



"One Day in May"

(May 15, 2020)

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Class Year: 2001

Connection to the College (student? faculty? alum? friend of the College?): Staff/Alumna

Describe your day today -- did you go out? what did you do for fun? did you cook or eat anything special? did you do work or chores? who did you spend time with?

When I'm working from home, and my children don't have to catch a school bus at 6:45am, I have the very great luxury of sleeping in...at least until the 8 year old and the 11 year old start a shouting match with one another over breakfast. If the shouting ends quickly, I can usually doze a bit longer. Sadly, this morning included irate door-closing. I got out of bed at 7:45. I clocked in, checked my email, and got to work.

Around nine, I had to help my 8 year old finish his e-learning P.E. lesson (it just required me to toss a coin over and over, while he did the "heads" or "tails" calisthenics). At 9:45, I was helping my 11 year old identify American landmarks and monuments in an online program called IXL. My daughter thinks the Korean War memorial looks like ghost soldiers creeping out of the woods. I was finally able to goad my 15 year old son out of bed at 10, with the promise that if he stayed in bed one minute longer, he had to forfeit breakfast. He does not like to miss meals.

By lunchtime, I needed to get away from the kids for an hour, so I decided to drive to town and buy some tomato and pepper plants. The weatherman said that the danger of overnight frost is finally past! Hooray! I wore my mask at Lowes. About 50% of the patrons and staff were wearing masks. I bought red and green bell pepper plants and "Better Boy" tomatoes. You know, I have seen Better Boys, Beefy Boys, and even Beefsteak tomatoes, but the only "girl" I've seen is "Early Girl". I wonder if men are troubled by this? I thoroughly sanitized my hands when I got back in my vehicle. I keep a pump bottle of sanitizer in my van's cupholder.

The smell of hand sanitizer is kind of nostalgic for me. When my first son was born, my husband and I both contracted lovely, spring head-colds upon our return from the hospital. We were sanitizing our hands all the time to avoid passing it on to the baby. Of course, I realize now that it was more likely to cause him harm, than protect him, but when a new mother hasn't slept in days, common sense goes out the window!

Back home, I left my shoes at the door, washed my hands, changed out of my potentially contaminated clothes, and got back to work. I really miss being able to go to my office in the library. I miss the library smell, and the variety of tasks that I'm able to work on when everything is easily accessible. I miss not being interrupted every 10 minutes by kids! I don't miss having to get up early, but I think it might be an even trade for the peace and quiet.

What do you remember best about being on campus in May of other years?

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