

THE WARRIOR CHRONICLE

Walters Middle School * Fremont, CA * March 10, 2020

Tubman possibly to replace President Andrew Jackson on the \$20 bill

Vikrant Pratapa Reporter

The decision to replace Andrew Jackson with Harriet Tubman on the twenty-dollar bill commenced in 2016 by Jacob Lew, the Treasury Secretary present during that time. After President Trump was elected, he opposed the idea of the redesign of the twenty-dollar bill.

His Treasury Secretary, Steven Mnuchin, paused his work on the currency redesign, saying that the new imagery could not be put into circulation until 2028. President Biden, who plans to accelerate that timeline, nominated Janet L. Yellen to lead the Treasury Department, says *The New York Times*.

“The Treasury Department is taking steps to resume efforts to put Harriet Tubman on the front of the new \$20 notes. It is important that our money reflect the history and diversity of our country,” said Jen Psaki, the White House press secretary, who also supports the cause,” as reported in *The New York Times*.



Image from Google

A possible redesign for the \$20 bill of Harriet Tubman, the famous American abolitionist of the Underground Railroad and political activist.

7th grade history teacher Mr. Thompson also noted, “The change to Harriet Tubman is a positive one as it represents two significant groups in our country that are not well represented in being commemorated on our currency: women and minorities. Her contributions and willingness to ultimately risk her own life to liberate others from the institution of slavery is exactly what we stand for as a country and should be celebrated.”

The public also supports this decision, as from *Politico*, 56% percent of Americans support Harriet Tubman on the \$20 bill from a poll. Senators also urge Yellen to prioritize the redesign of the \$20 bill, as reported in *The New York Times*.

7th grade English Honors teacher Mr. Kinnear remarked, “I think having Harriet Tubman on the \$20 bill is a great idea. I don't see why we can't have other important American figures on our money. In Scotland, where my family immigrated from, there were numerous figures on the same note. You could have presidents, statesmen, as well as cultural important people on all the bills. It shouldn't be limited to only one person.”

Mr. Nicholson, 7th grade math honors teacher, has also stated, “Placing Harriet Tubman on the \$20 bill would be a great idea. It is important to value not only politicians, but also figures who supported good causes for good things.”

Vaccine shortages at California sites

Joshua Suthaharan Reporter

Because of the COVID vaccine, virus cases have dropped significantly in the past month. Although the drop in cases is not entirely the work of vaccines, they contributed greatly to the drop. Meanwhile, in February, California faced a supply shortage of vaccines. The lack of supply had vaccination sites temporarily close down in San Francisco and Los Angeles, for instance.

Jaeden Konglathu, 8th grader, said, “I think that the shortage will have a massive effect on California because if people don't get the vaccine, cases will continue to rise.”

Those sites are running again. However, while more people are becoming eligible for the vaccine, like now teachers and grocery store workers, they still face delays in actually scheduling a vaccine. Online scheduling websites continue to have an overload of people trying to book appointments, resulting in glitches or no appointments being made at all. Perhaps the newly approved Johnson & Johnson vaccine will help get more vaccines to the public.

Gorman rises up with her poetry



Picture from Google Images

Amanda Gorman is a poet, from Los Angeles, who is famous for writing a poem called, ‘The Hill We Climb,’ for the presidential inauguration and for writing poetry for the Super Bowl 2021. She has been awarded ‘The National Youth Poet Laureate’ for her inspiring work.

Oil spill occurs in Richmond, California, leaks into the San Francisco Bay

Kason Lai

Reporter

On February 9, 2021, an oil leak occurred at the Chevron refinery in the “Long Wharf” area of Richmond, California.

As reported in *theguardian.com*, “[A]n estimated 600 gallons of oil...spilled from a Chevron refinery into the San Francisco Bay.”

According to *abc7news.com*, “It [The spill] was first reported around 3 p.m.,” and, “California’s Office of Emergency Services (OES) says a pipeline was leaking approximately five gallons a minute until the leak was stopped around 4:40 p.m.”

