

FYI Quarantimes

The Official Newspaper of Fresh Youth Initiatives

Volume 1 Issue 1

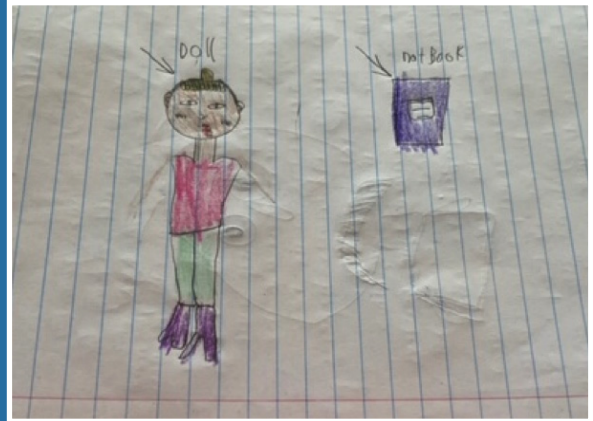
Summer 2020

Brielle Diaz from Kindergarten



I like to look out the window since I can't play outside.

Sarai Ramotar from First Grade



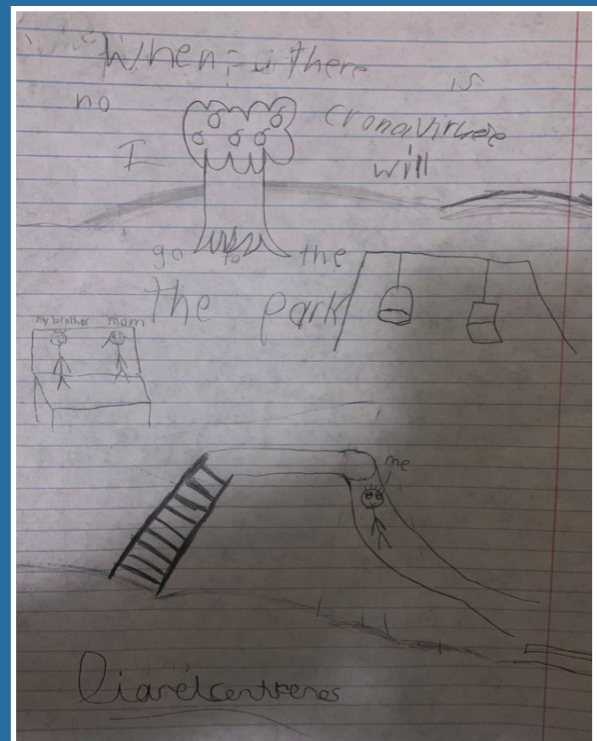
I like to play with my dollies. That is my favorite thing. My least favorite is to do homework, it's too much, ugh!

Scarlett Mora from Kindergarten



What I see every day outside the window. I see someone run, the sun, cars and people walking. We cannot go to park, the water park, or the beach. We can't go because there's a virus going around.

Diarel Contreras from Second Grade



I see my mom and my brother in the house. I miss going outside to the park.

Mikaela Colindres from First Grade



I saw a nice bird in the backyard in the birdhouse. I saw the bird with my mom.

Lia Maldonado from First Grade



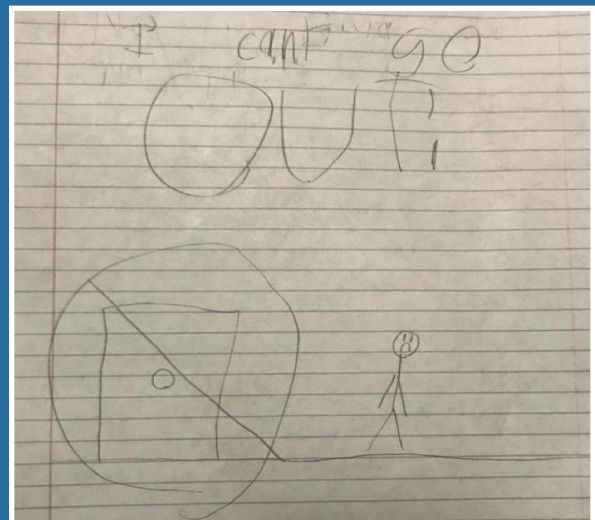
I play every day with my mom and my sister. We watch movies and eat food. My mom cooks for us in the house.

