

Summer Months at Clonlara



SKYE LEWIS

JUL 11, 2026



Designed by Delilah



Designed by Delilah

Welcome to the final issue of the Clonlara Chronicles for this school year!

It has been an exciting first year for our Chronicles Club, and we're so happy to share one last issue with you. We hope you enjoy. And we wish you a wonderful summer break!

Thanks for reading! Subscribe for free to

receive new posts and support our work.

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What's it Like to Be a Clonlara Student?



Designed by Nele

In my 3 years at this school, I've met a wide variety of students with diverse goals and dreams.

I've met musicians, aspiring pilots, business owners, athletes, future surgeons, and everything in between.

I've also been lucky enough to make friends with students who hail from all around the globe, from North America to Asia.

Those two facts highlight something fascinating about our school. While

most students who fill school halls are brought together by geography, share specific passions, or have expertise in specific skills (like sports boarding schools), Clonlara doesn't have that.

The student body is not heavily concentrated in any one place, student dreams are diverse, and family incomes range widely.

So, when the traditional means of student enrollment aren't existent, what does it actually mean to be a student at Clonlara?

I believe the thing that unites students, staff, and parents is something far more powerful than a city or area of expertise. It's a similar set of values.

A value that learning should be fun.

To teach in a way that a child learns.

The learning path is not the same for any child.

And when you have a community of people that believe and act in accordance with a belief, that creates a unique environment.

This idea was only further cemented by my experience at my first in-person Clonlara event—the 2026 graduation in Granada, Spain.

Going into it, I knew very few people who would be there. Essentially, I was walking into my graduation ceremony and, subsequently, the prom with a room full of strangers.

But something surprising happened.

I met so many cool people, and it was so easy to get along with people I had known for less than an hour.

And although our goals were different, many of us had grown up in an environment that valued curiosity, flexibility, and individuality. As I looked at the other students around the room, I realized that Clonlara hadn't made us similar people. The opposite, actually: we were all very different. But it did create an environment where we could all show up authentically as ourselves.

So, while at first glance, a German teen who wants to be a vet, a Czech teen who dreams of studying in Monaco, and a Canadian teen who's chasing a dream of playing pro football don't seem like they'd have much in common, but if you look beneath the surface, you start to see bonds that perhaps are even stronger than any you could make at a

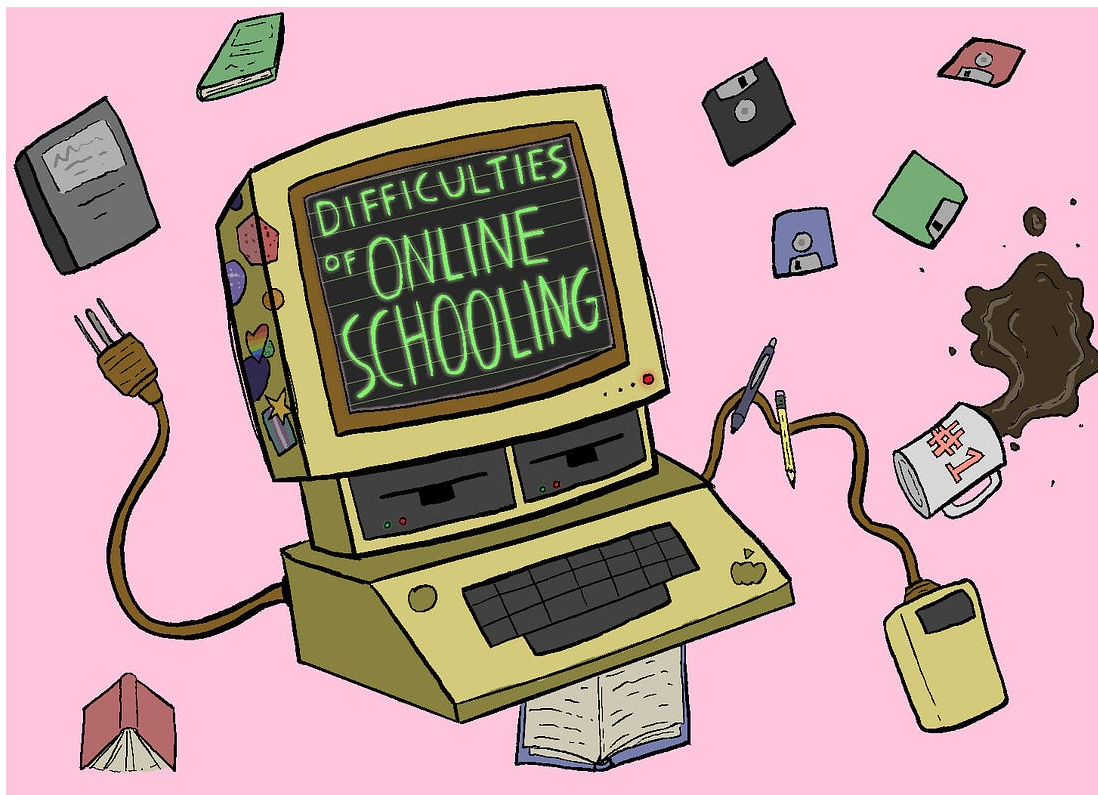
school united by geography or interest.