Ms. Lewis, a 6th grade math and science core teacher, stated, “The Richmond oil spill was an environmental disaster. Any time oil is released into our environment, there is damage. I hope the damage

in this particular case is recoverable, but it is still harmful.”

Fortunately, *abc7news.com* reported, “As for wildlife that may have been in the water, Eric Laughlin of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife says, ‘There haven’t been any oiled animals reported at this time, but we do have the oil wildlife care network on standby.’”

Mr. Nicholson, a 7th grade accelerated math and 8th grade math teacher, commented, “I think it was bad, but it could have been worse.”

Although no serious problems occurred, such as oiled animals, the oil leak could potentially have caused great danger to the wildlife and humans in the area.

Mrs. Goodfellow, a 6th grade math, science, and innovations teacher, said, “Oil doesn’t just go away. Any oil that spilled into the water will affect the marine life that lives there. Some

animals will die, others may be permanently damaged. When oil gets into the food chain, any organism that eats the affected organism can become sick or die because of the oil. Humans are affected as well. There are many gases that are released in the oil refining process, and these gases can lead to asthma in humans.”

To prevent another accident, Mr. Nicholson added, “The EPA should do its job by inspecting the refineries.”

An investigation on the incident is ongoing.

Calendar

March— Women’s History Month

March 14 – Daylight Savings Starts

March 17 – St. Patrick’s Day

March 31 – Cesar Chavez Day

EDITORIAL: You should get the COVID-19 vaccine if it’s available to you

Khanh Do

Reporter

Some people are hesitant to take the COVID-19 vaccine because of various reasons. “There are side effects that would cause major problems, I wouldn’t have it,” said Daniel Oliver Tena, 7th grader.

According to John Hopkins University and Medicine, a typical vaccine timeline took 5 to 10 years to process, test, and finally distribute it to the public. But the COVID-19 vaccine only took about 12 to 18 months to do all of those processes and this fact has made others concerned about the safety of the vaccine itself.

But I don’t think we should just focus on this one fact, and I believe otherwise that the COVID vaccine is safe, and you should get it to protect yourself and others.

7th grader Zoe Ho said that she does not think it’s 100% safe since the vaccine was rushed. But the reason it was processed this fast is because of all of the information the scientists gathered about the first SARS-Cov-1 virus which is very



Photo from Google Images

The COVID-19 vaccine grants people heightened immunity from the pandemic.

similar to the SARS-Cov-2 right now.

This makes sense to me because the SARS 1 virus is like a 1.0 version of a software so when a 2.0 version (the coronavirus) got released, it would be similar in some bits to the first one.

Also, stated in the PBS’s YouTube Channel: It’s Okay to Be Smart that the researchers actually got started to work on the vaccine the moment a spark of outburst of the Covid-19 was discovered.

I really like their attitude towards the situation because their caution would help make the vaccine much faster to develop and more time to

analyze the virus itself therefore making it safer.

Mrs. Greer, our school nurse, also said the vaccine contains mRNA technology that shows our body how to fight against the spikes attached to the virus. I found that this is fascinating because knowing more about the vaccine makes my belief in its accountability and safety even stronger. In addition, she also suggested that as long as you don’t have contraindications, the vaccine should be safe for you to use.

Last but not least, I have my loved ones and so do you. My close ones are very precious to me and I would rather them be safe with the vaccine.

“It’s better to be safe than sorry,” said Kaylana Sarmiento, 7th grader. Technology has improved and our fields of knowledge have expanded, guaranteeing a more dependable vaccine. In the end, I strongly believe you should all take the vaccine and hope that this changes your perspective on the vaccine and provides you with the right information.

