

Josh's Journal



Dear diary,

18th March 2020

today I feel neither good nor very bad. I'm bored and a bit upset because I can't meet my friends at school. This week was one of the most special in my entire life. After the government closed all the playgrounds, shops and sports fields I [couldn't] didn't even want go outside, because there was nothing to do, so I'm staying the whole day at home without leaving, so that doing school exercises is the only kind of entertaining thing to do. Nevertheless, these are actions that we must take, especially in these times it is important to keep social distance. That's the only way to slow down the spread and save lives, so [that] the hospitals can handle the situation well and are able to treat all the patients, who need their help. A lot of people aren't thinking about the people, especially [mainly] the older ones, who are at risk, and still do parties or meet with a lot of people at once, but the more time and more people stay at home the better the situation will get [the situation] and the sooner it will end. Most of the people are very selfish and only consider their own health. It's very frightening to see the people at supermarkets fighting and disputing [about] over toilet paper and flour. But luckily there a still some selfless people, who are willing to help older people with purchasing food for the week. This situation is serious, everyone must do his part.

Doing school at home was a big changeover, but in the meantime, I got used to it. It has a lot of advantages. You can organize your schedule on your own and eat breakfast while you are doing an exercise. But at first, I totally underestimated the amount of exercises. You really must work hard to manage to finish everything in time. All in all, it is a new situation for everyone, and you must get used to it first.

Yours,

Joshua

28th March 2020

Dear diary,

today I feel quite good. This week wasn't very interesting for me, I did the same [things] as in the last one. But you must see the positive things in this situation, I finally get enough sleep and just relax at home. But I realized that in these times not only a structure, but rather keeping your daily routine is very important, so that you don't get bored. So, I'm good to go. I feel comfortable about this situation, because now I can do things, I never had time for before, like doing sports or reading books. In fact, this situation is even better for our environment. Luckily, we have a garden where I can enjoy the sunny weather outside. But sadly, there are some negative things too: Our class-trip was canceled. I've looked forward to it since the last class-trip 3 years ago! But our form teacher said that it is only for now. If the situation gets better, we are still going to do it. So, there is hope.

Seeing a lot of people taking the situation serious and following the laws and measures, which the government took, is great. In my opinion we are doing a big step towards stopping the fast spread. It's superb to see most of the people cooperating and helping each other on the contrary to the first week of quarantine.

All in all, I'm not that happy about not seeing my friends in real life, but you must make the best from this situation. I didn't think that I'm going to say this one day, but I hope that the situation gets better, so that we can go to school again. I would be happy as a sandboy to see all my classmates again.

Yours,

Joshua

5th April 2020

Dear diary,

unlike the other few weeks this week was quite exciting for me, but I was still most of the time sitting in front of my computer and talking to my friends whereas I was doing school exercises. There were a lot of new collections of new clothes this week and naturally I bought some. One of these was a jacket, that I bought. I thought that I would need it maybe for the spring season until I realized that today it is 20° outside. Hopefully it'll be a bit colder soon. Not only new clothes were released, but also new music by my favorite artists like Drake too, so that I was listening to it nonstop. And yes, not only that was new. A new season of one of my favorite series came out, but unfortunately, I was spoiled, so that it isn't very exciting for me to watch anymore. The rest of the time I did sports, played computer games or was on Zoom with my friends. So, I wasn't really bored during this week. I always had something to do. Our form teacher said that our whole class must keep weekly contact with him. So, this Friday our class met in a Zoom-Meeting and we talked about the new math exercises and the whole new topic in general, but it was a bit boring for me, because I already had done the exercise, we were talking about. Although this week was quite exciting for me, I really want normality back again. But if this situation is going to last longer, I already planned to work on my musical skills. I'll also improve my magic and Rubik's Cube solving skills, that I haven't worked on for years.

All in all, I would like that this situation gets better as soon as possible, but if it lasts longer, I'll have something to do, so that I won't be bored.

