entirely different course of action for the upcoming school year. In June, the school had announced plans of reopening by implementing a blended learning program for students willing to come back to campus for the school year 2021-2022.

The planned blended learning was set to implement both online and face-to-face classes for the entire school year. Therefore, students who select the BL program will be able to physically return to the campus while still following safety and health protocols. Plans for reopening were pegged on August 2nd for Grade 11 and 12 students, a week after the first day of school.

Unfortunately, these plans had to be shelved again. In mid-June, Indonesia faced a second wave of COVID-19 cases. In just the span of a month, Indonesia went from having 2 million total cases to 3 million. For the next 31 days, the public saw record-breaking numbers of total active cases, daily active cases, and deaths.

On July 3rd, the government issued an emergency lockdown for

the island of Java and Bali until July 22nd. All shopping centres and restaurants were shut down, the capacity of public transportation was now limited, and lastly, citizens once again were sent back home to work remotely.

As of July 23rd 2021, Indonesia has reached a total of 3 million cases and 80,000 deaths, replacing India and Brazil as the global COVID-19 epicentre. This prompted the government to extend the emergency lockdown period to August.

The COVID-19 surge and extension of the emergency lockdown also forced all schools in Java and Bali to cancel their previous plans for face-to-face classes and subsequently, return to online learning.

MISJ had no choice but to return to its HBL program for the upcoming school year until the situation gets better or until the government lifts the emergency lockdown. However, returning students might notice that this year's schedule is slightly different from last year's. The current schedule resembles the schedule the school usually had pre-pandemic.

For example, classes now start earlier and end later compared to last year, break times in between



classes have been shortened, and there will be no homeroom classes on Friday for DP and a slighter later HR period for the rest. This is implemented as the schedule is designed to accommodate both the HBL and BL programs, and ensure that should the situation improve, the teachers will not have a difficult time adjusting to the BL program.

While Indonesia's situation seems bleak, most schools remain optimistic that face-to-face classes can still be implemented for the current school year. But until the government deems that it is safe for schools to reopen, both students and teachers should prepare themselves for another year of online learning.