Walters students create artwork for National PTSA Reflections Contest

The PTSA Reflections contest is an annual art program that provides opportunities for recognition and access to the arts. Students are encouraged to participate in one or more of the following categories: Dance choreography, Film production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, and the Visual Arts. Winners in this year's contest in the Fremont Chapter PTA level are Ashwin Pentela, Caitlin Bautista, Urian Paek, Prutha Karkare, Dane Savage, and Srinidhi Ivaturi. Jody Hajmohammad and Jugal Bansal also participated. This year's topic was: Why I Matter. Each 1st and 2nd Place winners received a trophy, a certificate from the PTSA, and a certificate from the FCPTA. Additionally, the four 1st Place winners received a \$25 gift card, courtesy of our local Chili's.

Reporter Alexandra Contreras interviewed two of the winners:

Alexandra: What made you enter the contest?

Ashwin Pentela (6th gr): As I'm interested in participating in competitions, I have enrolled in this contest.

Alexandra: What categories did you participate in?

Ashwin: Out of six categories, I participated in film production: I matter because I'm capable of doing it; visual arts: key to happiness painting; and literature: I matter because I'm capable of doing it.

Alexandra: How long did it take for you to finish your drawing/painting?

Ashwin: Film production: I matter because I'm capable of doing it (15 days)

Visual arts: Key to happiness painting (1 week)

Literature: I matter because I'm capable of doing it (3 days)

Alexandra: What inspired you to enter those categories/ make your art choice?

Ashwin: The topic content and my imagination about the topic.

Alexandra: If you were to make a different art piece for another contest what would you make?

Ashwin: I would make 3-D art.

Alexandra: How did you feel when you found out you won?

Aswin: Happy and also wanted to be part of upcoming PTSA reflections contests.

This next interview is with Caitlin Bautista.

Alexandra: What made you enter the contest?

Caitlin Bautista (7th gr): The thing that made me want to enter the contest was honestly my love and interest in art. I



Photo from Google Images

The Reflections Art Contest is hosted every year with winners from each school, with categories ranging from Dance Choreography and Literature to the Visual Arts.

enjoy being able to put nice creations on paper or type them up because it helps me express my emotions and calms me down. This contest seemed fun, so I decided to try it out.

Alexandra: What did you decide to draw/paint?

Caitlin: I decided to draw/ create a piece of art representing the strength of humanity, as well as justice for those treated unequally. The fist in my art represents both strength and justice, and the colors around it represent the beauty if we were to treat everyone equally and if society were to be kinder, but still stay strong. The dove seen inside one of the swirls represents peace that I wish existed everywhere in the world.

It took me about 4 to 5 days to finish my drawing, mainly because I had to plan it out and how it would look like in my head, to make sure I would do it right and that it would look good.

The thing that inspired me to do my drawing was mostly the way society treats others and certain individuals. I see that the way they treat others is wrong and their behavior isn't excused. In my drawing, I wanted to bring awareness to the ongoing issue and hopefully send a message out to people to change and help establish equality.

If I were to make another piece for another contest, I would maybe attempt to make a nice sculpture or maybe another drawing. I'd probably make it so that another issue or the same issue is highlighted in my art but make it in my "style" (I guess you could say) and be pleasing to the eye as well.

When I found out I won, I was grateful and happy to know that something I worked hard on had gotten recognition. I also felt relieved that my art was good enough to win this contest because I was unsure if I would win, since many other entries were also beautiful. But overall, I was thankful, grateful, and happy.

Celebrating the Lunar Year during the pandemic

Janelle Sanders Reporter

Many people around the world love to celebrate Lunar New Year, but now that we are in a global pandemic, some things have changed. According to NBC News, the deadly virus has caused parades, festivals, etc. to pause to prevent large crowds. Furthermore, the activities people can participate in are limited so families and friends have to get creative.

“We just talked to one another, like checking on everyone and update one another,” Tabitha Masamitsu, a freshman attending Irvington High School said. Tabitha stated how it is a little difficult to celebrate with her family over Zoom but is still grateful they get to connect.