Kaylany Minaya from First Grade



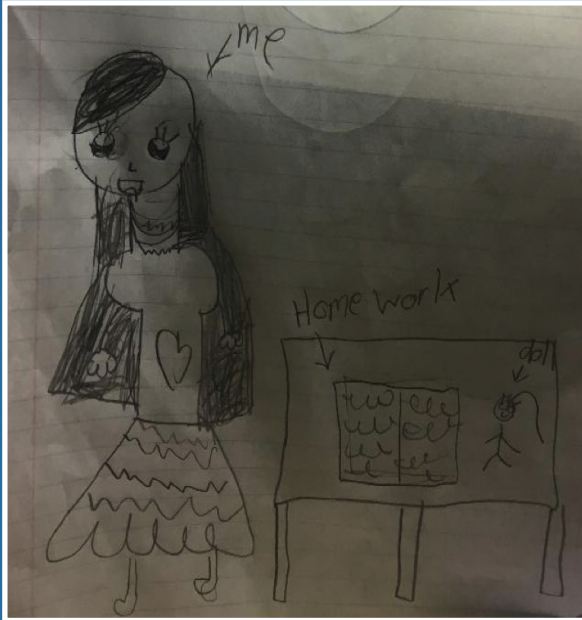
I am drawing my family because I love them and I always spend time with them. We are under the rainbow. We were surprised to be under the rainbow.

Dariel Contreras from Second Grade



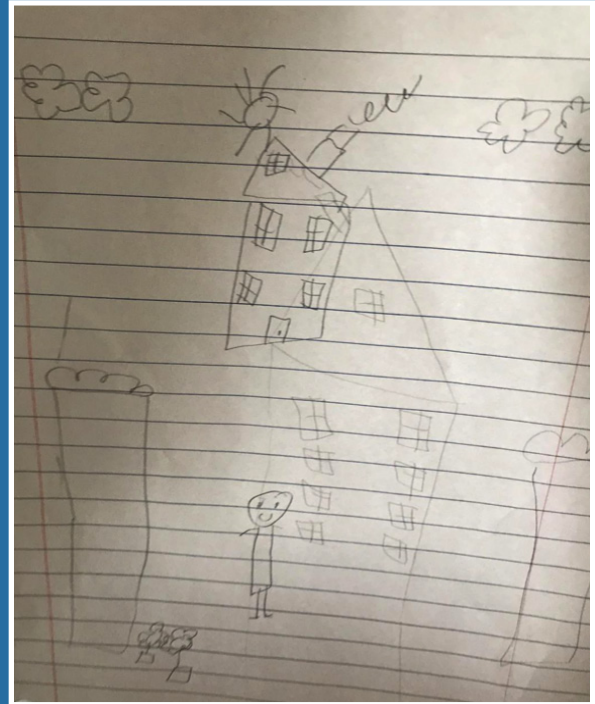
In this simple paper, just using a pencil, the participant expresses his feelings of sadness that he can no longer go out the door of his house and drawing himself next to the door, very much wishing he could leave and return to his school.

Charlotte Osoria from Second Grade



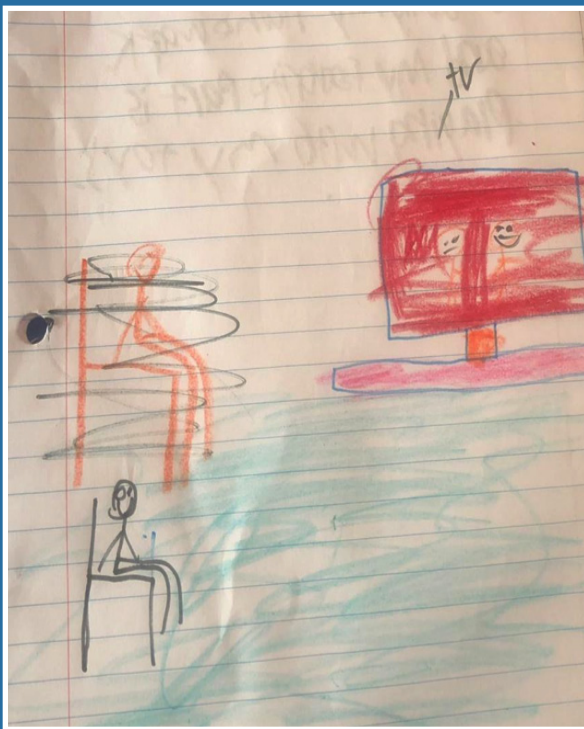
What I do at home is play with my dolls. My baby brother and I also read and do homework in the house.