UNDER THE SUN

A MILESTONE FOR MENTARI IB SCORES

Authors: Vasha Taruna and Nadine Aisha Abdullah

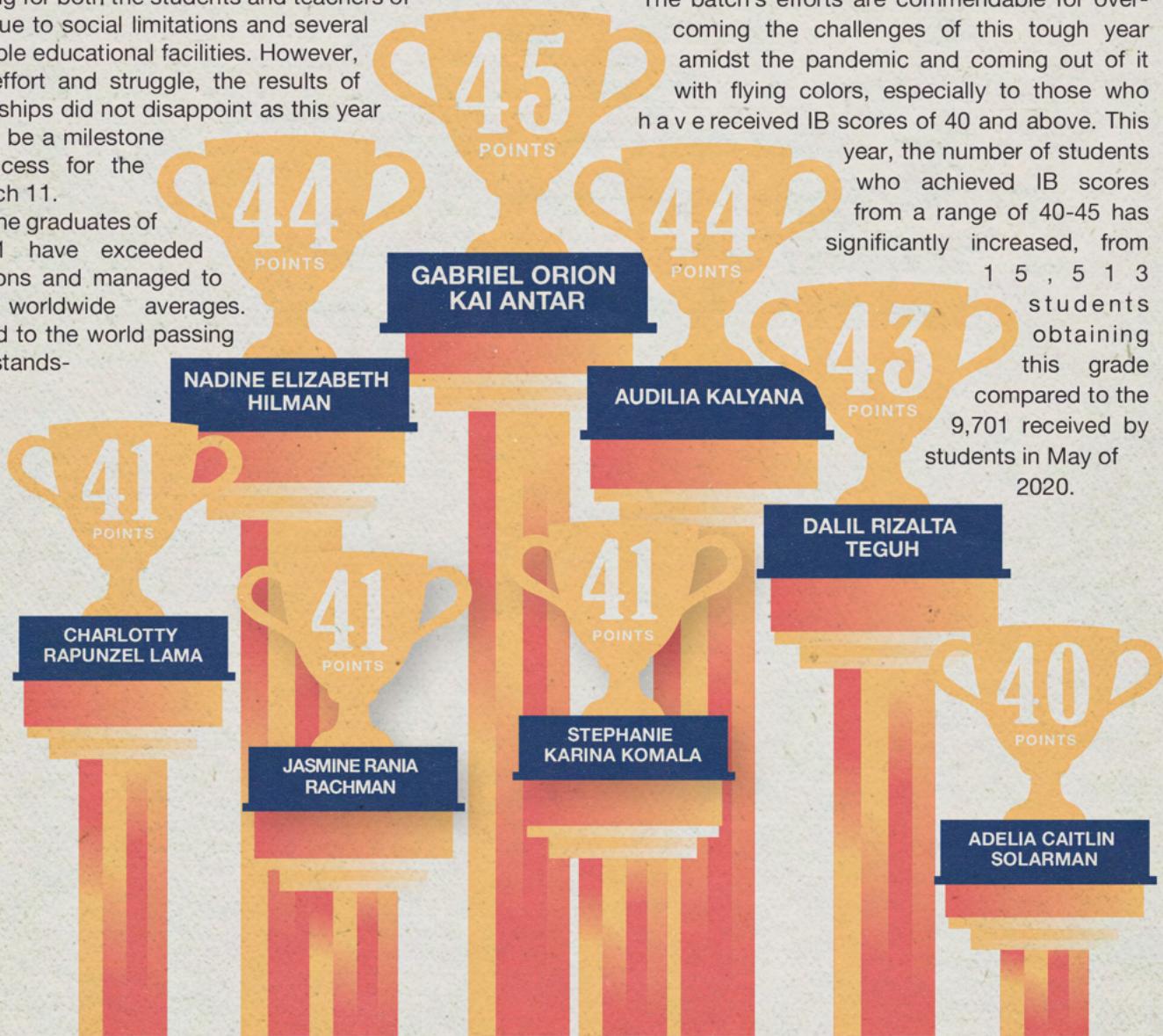
On July 6th 2021, more than 170,000 students under the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme received their long-awaited IB scores after a year of learning under COVID-19 restrictions and the Home-Based Learning (HBL) program. The last few months had been incredibly challenging for both the students and teachers of Mentari due to social limitations and several inaccessible educational facilities. However, through effort and struggle, the results of their hardships did not disappoint as this year proved to be a milestone of a success for the MISJ Batch 11.

The graduates of Batch 11 have exceeded expectations and managed to surpass worldwide averages. Compared to the world passing rate that stands-

-at 88.96%, Mentari has achieved a 98.26% rate of students awarded with full diplomas. The points obtained based on the world average (33.02) are also significantly lower than MISJ's average points obtained—36.00. And in addition, the average grade obtained by candidates who passed the diploma was 5.62 which is 0.43 points above the world average.

The batch's efforts are commendable for overcoming the challenges of this tough year amidst the pandemic and coming out of it with flying colors, especially to those who have received IB scores of 40 and above. This year, the number of students who achieved IB scores from a range of 40-45 has significantly increased, from 15,513 students obtaining this grade compared to the 9,701 received by students in May of 2020.

Students of MISJ are no exception from this feat with 8 students acquiring school-breaking points for their IB scores, with even one exceptional student obtaining the perfect score:



INTERVIEWING HIGH-ACHIEVING STUDENTS FROM BATCH 11

Q: What do you think about the IB curriculum? Is it really as difficult as many students make it out to be?