Clonlara School is a special place, where uniqueness is celebrated, where education is yours to mould, and where you find others who are uniquely themselves within the wall-less halls of this school.

Written by Jack

Difficulties of online schooling

Online schooling has many benefits, but it also comes with its own challenges. In this section, we explore some of the difficulties students may face and how they learn to overcome them.



Designed by Sam

It's safe to say that , at some point in our online schooling journey, we have all faced some difficulties. Being homeschooled is amazing and

offers many benefits, but it can also be challenging to manage everything on your own. In this article, I want to talk about something that many of us experience but do not always discuss.

First of all, it can be hard to stay focused at home. This was actually one of the first challenges I encountered when I started homeschooling. I was getting easily distracted, and even though I always thought of myself as a determined, organized, and focused person, the many distractions around me made it difficult to study for more than two hours in a row. Whether it was my phone, social media, or simply being at home, there was always something taking my attention away from my schoolwork. Over time, I learned to implement techniques that helped me stay focused, such as creating a study routine and limiting distractions. However, I also learned that it was okay to study differently and take breaks whenever I felt I needed them. Finding a learning method that works for you is often more important than trying to follow someone else's routine.

Another difficulty is that online schooling can sometimes feel lonely. Each of us is in a different situation. Some students travel frequently and meet new friends along the way, while others have kept the same group of friends for years. However, the truth is that learning from home can sometimes make you miss the daily interactions that come naturally in a traditional school environment. A simple conversation with classmates, working together on a project, or even sharing a laugh during a break can make a big difference. When those moments are missing, it is normal to feel isolated at times.

One last thing I would like to mention is how homeschooling is sometimes perceived by other people. Even today, there are still many misconceptions about online schooling. Some people assume that homeschooled students spend all day at home, do not socialize, or have an easier education. Personally, I have been asked questions like, "Do you have any friends?" or "Do you just stay in your pajamas all day?" While these questions are often asked out of curiosity, they show that

many people do not fully understand what homeschooling is really like. The truth is that every student's experience is different. Many homeschooled students are involved in sports, clubs, volunteer work, and other activities that allow them to meet people and develop important skills. Sometimes it can be frustrating to deal with these stereotypes, but over time I have learned that the best way to change people's opinions is simply to share my own experience and show them what homeschooling is actually like.

Although online schooling comes with challenges, in my opinion, it offers more advantages than disadvantages. It gives students flexibility, independence, and the opportunity to learn at their own pace. With good habits, support, and a positive mindset, you can overcome these difficulties and make the most of your homeschooling experience. However, do not forget that it takes time to find your own rhythm and learning style. Everyone's journey is different, so try not to put too much pressure on yourself or compare yourself to other students. With patience, determination, and self-confidence, you will discover what works best for you and continue to grow both academically and personally.

Written by Lucia

Capstone roundup

The completion of the capstone projects is a milestone in every student's trajectory, as it marks the end of a long period of hard work and dedication.

It is a sign that they are finally graduating, and there's a bittersweet feeling of leaving school, entering the world and starting to find a purpose to follow. What makes these works so special is that each of them carries something unique about each student — a personality trait,

a value, a dream, an ambition. They put so much of themselves into it that it becomes something they'll cherish forever.

I am glad to share with you some of the amazing capstones created by the Clonlara seniors of 2026.

Delilah's project was to create a magazine that combined her journalism studies with everything she learned during the time she spent in Madagascar, including the island's geography and history, as well as her personal experience.

Here's the link to the page with her homeschooling journey and the magazine she created:

<https://lilahgracehighschooljourney.my.canva.site/>

Carolina was inspired by her own dog to write a manual teaching how to deal with and look after deaf dogs, explaining the importance of understanding animals in this condition.

Here's the link to her website, where she tells a bit about herself and also shares the manual:

<https://sites.google.com/view/simplyanabnormalblog/home?authuser=0>

Diego studied the complexities involving the security and privacy of web browsers to invent an app that identifies ways in which websites may collect private information about one's device. This app shows how to protect online navigation and minimize exposure to potential threats.

Access his app by the link below: <https://browserleaks.com/ip>

Jack developed an app that teaches the theory behind each leadership pillar, also providing a platform to apply this knowledge in a fun, constructive way. It is made for teens who look to improve their mindset towards leadership and the way they see life as a whole.

Access his app by the link below: <https://spark-leader-quest.lovable.app>

Lara started a magazine featuring amazing stories of people she found inspiring, containing issues about their successes, their ideas and their

dreams. During the process, she further developed her passion for writing and learned about some very special journeys.

Here's the link to her platform: https://substack.com/@laraw08?r=7udo2j&utm_medium=ios&utm_source=stories&shareImageVariant=blur

These works illustrate how completely different minds are able to develop equally incredible projects, filling them with personality and meaning. Congratulations to all graduates and thank you to each of you for bringing something new into our community!