Yan Carlos Nunez from Second Grade



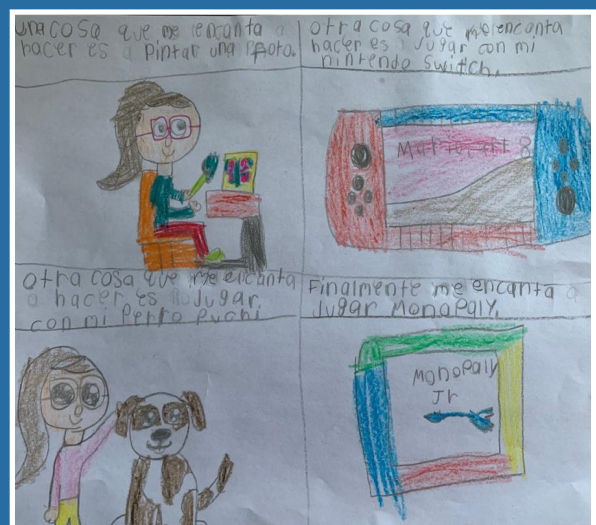
No me gusta estar en la casa, ya quiero salir.

Mason Montalvo from Second Grade



My least favorite part is doing my homework and my favorite part is playing with my toys.

Melina Ferreyra from Second Grade



Todos estos días que eh permanecido en casa lo que más me gusta hacer es dibujar una foto , jugar con mi Nintendo swith , jaguar con mi perro puchi y jugar monopoly en familia.

Emily Mosquera from Kindergarten



So, I am digging worms because I like them and I can keep them as a pet, but I will leave them there because I don't want them to be dead. I really want to go back to school and FYI because I miss my friends and doing arts and crafts.

Yamila De Jesús from Second Grade



Hizo este dibujo porque está en cuarentena y las flores porque afuera ay un sol que las calienta.

Staff Reflection by Digna Martinez

Dear Reader,

It is with great pleasure and honor that I take a moment to translate a message for FYI Quarantimes by Digna Martinez who works as a teacher in FYI's elementary school program at PS128. This message touches upon many essential themes and experiences in working virtually during these times, which many have experienced. Digna, in her message addresses: a sense of urgency, feeling overwhelmed by the great need of families, challenges in providing support, the pain in further realizing the limitations our immigrant families face, small moments of celebration, sharing, her sense of commitment and gratitude for FYI. Thanks Digna! Your courage is admirable.

Respectfully,

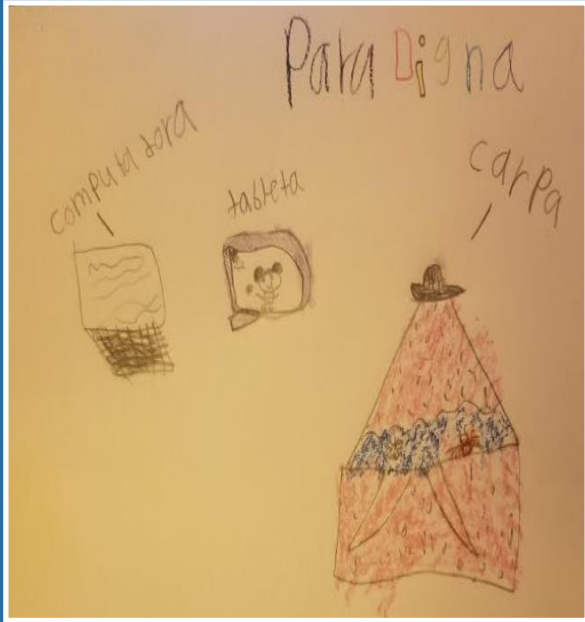
Susan Natacha Gonzalez

Program Director, Gregorio Luperon High School

I am Digna Martinez, staff of PS128 for Fresh Youth Initiatives (FYI). I began the FYI outreach efforts, due to the pandemic, with our second grade students and families, via phone, on April 4th. Making contact was a wonderful experience loaded with contradicting feelings. The

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Leah Rivera from Second Grade



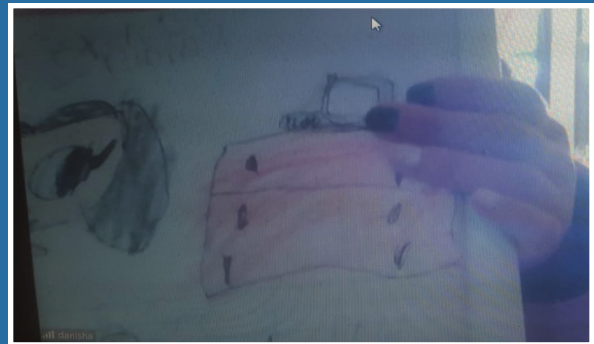
Lo que siempre hago cuando estoy en casa es trabajar con las tareas en la computadora , jugar con mi tablet y jugar en mi carpa.