The IB curriculum gives you a lot of freedom. It allows you to explore a variety of interesting subjects, so it's fun if you pick the right ones! The IBDP is challenging, but whether or not it feels "difficult" depends on your own expectations and the score you're aiming for. If you're aiming for a top tier university, be sure to put in the work (especially because predicted grades are dependent on your overall progress)

The curriculum is certainly very rigorous, but one major upside is that it focuses on depth instead of breadth, making the learning experience easier than it would be otherwise - as you go further, more of what you'll be learning will be related to something you've studied beforehand. I think what a lot of former students say about the IBDP wasn't far off from my own experience, because I definitely felt like I was being challenged. However, the difficulty also varies based on your own personal circumstances.

Q: How did you study effectively? What revision methods worked for you?

Teachers like to incorporate questions from recent IB exams in their worksheets and tests, so studying from past papers was my number one priority! In terms of note-taking, I like using a notebook. When I'm typing, I tend to read without understanding - my Word Doc becomes a carbon copy of the teacher's PowerPoint and I don't gain much out of that. I also color code things to help me remember key information. Friendly competition and bets with your friends may also help.

Britney Budiman and Mandy Poetiray from the school feature section took the time to interview two students from the recently graduated batch, both of whom achieved excellent scores from the IB. Stefi, who achieved a score of 41, and Kai, who obtained a score of 45 gladly shared their insights on the successful results and the processes of preparing for them.



Like Stefi, I tend to take most of my notes by hand, because I found that I'll often highlight or make little mind maps when revising for exams; usually, I'll only take notes online if I'm pressed for time and there's just too much content for me to take note of. I usually take note of every single thing that the teacher mentions in class, and I'll often supplement it by taking notes from other resources. When it's time to revise, I'll go through all of my notes that are relevant and highlight key concepts before drawing boxes around key words. It's definitely better to start revising for your exams several days in advance so you don't end up cramming!

Q: How were you able to manage your time between school, extracurricular activities, and leisure?

If your eyebags look as horrible as mine did in the 12th grade, use HBL as an opportunity to catch up on sleep (but be sure to set alarms)! You should also participate in extracurriculars that don't make you feel as if you're losing all your free time. I was really honored to receive the excellence award for CAS, which I accomplished by focusing on purposeful opportunities.

Continued in p.4



Whenever I found that the time I had allocated to finish my work wasn't enough, I would "borrow" more time by sacrificing my sleep. This would lead to me sleeping as late as 4 or 5 AM - sleeping at 2-3 AM was considered "early" for me (I definitely wouldn't recommend doing this). In terms of leisure, I'd try to make time during weekdays to watch an anime series or TV show. Finally, in terms of extracurriculars, I'll have to admit that this was where the failure of my time-management abilities was most prominent, as I'd barely have any time to spare on them.

Q: How did you deal with stress and procrastination?

Oftentimes, stress is a byproduct of pent-up emotions. Let it all out by ranting to your friends, screaming the lyrics to your favorite song, or playing a video game (it worked for Kai too, and he has a perfect IB score). Finally, get to know yourself. Tell yourself to get out of bed when you're making excuses; take a day off when you need a breather. Use studying methods that work for you - review with a friend, try the Pomodoro technique, or maybe even use food as a source of motivation.

b) Hence, find the term in x^2 in $(2 + x)^4 \left(1 + \frac{1}{x^2}\right)$.

Consider the expansion of $\left(3x^2 - \frac{1}{x}\right)^5$.

a) How many terms are there in this expansion?

I called people regularly, especially when we had something to work on together; I made use of naps to recharge before tackling schoolwork again; I'd play video games whenever I felt too stressed, or otherwise wanted to reward myself for finishing a significant amount of work; and I'd pray and meditate whenever I felt like I needed peace.

Q: How has Mentari helped you prepare for university? What specific skill did you gain from taking the Diploma Programme (DP)?

As the past Editor-in-Chief of The Mentarian, I was able to learn a lot by interviewing people with varying interests. Talking to a diverse group of students and teachers -



-really prepared me for the social scene at university. In terms of academics, EE will prepare you to write research papers in university. The same goes for your IAs - you learn to develop a research question, make use of academic journals to develop strong arguments, and properly cite your sources.