Written by Carolina

Summer bucket list

You find yourself just scrolling through Instagram and TikTok. You see the people on the screen living the life you want to live, and all you can do is wish you were them, living the life they are living and having all the fun they are having. It feels endless—the content you consume feels like it's consuming you. So, we have an idea: why not put down the phone and take a look at our hands-on, screen-free activities to do this summer?



Designed by Delilah

Embroidery

Here a is an easy beginner project to try out;

A personalized napkin with a floral design.

This napkin is nature inspired, think lavenders, roses, tulips.

Bonus tip: You can make the napkin by yourself with a sewing machine
(That's what I did)

You Will Need:

- One 46 cm (18 in) square piece of fabric
- Sewing machine and matching thread
- Pencil or fabric-marking tool for sketching the design
- 25 cm (10 in) embroidery hoop
- Embroidery floss in coordinating botanical colors
- Embroidery needles (sizes 7–10)
- Fabric scissors and embroidery snips
- Iron

All material and instructions are by the creator of the book *Embroidery A Modern Guide To Botanical Embroidery* by Arounna Khounnoraj, all credits are to her. I just made the same one, but I only cut out 1 piece of fabric instead of 4.

Instructions:

1. Cut one square of fabric measuring approximately 46 cm (18 in).
2. Press and sew a narrow rolled hem around all four sides to create a finished napkin.
3. Lightly sketch your botanical design onto one corner of the fabric using a pencil or fabric-marking tool.
4. Place the fabric in an embroidery hoop, making sure the design is centered and the fabric is taut.
5. Embroider over the sketched lines using your chosen colors and stitches.
6. Remove any visible guide marks if necessary and gently press the finished napkin with an iron.

Written by Bareerah

Strawberry Mousse

Here is a fun and easy summer recipe for you to make: Strawberry Mousse. This is a recipe we have done in our family for generations. No bake needed!

To make this delicious summer dessert you need only three ingredients:

- strawberries
- eggs (3 will do)
- sugar (3 teaspoons)

Instructions:

1. First, wash the strawberries very well!
2. Then, crack the eggs and separate the yolk from the whites. You will only use egg whites for the mousse. Also, slice the strawberries.
3. Start whisking the egg yolks and gently add the sugar. Continue mixing until it becomes really fluffy. Finally, add the sliced strawberries and continue whisking until the pieces blend in and the cream looks pink and fluffy.
4. Place in small bowls and enjoy. Or refrigerate for a bit, and it will be a perfect dessert for a hot summer day!

Recipe by Irina

Summer Bingo

Below this text you'll find your own Clonlara Chronicles summer bingo card with activities designed to lower your screentime and make the most of your summer. Now how does this bingo card work? On each of the squares is an activity, which after completion you can either cross off or colour in. Once you've completed all of the activities, and only then can you cross off the middle square, symbolizing the completion

of a full summer! I hope you enjoy this activity the same way as your summer.