Brielle Diaz from Kindergarten



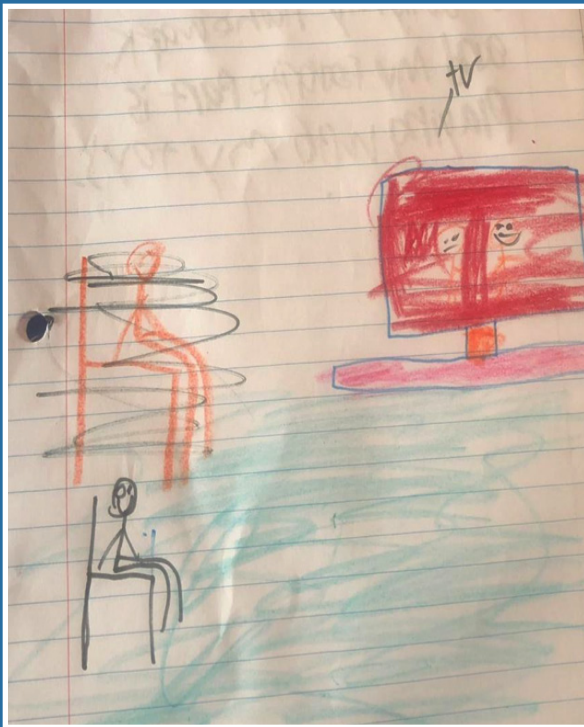
I steal pretzels when my parents aren't looking.

Danisha Garcia from First Grade



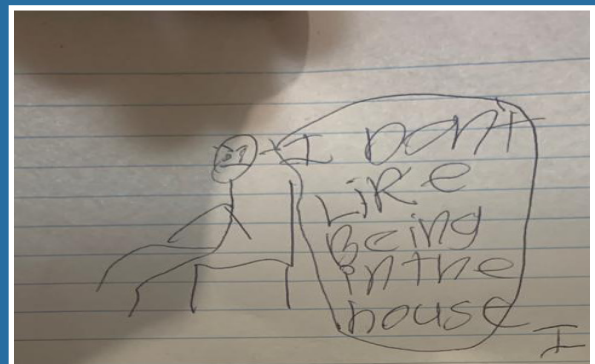
I love to do exercise. I like to run and do stuff with my family. It's fun.

Mason Montalvo from Second Grade



My least favorite part is doing my homework and my favorite part is playing with my toys.

Mason Amo Talco from Second Grade



El niño del dibujo soy yo , estoy muy triste porque no me gusta estar en la casa y no puedo jugar pelota.

Staff Reflection by Digna Martinez

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happiness I heard in students and families voices when they learned I'd be calling them and keeping in touch with them was satisfying.

As the days progressed, I continued to make calls and realized that our families needed not only academic support but also help with their mother tongue, technology, and technical support. I mention family because, as you may well know, family is the nucleus of society where we learn our values, principles, and begin our academic processes. However, family members need to be literate, educated, and able to communicate in English and in Spanish.

On some occasions when working with participants and families, I felt sad because they didn't know English nor did they know how to use technology because they had only arrived to the United States a few months prior to schools closing. As immigrant students, their grandmothers or people they had spent a great deal of time with in their native country, because their parents had to go to work, were illiterate and didn't know English nor did they know how to use technology. This was devastating. However, thanks to Tamara Rodriguez we were able to have video meetings through WhatsApp with students and parents and offer help and support at all times of day. School day time no longer mattered. It became clear that the most important thing was to help and support our participants. After a few video sessions with participants we were able to accomplish goals such as teaching students how to enter to Google Classroom to complete their academic requirements set forth by their school teachers. FYI programming was also helpful along with tutoring in English and in Spanish in all subject matters provided by FYI Staff. Simultaneously, in other cases through phone calls and video calls I provided emotional support to families. Some participants expressed sadness because they couldn't see or hug their parents who were healthcare/frontline workers, or their grandparents. They were sad because they couldn't go outside to the park or school. They couldn't visit their families or friends or celebrate birthdays in these times. Parents thanked me many times for providing support and helping improve their child's mood through dialogue.

As I learned about more about the challenges families were confronting, the pressure to provide support continued to grow. I continued to remain in touch. I felt as though we cohabited in a way. I'd talk with our participants and families about much more than just academics. We spoke about home life, challenges during these Covid-19 times, sometimes we'd pray and they'd share family photos. They also shared moments of sorrow and moments of happiness. It was like we were family. Although these times have been so hard, I am very happy with the way my relationships with participants and families have strengthened and grown. I've also learned how to use questions to establish dialogues in making calls. Through the use of questions in these conversations, I learned my participants favorite movies, sports, subject matters, food, color, movie, animal, and hobbies. I learned that through the use of video and phone calls you can help, provide support, guide and improve people's moods. I learned about the impact of a simple call. I will always thank God for putting FYI in my path and such good colleagues. FYI always strives to improve the community's wellbeing and growth.