Many people remark that the workload of a DP student is oftentimes heavier than that of a university student (though I have yet to find out for myself)! The DP curriculum taught me how to make research papers properly, and accustomed me with the amount of work involved. It also encouraged me to develop more critical and open-minded perspectives - not only through the inclusion of ToK, but also through other classes that emphasized how important such perspectives were in knowledge acquisition.

Q: What was your most memorable experience in Mentari?

ATL Week is one of the best things that Mentari has to offer. Don't hesitate to dance like no one's watching during the lip sync battle. I also enjoyed traveling abroad for competitions. Right before the whole COVID fiasco, Kai and I flew to Japan and attended HMCA (in all honesty, we were more excited about shopping than talking about politics). Also, look forward to the Vietnam CSW! If your tour guide is Ha, make sure you ask him to sing.

My most memorable experiences in Mentari would either have something to do with the terrifying amounts of work that I'd receive occasionally or, conversely, with times when we could travel abroad, whether it be for leisure purposes, or to participate in WSC and MUN, where feelings of competition-related dread and excitement combined as we experienced many things.

Q: Do you have any advice to share for your underclassmen?

High school is a once in a lifetime experience (though I hope none of you fail, because going through the IBDP for a second time sounds like a nightmare). Be sure to enjoy it while it lasts! Work hard, but don't beat yourself up over a bad grade. Keep in mind, your IB grade doesn't define you. Finally, don't be afraid to ask for IA advice! Ask your friends to conduct peer reviews and set up meetings with your teachers. Having good IAs will make you feel a lot more secure before your final exams.

Besides what Stefi's already said, try to create your own schedule for each thing you have to work on with deadlines that are set well before the actual deadlines given by the school. This list will keep changing as more work is given, so you should aim to finish your work in a reasonably quick amount of time before it starts piling up! Try to finish small tasks within the day they're given so that you'll have enough time to focus on major assignments. Finally, I'd suggest forming a group with your friends where you can remind each other about deadlines and pester each other into working; essentially, ensure that you help keep each other accountable!



STUDENT VACCINE PROGRAM

Authors: Naura Miyantari and Anindya Kusdianaputri

Acknowledging the surge in COVID-19 cases nationwide, Indonesia's next attempt to tackle the virus is by administering a mass vaccination program. Initially, the vaccine rollout in Indonesia only encompassed people over the age of 18; however, President Joko Widodo recently issued a rollout for Indonesians aged 12-17. Since then, local clinics and schools have been actively involved in the process of vaccinating individuals within the age group. Our school, Mentari Intercultural School Jakarta, conducted the vaccine distribution on Wednesday, July 14, 2021.

The event had 5 sessions, with each session held for an hour. Although there were over 100 people on the list to receive the vaccine, Mentari successfully conducted it with the best possible health protocols. Having 6 designated spots for checkpoints, the flow did not allow visitors to gather and pile up in one space due to its clear procedures. The 6 spots that were arranged include an antigen check, the waiting area, the administration table, a health checkup, the vaccine point, and the control room to see the body's reaction to the vaccine.

Furthermore, through the vaccination program, we aim to provide healthcare to our esteemed students as well as create an improved learning environment and experience. We express our deepest gratitude to the organizers who coordinated and contributed to the event's success. The vaccines were distributed at a smooth pace and positive feedback was received from the students.

If the pandemic has taught us a lesson, it is that we should always take care of ourselves and think through how our actions might affect others. We hope that students have received or will receive their vaccination as soon as possible in centers nearest and available to them. With this, we can take another step forward in limiting the spread of the virus and returning to the school life we had previously.

STUDENT TESTIMONIES

Naura, Year 12

The experience was nice, and the flow was very smooth. The health protocols were followed. Get the vaccine.

Bilal, Year 12

I feel safer getting the vaccine at school rather than other public places and it's good to see that school is providing for its students



Jamie, Year 12

I think it's great that Mentari has created a vaccination program that's very accessible and near to us. I had a good experience because everything was handled properly and swiftly. So, get the vaccine as soon as you can.