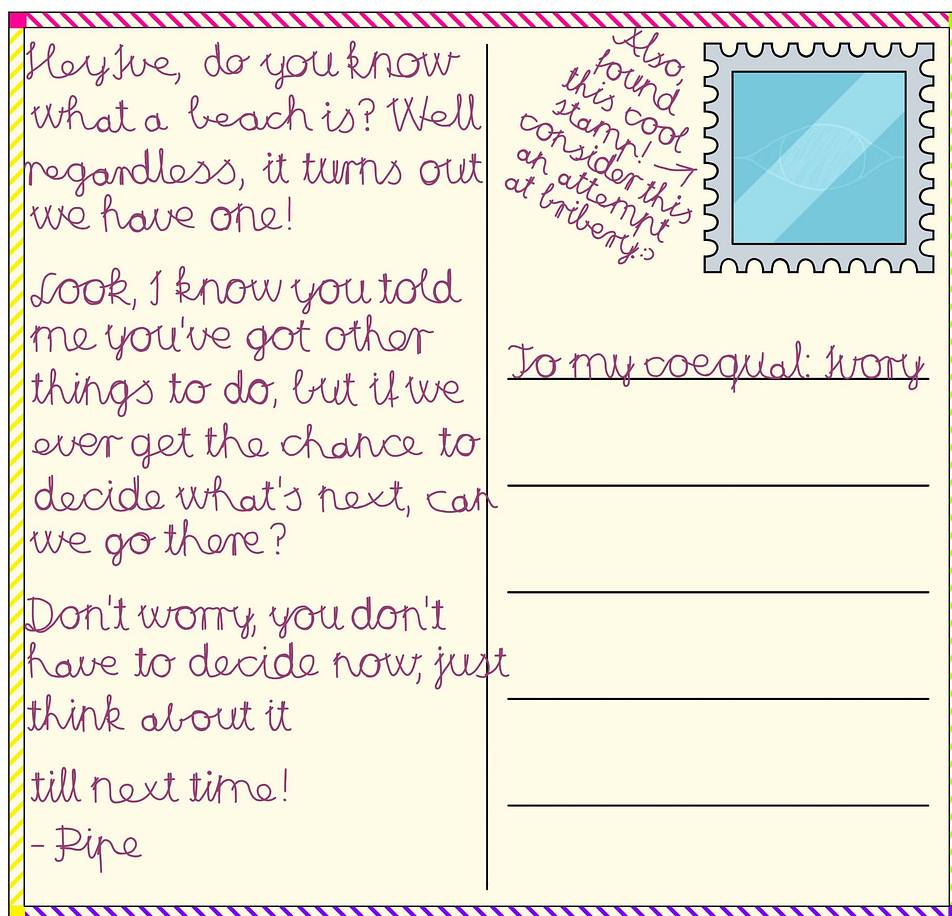


Created by Thea

Comic



Designed by Ákos



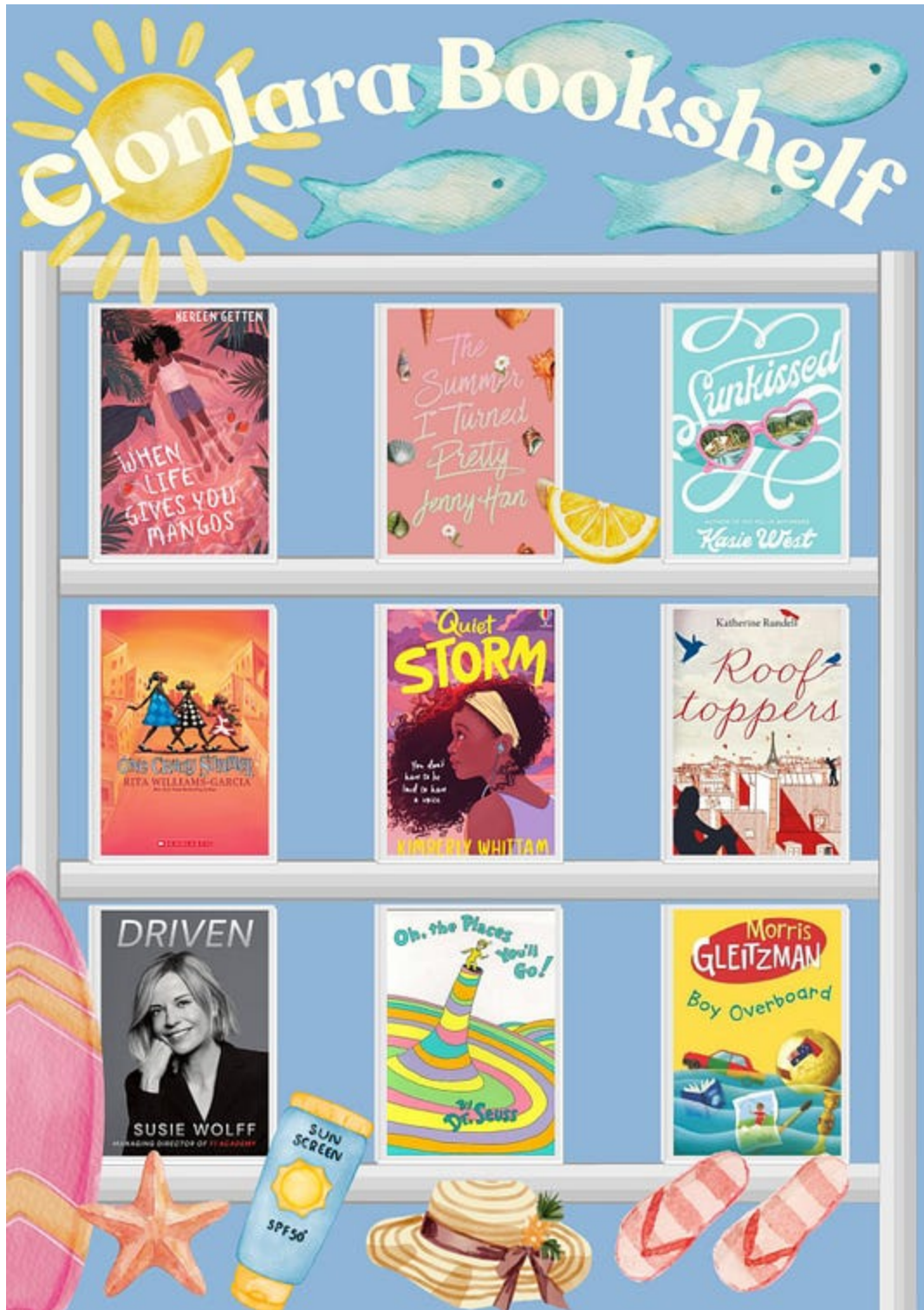
Designed by Ákos

Clonlara Bookshelf

Once again, welcome everyone to the Clonlara Bookshelf! For this issue, we wanted to celebrate the end of the school year for many of our programs and recognize our graduating seniors with our theme, Ambition and Dreams. We hope to inspire you to chase your passions, and dreams.