Elizabeth Hinh, 8th grade, said, “I usually go to the temple and hang out with my family. It was a lot different since we’re in a pandemic. There weren’t a lot of people at the temple and they didn’t make food like they usually do.” Most people go to pray for blessings and good luck and even though things have changed, this tradition did not.



Picture from Google Images

Children celebrate Lunar New Year during the pandemic.

According to People.com, “The Lunar New Year typically falls between January 20 and February 21 on the Gregorian calendar.” Depending on the year, some people like to celebrate on the exact date but others might start the day before, after, or even both! Besides, some people are traditional and like to party for one week, but the minimum is two.

Travel China Guide said, “Chinese New Year, also known as Spring Festival or Lunar New Year, is the grandest festival in China, with a 7-day long holiday. As the most colorful annual event, the traditional CNY celebration lasts longer, up to two weeks, and the climax arrives around the Lunar New Year's Eve.”

Counties in purple tier can resume youth sports with restrictions

Juliette Dekker Reporter

As of February 26, if your county is in the purple tier, you are allowed to open outdoor and high school sports. According to KTLA News, Governor Gavin Newsom started allowing the opening up of outdoor and high school sports. Some of the counties that can reopen are Alameda County, San Francisco County, and Santa Clara County. San Diego County, LA County, Orange County, and Fresno County.

This shutdown has made athletes lose skills that they have worked for and has made them become out of shape. For some people, sports is the way they make friends and work on their communication skills, so the shutdown made them lose friends and lose communication skills. This shutdown might have made it worse.

Stressed teens use sports as something to take their minds off of school or whatever they are stressed about. Once sports shut down, mental health in teen athletes was declining, and they were slacking off because they didn't have anywhere to go to try and work off their stress they were feeling.

All the teams that will be playing are going to be taking safety precautions.

A former Walters Student, Adrian Velasquez now in 9th grade, played for the John F Kennedy football team this year and is on the John F Kennedy baseball team. He said that whenever they have practice or are practicing they have to wear a mask and keep a six feet distance at all times.

Paul McDermott the athletic director for John F Kennedy High



Photo from Google Images
Student athletes are eager to get back to sports.

School stated that the team has been broken into two seasons of the sport and they will practice regularly like there is no pandemic, which is practice five days a week. They will play games after five days of practice for every one of their games. So sports should be starting to pick up again. There are no viewers at the sports games either.

Modifying Disneyland plans

Daisy Montano Reporter

Avid Disneyland fans have been asking for almost a year, when will the park reopen?

Right now the only thing open at Disneyland is the Downtown Disney District. Restaurants are operating with outdoor seating and physical distancing, the use of face masks by employees, increased cleaning procedures, and limited-contact.

Lisa Haines a former worker at Disney comments that she could not imagine the stress the workers and characters must be under with having to work with all of these safety precautions.

Other people have commented that they are willing to go to the theme

park if all of the precautions are in place. Kennedy High School student Heydi Lopez, 11th grade, who goes yearly to Disneyland said, "I don't think the park will open for the summer because there are too many people in one place which is a risk of getting the virus." She also mentioned that she hopes that the theme park will open for the summer but, that she is not sure if it will.

Also in January 2021, Disney announced that it was canceling all annual pass holders; Disney has special events for people who have the annual passes. But they said that this does not indicate a reopening date, it demonstrates that Disney is laying the groundwork for a responsible reopening.



Photo from Google Images

People's Disneyland traditions have been on hold for a year.

Recently though, according to sfgate.com, Disney announced that they will be having a limited-capacity ticketed experience, it will be coming to Disney California Adventure Park beginning March 18. The admission will be \$75. It comes with admission, parking for the experience and Mickey and Friends parking structure,

unlimited Disney photo pass, and a \$25 Disney dining card. Also, you can make a reservation for the lamplight lounge and Carthay Circle lounge at "A Touch Of Disney Dining". You can start purchasing tickets on March 4. It will be offered Thursdays-Mondays, noon- 8 pm.



Photo from Mr. Hoverter

Mr. Hoverter gardens during his stay at home.