Nabil, Year 12

I'm really happy that Mentari and many other schools have their own vaccine programs, especially since a majority of us are under the age of 18. We all want to go back to real school ASAP, and this is really the first step to make that into a reality.

Sasha, Year 12

I had a good experience. Although I got a bit sick after the vaccine, it was not too serious and increased my antibody to the virus. Therefore, get vaccinated because it's good for you.

Dzakira, Year 10

Overall the vaccination went on pretty fast and the organizers were helpful in every step of the way. I also felt safe during the waiting process because of the COVID regulations.

Alief, Year 10

It was pretty basic, the vaccine itself didn't hurt and it was not painful in my vaccinated hand.

MENTARI AROUND THE GLOBE



Sports Greatness during the Pandemic

Author: Kashel Judin

The 2021 Tokyo Olympics has prompted the global audience to ponder how triumph can emerge in a game run against a deadly pandemic. A few notable events have taken place since the opening of the event, such as Japan's Horigome winning the first Olympic gold in skateboarding, Indonesia's badminton delegation's historic quest for more gold, and Simone Biles' remarkably undervalued struggle with mental health as she defends her Rio titles. As of July 25th, Tokyo has reported an additional 1,763 COVID-19 cases—including some linked to the Olympics—but no decisions have been made to postpone the event. Under these current circumstances, the COVID outbreak is arguably the Olympics' toughest contender.



Image source:
Dean Mouhtaropoulos,
2016, Getty Images



Image source:
("G.I. Joe: Classified Action Figure: Flint"),
Forbiddenplanet.com

Will G.I. Joe Go Home?

Author: Sergie Amir

US Pres. Biden has announced his intentions to withdraw US troops from Afghanistan, the site of a decades-long war between the Taliban and the US-aligned Afghan government. According to Biden, the US aims to fully withdraw its forces by August 31 although few military personnel will remain to guard the US embassy, Kabul Airport, and other important government facilities. As the announcement was made, Taliban forces advanced rapidly to government territories, shrinking Afghan government-controlled areas. The US launched airstrikes in an attempt to slow this advance. The results of this withdrawal attempt have yet to be determined.

COVID-19 Health Pass Prompts Riots in France and Italy

Author: Arsy Aryan

Over 160,000 protesters rallied in France last Saturday in a riot against the government's COVID-19 health pass policy, which will require citizens to show proof of vaccination or a recent negative test to enter public areas. A similar event took place in Italy, where thousands have protested against the implementation of a similar strategy—the green pass. Those involved in this anti-health pass movement consider these policies to be coercive. In France, the movement was largely driven by distrust in the government and outrage over economic inequality, and the riots are comparable to those of the Yellow Vest back in 2018.



Image source: Sameer Al-Doumy/Agence France-Presse –
GettyImages

BERADAPTASI DENGAN TANTANGAN TERBESAR, COVID 19

Authors: Keisha Forizal and Indira Krisha

Pada bulan Juni, Indonesia resmi memasuki gelombang kedua COVID-19. Hari demi hari berlalu dan kasus COVID-19 semakin meningkat. Dengan kasus total serta kasus aktif harian yang setiap harinya melonjak, Indonesia pun telah menggantikan India sebagai episentrum global COVID-19.

Untuk mencegah penyebaran virus dan mengurangi jumlah kasus, pemerintah Indonesia melaksanakan upaya PPKM Mikro. PPKM Mikro resmi dilaksanakan pada akhir bulan Juni, dengan tujuan membatasi kerumunan di zona merah dan oranye. Perkantoran dan sekolah yang berada di zona merah dan oranye terpaksa untuk sekali lagi melakukan *work from home* serta *online learning*.

Akan tetapi, perkantoran dan sekolah yang tidak termasuk zona merah tetap buka dengan syarat mengikuti aturan dari Kementerian Pendidikan, Kebudayaan, Riset, dan Teknologi (Kemendikbudristek). Selain itu, sektor esensial tetap beroperasi 100%; mal, toko-toko, pasar tetap terbuka dengan pengaturan jam operasional, kapasitas, serta penerapan protokol kesehatan.