We also wanted to welcome the summer season, something I'm sure we've all been looking forward to!

Now, we invite you to explore our book picks and discover some of our favorite reads. We hope you enjoy them as much as we do.



Designed by Nele

Ambitions and Dreams:

Oh, The Places You'll Go

By Dr. Seuss

This is a fun and simple picture book that you can enjoy with your younger siblings or by yourself. It follows a young person going on a journey through life, where they face good times and hard times. We chose this book because it is easy to read and very inspiring. It helps you feel excited about your future and encourages you to follow your dreams.

Driven

By Susie Wolf

Driven is a book about her real-life journey as a racing driver. It tells how she followed her dream of working in motorsport, faced challenges but kept pushing forward in a very competitive sport. We chose this book because it is inspiring and shows ambition, hard work, and what it takes to follow your dreams.

Quiet Storm

By Kimberly Whittam

This is a young adult novel about a girl who faces difficult emotions and challenges in her life while trying to stay strong. As she goes through different experiences, she learns more about herself. Once you start this book, you won't be able to stop reading it!!!

Boy Overboard

By Morris Gleitzman

Boy Overboard is a very emotional and powerful story about a boy named Jamal who dreams of becoming a football star. When his family is forced to leave their country, they face many dangers and a difficult journey as refugees. This book will make you think about your life and your ambition.

Roof Toppers

By Katherine Rundell

In this adventurous book, we follow Sophie, who sets out to find her mother in Paris. Along the way, she meets a group of children who live on the rooftops and help her search for answers. We chose this book for this category because it shows how following your dreams and never giving up can lead to amazing discoveries.

Summer:

The Summer I Turned Pretty

By Jenny Han

You've probably heard of this famous series in the last few years, but it is inspired by this book. *The Summer I Turned Pretty* follows a girl named Belly who spends her summers at the beach house with family friends. This summer is different as she starts to grow up and deal with new feelings and a love triangle. We chose this book because it is a popular and relatable story about growing up, friendship, and first love.

When Life Gives You Mangoes

By Kereen Getten

In this book we meet a girl named Clara who is trying to remember what happened during a mysterious event in her past. As she discovers the truth, she learns important lessons about friendship, family, and forgiveness.

One Crazy Summer

By Rita Williams-Garcia

One Crazy Summer follows three sisters, Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern, who spend their summer in California with their mother. Along the way, the sisters learn more about their family, themselves, and the world around them. The book shows how the sisters learn new things during

their summer trip, and it teaches important lessons while still being fun to read.

Sunkissed

By Kassie West

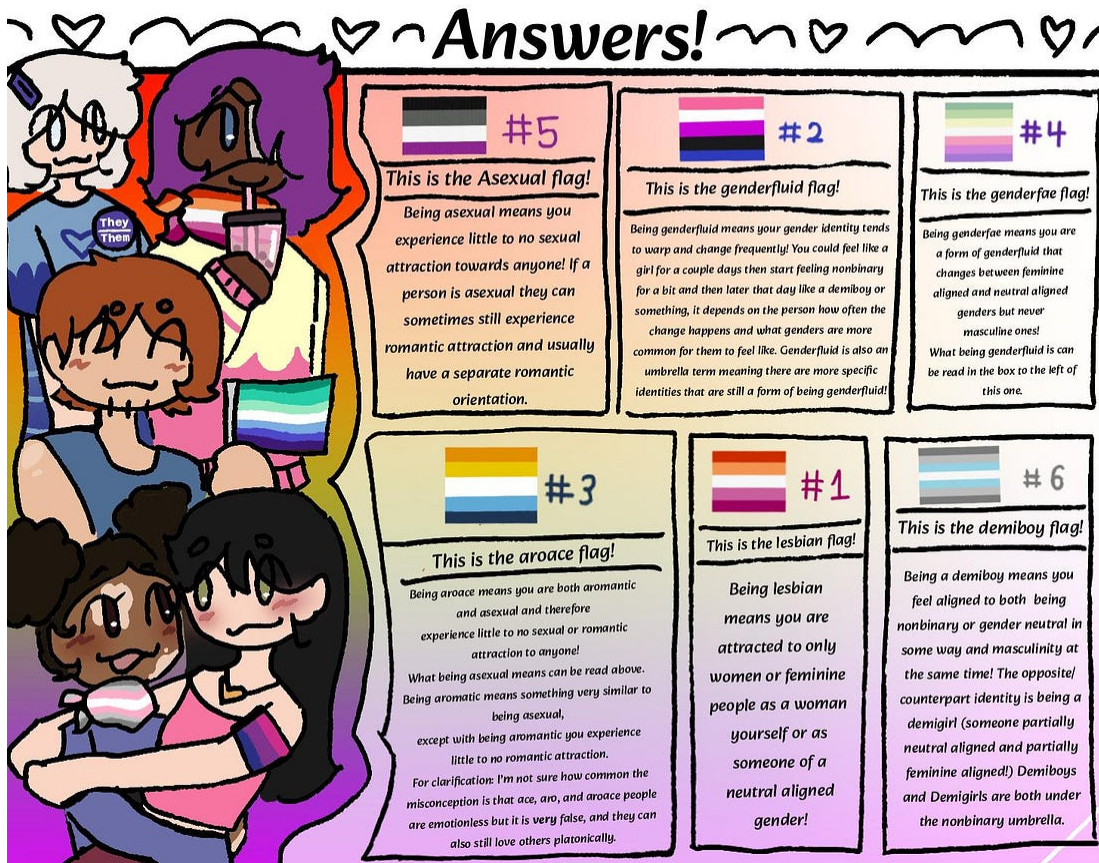
And for the last summer book recommendation, we chose a fun and easy summer read with romance and drama. In this book, we meet a girl who goes to spend her summer at a remote camp with her family after a tough time in her life. While there, she has to deal with being disconnected from technology, new surroundings, and complicated relationships.