Teacher Feature: Mr. Hoverter

Adrian Saldivar-Murillo Reporter

Mr. Hoverter has been teaching for 15 years at Walters, teaching history and English.

With the start of distance learning, many teachers have been teaching from their houses and have changed a lot from their regular routine. Mr. Hoverter prefers being at school to distance learning because he can meet the needs of the students.

Mr. Hoverter said, "It's a lot harder to be connected with students and harder to keep track of students that need help and the ones who understand."

He also said, "It's harder to make connections with my students and it's harder to get my students the help they need," he said about teaching online.

Although Mr. Hoverter prefers being at school to at home, he said, his favorite thing about teaching online is not commuting.

For his hobbies, he loves to garden. He has been gardening for about six years now. His favorite vegetables to grow are lettuce, cabbage, tomatoes, and peppers. Mr. Hoverter also likes to make tomato sauce with his vegetables, makes hot sauce, and many other things.

Mr. Hoverter said, "My favorite thing about gardening is being able to be outside and enjoying the fresh air."

He also likes to hike and make projects. He said, "I enjoy teaching at Walters, and I am looking forward to being back for in-person learning."

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Mr. Kinnear adds on the drama elective to his schedule

Zander Del Rio Reporter

The drama class is now currently being run by Mr. Kinnear, who also teaches 7th grade English Honors. He is passionate about the dramatic arts and the class. He stated, "I love theatre and I always go to plays and it is something that I enjoy."

Mr. Kinnear also explained that he was very excited when he was asked by the principal to fill the role of drama teacher for the class. The class is making a comeback this year. It was missing from the schedule in the past couple of years.

This drama class may be exactly as most people would expect. For example, acting and reciting famous scenes and acting out plays and reading plays,

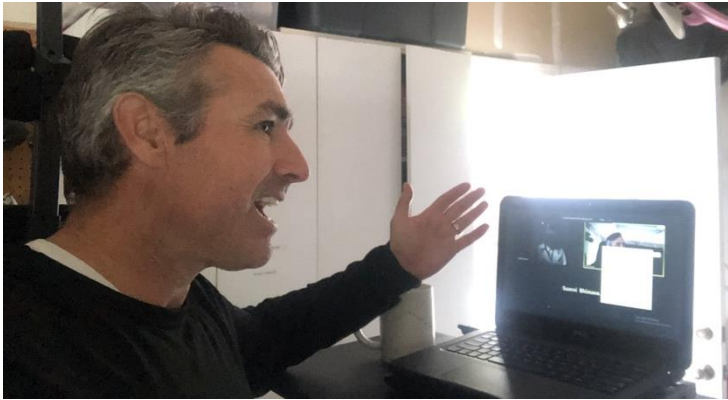


Photo from Mr. Kinnear

Mr. Kinnear teaches students in his drama class through Zoom.

and then analyzing character development.

Drama also includes learning about the most convincing expressions of emotions through many ways such as speech and the proper way to stand.

Reading poems and a variety of different drama styles are also covered in Mr.

Kinnear's drama class. The curriculum eventually has them take a memorization test called Jerry Lewis announcer's test.

Although the speed of the class may be slowed a bit by the notions needed to transfer learning to a digital format, according to Mr. Kinnear. For example, only

one script, as opposed to more scripts, can be assigned at a time with the students of this drama class.

There may be some students who might like having to learn only a single play at a time and maybe they prefer the class being slower than usual. Some other students might not enjoy learning a single play at a time, and they may prefer it being quicker than how it is as of current and learning more about drama during the length of the class.

One thing for sure is that Mr. Kinnear likes his students in his drama class this year. He added, "The students who I have been in class with so far are smart, creative, and have been wonderful."

Daylight Savings Time will start



Photo from Google Images

Daylight Savings Time will start this Sunday, March 14. It's when you have to set your clocks forward by one hour. We do this so that it allows us to make better use of natural daylight.

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