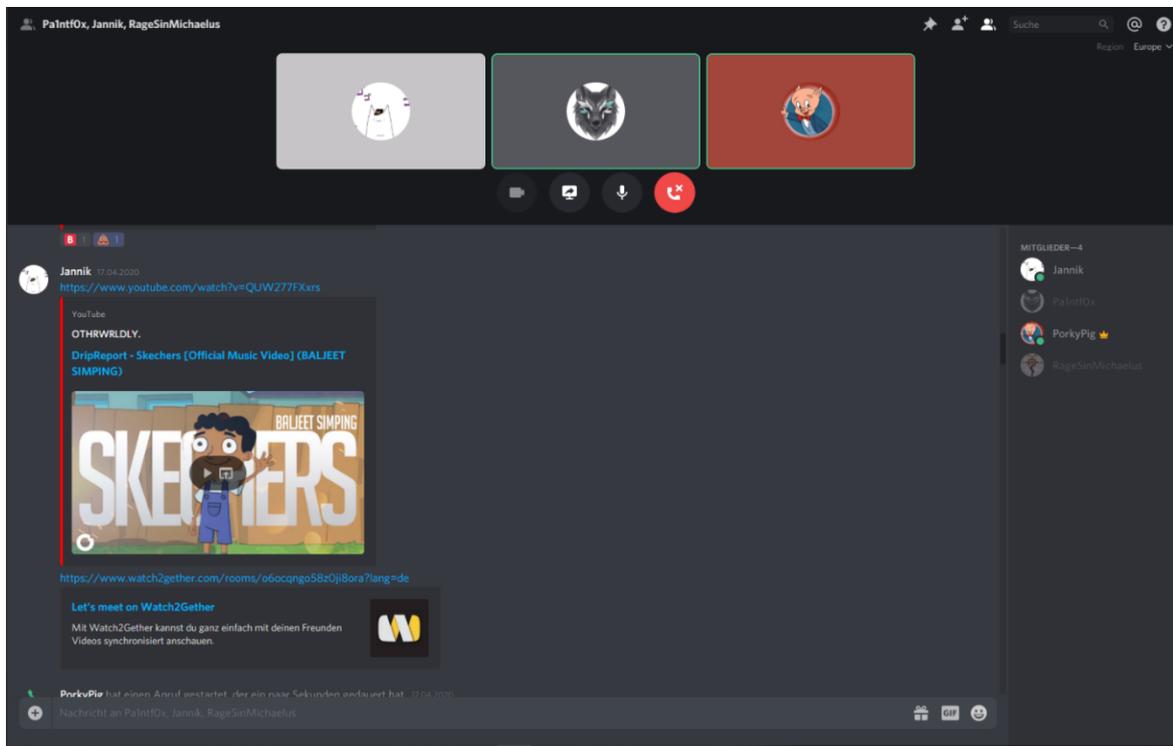
Yours,

Joshua

19th April 2020

Dear diary,

Today I'm a bit tired because I woke up early, so that I can fix my sleep rhythm again and do some school exercises in the morning. The good thing is that I'm quite fast done with them, which results in having more free time. But because the first thing I do in the morning is homework, I have breakfast only at 11 to 12 pm. So, most of the time while I'm sitting in front of computer, I'm starving. Maybe I should wake up earlier, but I don't think I could do it. This week I talked actually every day with Jannik, Damian and Michael on Discord about silly things, so that I wasn't bored anytime.



We not only talked, but watched videos together with Watch2Gether, where you can watch a video with your friends at the same time. But I tried to go every day outside and enjoy the sunny weather, while watching Anime. So, I wasn't the whole time inside the house, because after being so many weeks nearly the whole time inside my room, I really felt shut in.

I felt a bit upset, when Misses Merkel announced that the measures would last longer, including the school closings. I'm missing the school life very much and would want to go to school again. But I think I could withstand some more weeks after I'd go crazy in quarantine.

As I told you the last few diary entries, I'm still doing sports. Not every day, but every second one. But not only that: I finally changed my diet. I've barely had time to cook healthy and vegetarian dishes, that have enough proteins, but now I definitely have.

All in all, this week wasn't very interesting for me, but I wasn't bored either. Hopefully next week will be a bit more exciting.

Yours,

Joshua

Dear diary,

26th April 2020

today I'm feeling exhausted. Do you remember what I said last time about withstanding a couple more weeks? I totally won't. I haven't left my garden for about 4 weeks and I'm tired of it. I wanted to be a role model and stay at home without meeting my friends like other people do, but now I'm really thinking of leaving my house and going outside. I'm curious about what it feels like to walk on the streets again after more than a month. I think I can't stay one week more at home without going crazy in quarantine, but we will see, maybe I will.

My new diet is doing very well, I'm losing weight without actually losing muscle, which is great, but I'm getting a lot of pimples here and there and that sucks. Hopefully they are gone in a few days or at last before school begins. But I think my body just has to get used to my new diet, so I'm confident.

I'm not only feeling exhausted, but I'm bored too. I didn't think that I'm going to feel bored, but it happened. So, I must find a way not to be bored. Maybe I'll buy a new book or learn something new. I think to learn a new skill would be an interesting thing to do. I'll try this week.

On Saturday I bought a new pair of pants, which are arriving tomorrow, I'm looking forward to that and I think I'm going to buy a lot more things for summer, because buying clothes for spring is totally useless. School is starting when it is nearly summer. And I don't think that I will meet my friends a lot of times, before that.

This afternoon I began to realize how lucky we are that we live in a country where we are free and are able to do anything we want. But other people in other countries don't. In a situation like that you really begin to appreciate things that are self-evident.

All in all, it was more or less a pretty bad week for me. I really must take control of my daily routine again and keep organized.