Descriptions by Lucia

Pride Month



Created by Meghan



Created by Meghan

How to Appreciate Bees



Designed by AI

Do you shriek at the sight of a bee? I won't lie, I occasionally do. Bees can be terrifying; coexisting with them makes a sting feel imminent, and finding a hive near the house can be overwhelming. However, taking some time to learn a thing or two about these surprisingly fascinating little creatures can change our perspectives. Bees are incredible workers for the environment, many are endangered and need support, and even wasps have benefits to bring to the table.

Why Bees are Fascinating and Beneficial

There are many different types of bees around the world, and they all benefit the environment. The main types are honeybees, bumblebees, carpenter bees, mason bees, and leafcutter bees. Their main job, the reason that these little heroes remain absolutely crucial, is pollination. Pollination is the key to the reproduction of plants, allowing for the creation of seeds, which is a vital process for maintaining plant populations. Without bees, the gorgeous greenery in communities, gardens, parks, and all of nature worldwide would suffer, unable to reproduce. Even worse, the human food system would collapse. Bees remain a large reason for stable food systems, as they keep valuable crops alive and growing. Though bees' work benefits humans, a major reason for the decline in the bee population is human activity, so bees require more support.

Fun fact: Bees indeed dance to communicate with their colony. They show the direction and distance to an area of interest, like a nice big batch of flowers.

Bees are not Pests

In many cases, bees are known for the fear and issues they cause instead of the benefits they bring, which by far outweigh any issues. As a result, many people view them as pests and neglect their need for support, which has proven detrimental to the survival of bees. Dozens of bee species are at risk of extinction, and all species have suffered a decline in population due to factors like pesticides and habitat loss. Bees need support, and not to be seen as pests.

The fear of bees is incredibly common, but their goal is not to sting people, and this fear can prevent support for saving the bees. If bees could not sting, they would have no way to defend their nest from predators. Stinging is not offensive, but defensive. Clearly, since bees can not survive after stinging, they are not out to sting people. Stinging is a last resort. Bees sacrifice themselves for the survival of their

colony, which is quite beautiful. They are not mean creatures. It is important to remember bees' wonderful works while observing them.

Carpenter bees can cause issues for homes by nesting in wood, and other types of bees can nest around homes, which can be annoying. A devastating number of people reach for insecticides to help with this. Fear or annoyance is no reason to harm bees and disregard their importance to the environment; the people who kill bees are also the people who benefit from their existence. While bees can damage structures, and some people may have bee allergies, there are humane ways to remove them. Insecticide is by no means the only option. Calling a beekeeper to rehouse them or using natural harmless repellents helps save the bees. Killing just one colony of bees (which can have tens of thousands) gives rise to a much larger environmental crisis.

Fun fact: Female honeybees make up the vast majority of most honeybee colonies, typically having populations that are over 90% female. This is because male honeybees do not pollinate, they can not survive winter, and they even lack the ability to sting. Their primary purpose is mating, and they die shortly after completing this. If male drones are alive by the time winter comes, they can be kicked out of the hive!

What About Wasps?

Wasps are usually perceived as far more terrifying than an average honeybee, but believe it or not, wasps are quite fascinating and beneficial as well. Wasps are clearly related to bees. They have similar colors, body shape, and stinging ability. Unlike bees, though, wasps are predators of many other insects, which makes them an important component in balanced ecosystems. Many people view wasps as the mean cousin of bees, and wasps are truthfully more aggressive than bees. However, similarly to bees, stinging is merely a defense mechanism. Wasps are more aggressive because they are predators;

they must be able to sting without dying as valuable predators in the ecosystem. Also, wasps face a population decline due to human activity and pesticides, but they are so important for ecosystems around the world.

Save the Bees!

