

Matawan-Aberdeen Middle School Cliffwood, NJ

Principal: Michael C. Wells

Literary Arts Magazine Advisor: Samantha Kicha-Dansky

Literary Arts Magazine Link: <https://www.smores.com/nshfp>

“Recognizing Our (Super) Essential Heros”



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“Thank You”

by Lily Rubin, Grade 7

You're staring at the sky through a small window taking up space in an even smaller room. Accompanying you is a slightly soft bed of a silent nature, a monitor constantly speaking in a language you'll never understand, and a pain that you could swear is secretly a beam sending a signal to Grim Reaper himself. It's been like this for approximately five

minutes now, but it already feels like an eternity and...perhaps it is? Perhaps you have already passed away and you're now dealing with whatever punishment you think you deserve, but...this is not the case.

The case right now is that you have a novel virus and you're hoping for the best. You did nothing to deserve this, and you just hope a cure is coming. All you see from your window now is desolate streets shoving fear into full affect, but...soon enough, or rather as soon as many hours pass by, someone walks into your room.

It's a man, specifically a man dressed in the standard doctor attire known as gloves, a stethoscope, and a mask, but that isn't important. What is important is that he has *wings*. Large wings that seem to match perfectly with the glowing halo above his head, letting you know through literal or figurative means that he is your angel, specifically one who brings you peace for however long he can, and that idea brings you one feeling and one feeling only - *comfort*.

It might just be a fever dream caused by the illness or whatever medicine is within your body, but hey, whatever it is, it's pretty good at being symbolic. This doctor would be an angel, even without the halo and wings for he is the one who's **determined to make you better. He is sacrificing himself and his whole family** just to treat you right now, and he's going to do everything in his power to make sure you walk out of the hospital doors. You think of this, and with these thoughts come a long list of words you wish to say, all to *thank* this person you barely know.

Thank you's and other such phrases come pouring out of your mouth, with little to no control from yourself. This guy deserves the money he receives and more, all the thanks he gets, **and even more than that** - but your brain can't really think of anything since the pain is still there, so, you just repeat something once again.

Thank you," you say, this time feeling as though it's a silent chorus of voices other than your own. Now it's a chorus made up of your family, your friends, and perhaps even people you don't know. Teachers, students, that one guy you saw a few hours ago, and perhaps even the author of this, from her home in Cliffwood, NJ - all expressing gratitude, all saying thanks. It doesn't matter *who* says "thank you," just as long as the doctor knows that from the bottom of everyone's hearts we all thank him - and the entire hospital staff, and maybe he'll feel better after the wild hours and time put in, knowing how appreciative everyone is of him, and those in his profession. **Thank you - you are the hero we should have realized existed all along.**



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“Thank You”

by Shreya Raman, Grade 7

In this image, the graphic artist created a collage of classic superheroes - Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, Spiderman, Iron Man, the Hulk, Thor, etc. - **bowing down to our real, living superheroes:** nurses and doctors helping treat those with COVID-19. The comic book superheroes stand on either side of a hospital hallway as nurses and doctors walk down the center, *a sign of respect and deep admiration.*

This image represents how superheroes might not just be in comic books and movies, after all. The real superheroes are our hospital staff, pharmacists, grocery workers, truckers, and more - all people who deserve applause and our love. All people who deserve acknowledgement and support. The people in this graphic image are *vital* to our survival, as they are on the front lines and are fighting hard, and risking their own lives.

From us all in Matawan, Aberdeen, Cliffwood, and Strathmore - we thank the essential workers who are risking their lives (and the lives of their families), for us - strangers who they don't know but want to help. Thank you.



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“Thank You”

by Cecelia Bolton, Grade 6

Many people recognize superheroes from their capes. But now we recognize superheroes from their masks, scrubs, and gloves.

A lot of people do amazing things that really help the world, but it doesn't mean you'll see them in a cape. That's because our real-life superheroes don't wear them; as a matter of fact, **they don't need them.**

In the photo above, superheroes are bowing as healthcare workers pass by. Healthcare workers are so important, and some of us will never realize how much they put on the line for the public. They are so important to society because they help us stay safe and alive, and help us if we become sick. **Their superpowers are their skills and kindness. They give us life, and they give us hope.**

Thank you, healthcare workers, and all others on the front-line! We owe you.

OTHER LINKS



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