Yours,

Joshua

Dear diary,

4th of May 2020

today I feel quite good. This week wasn't very exciting, but I somehow was motivated. I really don't know where this motivation came from, but I'm happy that I didn't end like a psycho in quarantine. I think I owe my friends most of it, because if I hadn't talked to them every day, I would have gone crazy until now.

This week I realized how important it is to take photos and record joyful memories. So, I looked for three photos that mean something to me:



Here you can see the view of a hotel in Ecuador. It wasn't one of the best places in Ecuador, but we stayed there because most of my family lived nearby and they actually still do. I've chosen this

picture because it reminds me of my last summer vacations. My whole maternal family met in Quito to reunite and talk again face to face after more than 20 years. It was a great experience to meet them, but the best thing to me was to get to know the culture and food in Ecuador. It was a completely different lifestyle but made so much fun. Especially the food and dishes like Empanadas were delicious.



This picture shows how Michael is taking a photo of Jannik whereas Claas is posing in front of a building. It reminds me of the time at the end of 7th grade, where we went to the KZ in Neuengamme, but only with a couple of classmates, because of the fact that it was voluntary and on a Sunday morning. Not only this particular trip was very exciting for me, but the time back then in general. We were just kids, hanging around and doing silly things.

That time is very important to me, because I always associate it with a lot of funny experiences. It also was a formative time, that made me to the person I'm now.



In this picture you can see my classmates and me. Not everybody was there but most of them. I've chosen it because I think that school in general is something that really characterizes yourself. Most of the time you are at school, more specific in your class, and if you don't like it, you won't probably really like going to school. In my case I do. So that's why this picture is so important to me.

All in all, I would have much more pictures of things that matter to me, but in this time of sitting at home and being in quarantine, these are the more special ones.

Yours,

Joshua

Dear diary,

11th May 2020

today I feel a bit tired. Yesterday was Mother's Day and I only went to bed at 1 am. And not only that, but also, I couldn't really sleep well, so I didn't get a lot of sleep this night. I was waiting the whole week in suspense for my packages to arrive and Saturday evening I finally received an E-Mail saying that there are going to arrive today in the morning. They actually didn't. Hopefully they do during the day, I would be very pleased.

A couple of days ago my English teacher asked me if I would like to participate in a competition and at first, I didn't know if I'm going to do it, but Michael just convinced me.

I also read an article about the situation this week, which was very interesting for me. One of the main ideas of the author was that the measures, because of the Coronavirus, like online school, were already existing trends. And now, in times of the epidemic, they just were accelerated. He also thinks that these measures are going to last longer and are going to be the "new normality". His second main idea is that this epidemic is making us stronger and grow together as a society of people who are willing to make own decisions and forge ahead.

I partially agree with his ideas. I totally think that this epidemic is making us stronger as a society and grow together, but I don't think that the very strict measures are going to last forever. In my opinion

they are definitely accelerating existing trends, but I would say that after a vaccine our old normality would come back step by step. So, what I mean is that parts of the measures are still going to last after the introduction of a vaccine, but they are not going to be that strict, as they were and are now. This time is promoting development, of course, but I think it is questionable to say that this deprivation of liberty is for now going to be normality for everybody.

Yours,

Joshua

Dear diary,

13th May 2020

Today I feel great. It seems like I'm going to school again in two weeks and I'm really looking forward to it. We will be divided into two groups. After the one-week vacation both groups are going to go to school once a week separated from each other, so that every group is going to have school at a different day. I hope that my teacher will let us choose the people we are going to meet with. It



would be amazing to talk to my friends again, but I've read the hygienic measures that we must comply with and everybody is going to use an individual workplace, so we aren't allowed to go to other workplaces or even talk to each other. Like prisoners. The recesses aren't any better. If we want to go outside, our teacher will guide us to a door nearby "to breath fresh air". At least I'm going to see my friends in real life again, that's what matters. Today me and my friend Jannik discussed whether animal testing on cosmetics is necessary or not. He quickly responded that animal testing was bad. Regardless whether it was for medicinal or cosmetical purposes. But he was ok with tested animals being rats just because he doesn't like them. I kind of disagreed with his opinion. I as a vegetarian thought a lot about moral acts and I think you shouldn't test an animal because of cosmetical purposes and let him possibly die, because cosmetics are not necessary for a human being to survive. So, you possibly would kill an animal or at least let him suffer, only because "you want to look good". But I think if you tested and animal for medicinal reasons it would be ok, because it is essential to human life. Maybe if you didn't test them before, someone would die of the side effects or something else, so in this case immediately necessary. After saying that he asked me why we should test animals then, why couldn't we test humans. I answered him that I still thought, even if we shouldn't let animals suffer without any reason, that a human life has more importance than a life of an animal. If we would equalize an animal life with a human life, we would ignore the uniqueness of a human, leading to us saying humans are nothing uncommon even though the humanity had and still have so many sophisticated inventions. Letting that be the last words of the day, I'm going to sleep now.

Yours

Joshua