Take a minute before spraying the bee/wasp killing spray on the nest by your house. These beautiful creatures work so hard to benefit the entire ecosystem, from helping our food grow in farms to helping the flowers in our yards bloom. Even wasps are crucial members of the ecosystem and should be respected. So, no matter how many times we have been stung, bees deserve our compassion.

Written by Violet

Spanish graduation ceremony

The 2026 Graduation in Granada was a beautiful event for everyone attending.

The Graduation was hosted in Granada, the Spanish city best known for its beautiful architecture - the Alhambra and the Generalife.

The Graduation itself took place in an auditorium, close to the city centre.

Entering the grand foyer, you were welcomed by Clonlara staff, met fellow graduates, and could have your photo taken by a photographer.

Upon arrival, you got a „sash“ and a graduation pin, waiting with the other graduates until you could walk into the auditorium.

The ceremony started with speeches by Bianca Geburek, Sofia Gallis

and April Huard (German program coordinator, executive director and director of education). They shared beautiful insights, warm wishes and made a wonderful introduction to the ceremony.

Program by program, the graduates were announced by their Advisor or Program coordinator, sharing beautiful insights into the graduates' journey to graduation.

Afterwards, they walked up the steps to the stage to receive their diploma.

It was a ceremony filled with meaningful speeches and incredible musical contributions by Clonlara graduates. It started with a piano piece, followed by beautiful speeches, a violin piece, Acapella singing, piano and singing, and ending with yet another piece played on the piano.

Amongst others, the thoughtfully chosen musical pieces and songs included „Evocación“, by Isaac Albéniz, „¿Pero por qué?“- one of the „contradanzas“ by Manuel Saumell and „Homeward“ by Benjamin William Hastings.

In their speeches, many graduates reflected on their time at Clonlara, the freedom to follow their passions, and the guidance they received from family, advisors, mentors, and friends. Here are some of the inspirational words the students shared:

„When we talk about graduation, we talk about transformation, and it's true: a new chapter of our life is beginning. But we're not becoming someone new. Graduation doesn't magically make us different people. The person who will face the future is the person we've been building for our whole lives.“ - Jack.

All in all, it was a beautiful ceremony - emotional for graduates, families,

and advisors alike.

„Prom“ was a casual get-together in a cosy bar. The graduates sat together, getting to know each other, while drinks and tapas were served.

Connecting with fellow Clonlara students, making new friends, taking pictures and dancing - it was a fun evening that lasted longer than anticipated.

Saturday was eventful for everyone who decided to join the tour of the Alhambra. Families and staff met to explore the beautiful fortress and the Generalife Gardens together - between the historic sights and breathtaking views, everyone had a great time.

Congratulations, Class of 2026!

And a big thank you to everyone who was involved and carefully planned the weekend to make it unforgettable for everyone attending.

Written by Lara

Online Graduation

On the 10th of June Clonlara's Virtual Graduation Celebration happened, an event available for everyone, designed to congratulate this year's 243 graduates across 30 nationalities and all programs.

We started with Sofia Gallis, the Executive Director of Clonlara giving the opening speech to start the event. What followed was a slideshow from all the staff , such as advisors, the registrar, the financial department, on-campus teachers and everyone else connected to the

school, no matter the country. Each of the slides included a quote for the graduates to consider and take in.

We then saw a complete list of all the graduates alphabetically. Next on the agenda was giving the graduates and their families or mentors a chance to say a few words, or if someone was prepared, speeches were also possible. All of them were formed in such a beautiful and touching way, it left you feeling inspired and hopeful.

The advisors gave their thanks to the students and mentors, before April Huard, the Director of Education moved to the part of the celebration where the graduates with a cap put their tassel to the other side, thus marking the end of their high school journey and the beginning of the rest of their lives.