Meski adanya upaya ini, jumlah kasus harian terus mengalami kenaikan. Oleh karena itu, pemerintah terpaksa untuk mengimplementasikan PPKM darurat. Tujuan utama PPKM darurat adalah untuk membatasi mobilitas masyarakat di luar rumah agar mengurangi kerumunan yang menyebabkan penyebaran virus. PPKM darurat resmi diterapkan pada 3 Juli 2021 untuk daerah Jawa-Bali. Semua masyarakat diminta untuk menetap di rumah dengan pengecualian bagi masyarakat sektor esensial dan kritikal.

Dibanding PPKM Mikro, PPKM darurat jauh lebih ketat dari segi aturnya. *Work from home* dan kelas daring kembali dilaksanakan untuk 100% sektor non-esensial dan sekolah. Persentase karyawan sektor esensial yang *work from office* pun diturunkan menjadi 50%. Selain itu, fasilitas-fasilitas umum seperti tempat wisata, mal, taman umum, serta tempat ibadah juga ditutup sementara. Presiden Joko Widodo menyatakan bahwa PPKM darurat akan diberlakukan hingga Minggu, 25 Juli, 2021. Setelah itu, tempat-tempat tersebut akan diperboleh-

kan untuk beroperasi secara bertahap, tergantung aturan baru yang akan ditetapkan oleh pemerintah, juga disebut PPKM level 3 dan 4.

Progres PPKM dari data statistik kasus harian menunjukkan adanya kenaikan kasus dan juga penurunan. Data COVID-19 pada tanggal 26 Juli menunjukkan bahwa jumlah kasus Indonesia telah mencapai 3,17 juta, jumlah kematian telah mencapai 83.279 orang, dan jumlah kasus sembuh telah mencapai 2,36

Di daerah yang melaksanakan PPKM, terlihat masih ada kenaikan kasus sejumlah 30-40 ribu setiap hari. Jumlah ini belum turun sesuai harapan, dan oleh karena itu, pemerintah memperpanjang penerapan PPKM sampai Agustus, yang kini disebut PPKM level 3 dan 4. Tidak ada perbedaan peraturan PPKM darurat dan PPKM level 3 dan 4, hanya perpanjangan PPKM berdasarkan kasus COVID-19 di daerah yang tidak terlihat ada perubahan signifikan.

Menurut Josua Pardede, jika kegiatan PPKM diperpanjang, pertumbuhan ekonomi Indonesia akan mengalami penurunan sekitar 0.5%-0.8%. Hampir semua bidang usaha terdampak dengan adanya PPKM, terutama pedagang-pedagang kecil yang masih mengandalkan sistem jual beli konvensional. Perpanjangan PPKM darurat berdampak lebih besar kepada produktivitas usaha dan ketenagakerjaan dan adanya kenaikan tingkat kemiskinan di Indonesia. Oleh karena itu, pemerintah pusat menyediakan bantuan sosial kepada masyarakat yang tidak mampu.

Kegiatan PPKM juga memberi dampak terhadap bursa saham. Pada Kamis, 1 Juli 2021, Head of Research Reliance Sekuritas Indonesia, Lanjar Nafi berkata bahwa aktivitas bisnis akan terpengaruh oleh program baru ini. Investor akan semakin hati-hati dan membuat bursa saham bergerak tertahan cenderung melemah. Selain itu, sektor-sektor seperti sektor teknologi,



sektor infrastruktur, sub sektor telekomunikasi, dan sektor konsumen juga berpotensi terdampak.

Selain timbulnya dampak terhadap ekonomi Indonesia, pembatasan mobilitas di luar rumah telah memengaruhi kesehatan mental warga karena kurangnya interaksi sosial. Dalam sebuah survei yang dilakukan oleh BNPB, 47% anak Indonesia merasa bosan di rumah, 35% merasa khawatir ketinggalan pelajaran, 15% merasa tidak aman, 20% merindukan teman-temannya dan 10% merasa khawatir tentang kondisi ekonomi keluarga.

