

Editor's Note*Amarah Friedman*

So many great stories begin with someone sitting in their house, bored enough to decide to take action or make a change-- so does ours. Even though *Greenleaves Literary Magazine* existed long before I came to MICDS, it started with someone sitting, maybe in their office, maybe in the cafeteria, but sitting and deciding that our school should have a literary magazine that showcases the broad array of MICDS students' skill and passion. This year, our issue does just that— from poetry about looking up to the heavens to short stories reminiscing about pasts buried in the ground, all of our works look toward the future and look toward growth. They urge us to consider the question: *what comes next?*

And really, what does come next? The 2020 issue of *Greenleaves Literary Magazine* takes us through the journey of life, death, and rebirth. As is imperative now, in this time of quiet and rumination during quarantine, these pieces reflect on the past and how it's shaped us. They look at what this means for our future, as both individuals and members of society. They consider how to mourn losses and stand back up. These are works of strength and perseverance, and they demonstrate what it means to be a part of the MICDS community: soul-searching, seeking a means to change the world. This year's selections bring challenges to the forefront of our attention and implore us to find ways to improve our community, and further, make a positive impact on the world.

Even our visual art is focused on growth and blossoming. The natural world has been woven into humanity through our works of visual art, and this seamless blending once again mirrors the cycle of life and growth. Our blending of written and visual works may not be easy to absorb—there are concepts and ideas that examine some of the twisted and more challenging aspects of our lives, but instead of shying away, I hope this provides an opportunity to dive headfirst into difficulties and search for ways to make our lives more full of meaning and purpose for when we eventually reunite after quarantine. I implore you to use these pieces not only to look around at the world outside, but to use them for self-reflection as well.

Quarantine does not mean the end for our community; it's merely a beginning. Though we are challenged by isolation, we are at the beginning of something beautiful, the beginning of a new world and a new story. We are sitting in our houses, ready to take action. All we have to do is envision the world as we want it.