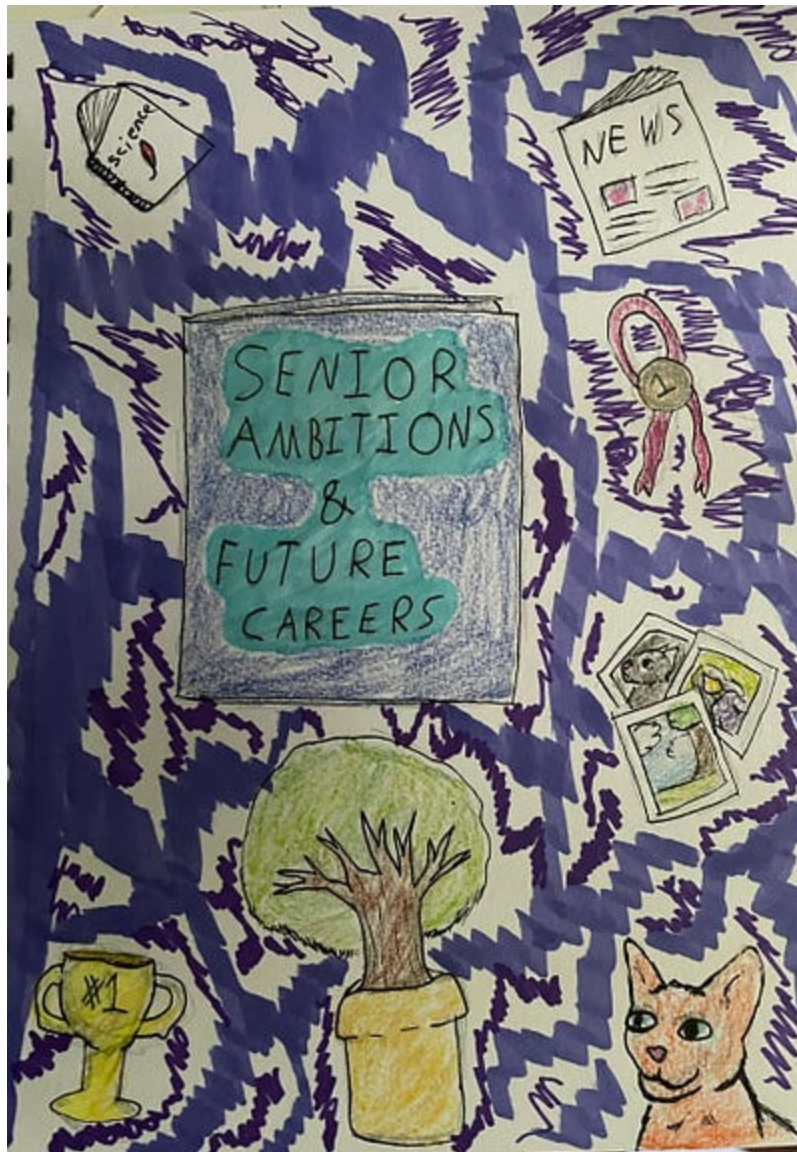
Lastly we were informed about the commencement available on the school website, which will be available right under this article. My congratulations go to all of the graduates and I wish them the best in whichever path they choose.

<https://clonlara.org/graduation-2026/>

Written by Thea

Senior ambitions and future careers

What comes next after graduation? In this section, our seniors share their ambitions, future plans, and the career paths they hope to pursue. We hope you enjoy learning more about their goals and aspirations!



Designed by Ada

"What do you want to be when you grow up?"

That's probably one of the questions most often asked of children. As a child, deciding what you want to do for life is all about diving into an endless world of possibilities and figuring out in which of them you can picture a grown-up version of yourself.

It is about finding something to strive for, boundlessly.

Children are bold and headstrong. They aim to fulfill their dreams, despite being told it's too risky or too dangerous. They jump high without fearing the fall; they genuinely believe in their capability for great things. For them, limits are concealed. Everything is achievable. They can *be* anything. Regrettably, few are those who manage to grow up and remain so purpose-driven, still thrilled by "ordinary things" such as choosing a career.

We live in a society where young people are led to believe they ought to do something relevant and productive — something that makes money. And, of course, that is necessary. It just shouldn't be the determining factor in making this decision. Especially for the current generation, the purpose of embracing a profession has begun to be less about finding your passion and more about finding something that still can't be replaced, a way to keep pace with a labor market that is constantly changing. With time, we lose that "childlike" way of thinking that working requires personality and creativity, not only strategy and performance. We forget that the real point of having an ambition isn't just to reach a destination or accumulate wealth. It's about having a purpose— fulfilling your present with meaning. Working is also about *enjoying* one's own life. And that is something we should always remember.

Below, I share an example of an ambitious Clonlara student, Eduarda Devolder, who tells a little about her passion for Information Technology and why she intends to pursue this field after school. When asked about her motivation to follow this journey, she highlighted how important she believes curiosity is in the area:

"For me, the secret of working with IT is being curious and enjoying studying. This is an ever changing field, and something new or a different way of doing things is always emerging. [...] IT transforms society by making our lives easier, from banking apps to how we study and connect with the world. [...] What inspired me to want to follow this path was seeing the advancement of

technology. It made me very curious to know how everything works, and that's when I discovered my passion for the field."

In conclusion, it doesn't matter what moves you to choose a career—curiosity, talent or determination. What matters is doing it because you *want* to, without expecting anyone's approval but your own. That dreaming child will always be somewhere inside you. Make sure to never forget them.

Written by Carolina

In Conclusion

As we wrap up our very first year of the Clonlara Chronicles, we'd like to thank everyone who read, supported, and contributed to our newsletter. We wish you a fun, relaxing summer filled with new adventures. See you next school year!

See our contributors below:

- *Jack - Editor-in-Chief + Co-founder of the paper*
- *Lilibet - Head of Design + Co-founder of the paper*
- *Skye - Content Strategy Manager + Designer + Co-founder of the paper*
- *Violet - Lead Journalist*
- *Ada - Writer*
- *Ákos - Writer + Designer*
- *Alexandra - Designer*
- *Bareerah - Writer*
- *Carolina - Writer*

- *Delilah - Designer*
- *Grace - Writer*
- *Irina - Writer*
- *Lara - Writer*
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