Dalam survei yang dilaksanakan oleh Media Survei Nasional, terlihat bahwa sebanyak 39,3% orang setuju dengan pengetatan karantina total, sedangkan 35,4% memilih PPKM Mikro. Keputusan untuk menerapkan PPKM tentunya datang dengan pro dan kontra. Walaupun menimbulkan banyak ketidaknyamanan untuk warga, pelaksanaan protokol kesehatan merupakan sesuatu yang penting dalam pencegahan penyebaran kasus. Masyarakat Indonesia berkewajiban untuk mengikuti aturan-aturan yang telah ditetapkan oleh pemerintah, termasuk mengikuti ketentuan PPKM. Meskipun setelah PPKM resmi tidak dilanjutkan, masyarakat tetap berkewajiban untuk mengikuti protokol kesehatan, mendapatkan vaksinasi, serta menerapkan aturan dari PPKM. Dengan melakukan langkah-langkah ini, secara hipotetis, kasus-kasus akan semakin berkurang hingga masyarakat bisa menjalankan hidup lebih baik.

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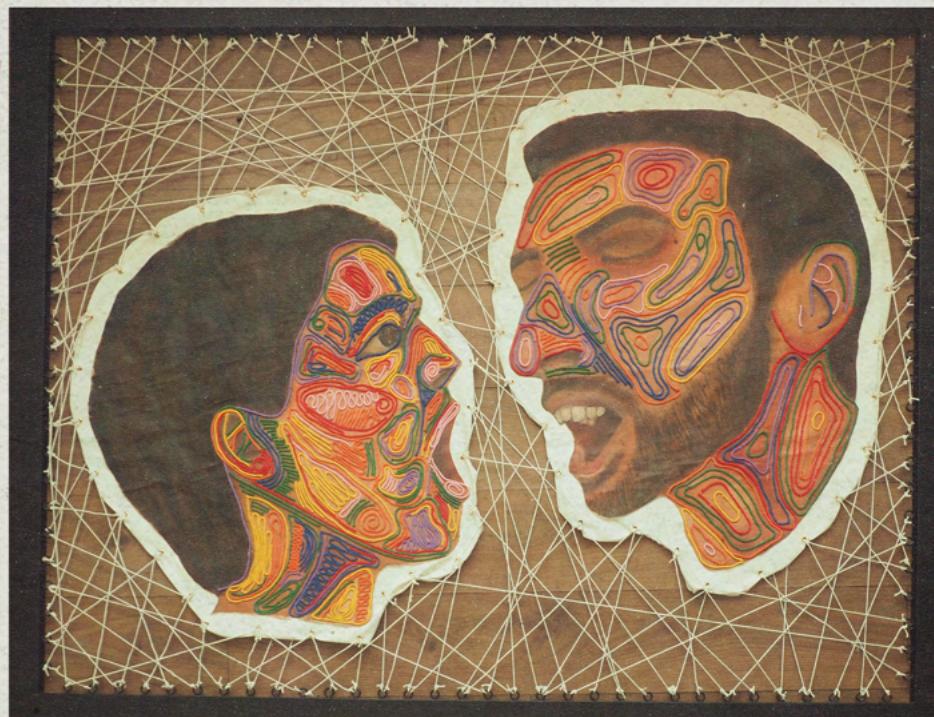
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Student Artists of the Month



Name: Ayasha Siregar
Grade: 12C
Title: Caught in a Web of Lies
Size: 180 x 140 cm
Medium: Mix media oil paint on canvas with strings and wood



Zen, Tsaqif Insani 12C



Flow, Tsaqif Insani 12C



Dilemma, Tsaqif Insani 12C



Cold, Tsaqif Insani 12C



Lovers, Tsaqif Insani 12C



Untouchables, Tsaqif Insani 12C