

# *St. Some-Covid-Times*



V241 ● Covid ● April ● 2021

*From the Life and Times of Greg Lemoine,  
International Educator since 2001.*

# Cupcakes

One of the first friends I made in this sandbox is the H Family - Carl (Gr3 Homeroom), Tracy (Gr2 & Gr4 Homeroom), 3<sup>rd</sup> grader Barbie, and Tatertot in Kindergarten this year (pictured above). Obviously made-up names for the kids.



## TATERTOT

The family is leaving at the end of this school year. Tracy's mom is sick (I have total empathy) so Tracy already went back to Bend, Oregon with Barbie. The boys stayed back to finish the contract and school year.

When it came to Tatertot's birthday, Carl invited the "Wonder Twins", two of the most fun and exciting elementary teachers a little boy could have at his covid birthday party. Swarna and Judith (**cover**) are peas in a pod. While I entertained Carl and talked "man" talk, the two crazies ran around the entire house with nerf guns in a war with "Tatertot", their nickname for him. Carl and I couldn't help but

laugh, listening to Judith point out how unfair it was that Tatertot had the ONLY nerf bullet between the three of them.

Mealtime was excellent marinated steaks via Carl and a hotdog for the little man. Then, according to the Tatertot's party schedule and the brilliance of the dynamic duo, it was "Decorate your own Cupcakes" Time!

#LOVED-it #FUN

#1stTimeInsertingHashtagsInStSomeTimes.

Swarna is the CupCake  
Decoration Queen!



Mine. Obviously  
Not in the same  
League



1



2



Go!



Carl and Tatertot toast to a  
successful cupcake evening.



Tickles the nose



# INTERNATIONAL TEACHER PODCAST



WITH MATT & GREG

Available on:



Choose your favorite podcast app.  
Find us. Listen to us. Enjoy our stories.  
Learn something.



## Taking the Red Pill

If you had told me ten years ago, how much fun podcasting would be, I would have started back then. No one ever inspired me.

My own podcast listening journey didn't even start until 2019 when I found it delightful to listen to podcasts while walking around the camp. Yet, I still wasn't inspired to cast.

I've been on  and  for years.

My GRL videos have been on  since 2011 (my most viewed  video - my Animated Resume' from 2012 has 2500 views), and my website with newsletters have been online since 2000.

Maybe Covid can be blamed. Perhaps there is just a specific time for everything - as my mentor and friend, David, would say. Whatever the reason, I took the **red** pill and sprinted down the rabbit hole.

Matt had asked me last year, if I was interested in starting to podcast. Around the same time, another teacher, Kent, asked me to help him set up a podcasting unit for afterschool. Neither of their ideas snagged my interest because Covid had just hit us and it was pandemonium!

Fast forward a few months of Covidation. I woke up one day and decided to research podcasting to see if I could start one with whatever tech I already owned. Nope. The more I researched, the more videos watched and articles read, led me to buy a Zoom H6 recorder and two microphones. How I got them delivered is a story that would fit into three newsletters, so I'll skip over those debacles.

While I waited for the devices to arrive, which was several weeks due to stupidity, I kept researching and planning. I had decided to lead Kent into podcasting by first trying it out with Matt on our own.

I set up my new microphone. Hooked up my H6 recorder between the Google Meet (Matt's voice) and the microphone. Wallah! A podcast was born. We recorded the first two episodes back to back.

What I didn't expect...the rabbit hole going even deeper. Now that I had quality raw recording, I had to edit the conversations. That started a completely new line of research and reaching out to sound engineers. It takes skill to make two dummies like Matt and I sound good enough for a listening audience on radio...errr...a podcast. Hours for every quarter hour of those first episodes. Ughh. I loved learning and experimenting.

Ok. So I finished what I thought was a decent sounding quality podcast. I added an intro with music, tried out several Podcast theme pictures for our profile podcast page, sent in requests to Apple, Google, Amazon and 30 other podcasting apps.

We are a new success. I dare you to listen.



Kent Joins me for a “podcasting Lunch” in my Future Lab classroom.



# 5 DAY Covid HYBRID TEACHING

*RAMADAN 1442*

Go to work by 7am. Time to prep for classes or fulfill our other non-teaching tech duties. Teach a class. Take the students out to recess. Come back and reset the room and safe spray the tables and chairs. Go retrieve a new class from recess. Teach until lunch. Rinse repeat with the afternoon classes and leave at 4pm. Repeat the next day with the next grade level. Some of the recesses are your duty, so you stay out there all recess. Some weeks you don't have classes so you are "free" to substitute for all the grade level teachers those weeks.

During all of this, we max out at 11 students at any one time in an Am or PM half-class. COVID. There is also a strand of teachers teaching completely online for Distance learning families that fear the face to face. COVIDcation Teaching Continues.





The Champion 4th grader successfully balanced 7 KEVA planks on top of each other.

# Survival

## ZACH'S AQUARIUM LIVES

65 GALLONS OF ZACH QUALITY FISH ENJOYMENT. IT'S NOT EASY TO KEEP UP, BUT THE BEAUTY IS A LABOUR OF LOVE.



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Moths ago, many many months ago, Zach and his family moved into a new house. Zach decided it was time to switch gears and focus on something besides aqua marine care. He knew I was into fish because we talk about it all the time. I was surprised when Zach asked me to take care of this monster. The chia rock is a live plant on top of an \$80 porous rock. I've never spent that kind of cash on a tank and cannot **imagine** what he spent overall on this aquarium! My thank you, in return for this beast, is to let it thrive! I am committed to keeping the environment the way it was given to me. So far so healthy.

**"Fins to the Left, Fins to the Right"**



Please  
Don't complain  
about our English  
If you can't  
Speak THAI  
Love you