

Australia endures the largest and most destructive bushfire in history

Elizabeth Blanco Rojas Reporter

In the past few months, bush fires have been spreading across Australia during this bushfire season. but these infernos are vastly larger and more devastating than those before.

According to Insider News, the fires have burned an estimated 25.5 million acres of land, which is 46% greater than the recent Amazon fires. They Most recently, however, the fires have been devastating 2,000 Kangaroo Island.

Neavaeh Benavides, 8th



fire and animals are dying and a are estimated to rise. started in September of 2019. lot of houses have been burned homes have and hundreds of destroyed, thousands of people have been grade, said, "It could cause a

The rapid spread of the down." In fact, 25 people died, fires has been due to the dry been climate.

Antonio Martinez, 6th grade, said, "Everything is on evacuated, and these numbers day without school because the

smoke can make us sick." According to predictions made by NASA, the fires are producing so much smoke that it will most likely travel all around the earth and back to Australia. The fires have so far released 350 million metric tons of CO2 into the atmosphere, which is roughly 1% of the global CO₂ emissions from 2019.

Firefighters are doing everything that they can to stop the fires. In fact, 39 specially picked American firefighters have been assembled into a team to fight the fires. They arrived in Australia on January 29.

United States takes down General Soleimani under President Trump's order

Alexander Lupoiu Editor

An airstrike occurred on January 3, targeting and killing the top general of Iran, Qasem Soleimani. According to whitehouse.gov, this attack was carried out by the U.S military under President

Trump's order.

Qasem Soleimani carried out numerous clandestine missions, killing more than 500 American soldiers. and spreading terrorist ideology, such as antiand anti-American propaganda. The timing of the strike was further reinforced Soleimani's Qasem intentions to carry out more actions to kill American soldiers.

This was а controversial event that attracted a lot of attention, fueled by the anti-Trump media that pictured Soleimani as a top general.

Cristopher Garcia, 8th

grade, stated, "I believe that what President Trump did was wrong. I think this because he was just trying to start a war so that he can stay away from getting impeached."

The attack came after a series of tensions, provoked by the Iranians. In June 2019, Iran attacked two oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman, followed by Iran shooting down a US Navy drone over the Strait of Hormuz.

In July, Iran seized a British oil tank in the Strait of Hormuz, and in September, they carried a drone attack against a Saudi Arabia oil facility, knocking out more than five percent of the world's daily oil production. All of this culminated with the December rocket attack that killed an American contractor, and the attack against the American Embassy in Iraq.

President Trump drew

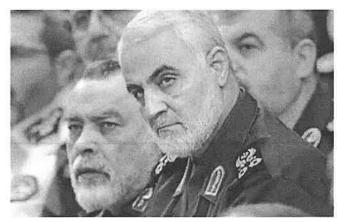


Photo from Google **Images**

Qasem Soleimani was killed in an airstrike at Baghdad Airport.

a red line, saying that if Iran killed one American, there will be consequences.

Other methods had tried been to decrease conflicts, such as former President Obama's nuclear deal, which the U.S withdrew from in 2018. Through the deal, the United States gave Iran \$150 billion in an attempt to stop them from obtaining nuclear weapons.

Instead, after taking the money, Iranians chanted, "Death to America." In fact, this money funded weapons for Iran, which supported their terrorist actions throughout the world. As these methods for decreasing Iranian conflicts have been proven futile, it was President Trump's decision to take action respond to Iran's terrorization around the world.

Staples, Laneiya grade, also said, "I think it was wrong for Trump to send the air strike because this may now cause bigger conflicts with Iran."

Notes compiled by Emmanuel Garcia

Mr. Campana receives a \$5,000 grant for Walters from Wells Fargo

Before winter break, 8th grade P.E. teacher Mr. Campana, won a check for \$5,000 from the Wells Fargo "Step Up to the Plate for Education" grant. The shortstop from the San Francisco Giants, Brandon Crawford, presented this check to him. This program had \$100,000, and they gave it to 32 schools around the Bay Area.

To get this check, Mr. Campana had to make and present a proposal. He said, "My friend said I should take a shot." So, in a couple of days, he prepared it. His proposal was about after school sports, like basketball and volleyball, and physical education. Mr. Campana added, "The money can make P.E. more fun with the new equipment."

One of his 8th grade students, Tiffany Pan, said, "The money can help replace broken equipment, like the cones and the flag footballs." The students are very appreciative for this grant.



Photo from Brian Killgore

A grant of \$5,000 was presented to Mr. Campana by Brandon Crawford (far right) for physical education equipment.

The annual MESA club begins

Willie Thornton

Reporte

MESA, which stands for Mathematics, Engineering, Science, and Achievement, is a club dedicated to these STEM subjects. Students in this club meet every Thursday in Room 36 after school. Mr. Bae and Mr. Kuhlmann, both science teachers, co-lead MESA. It has been running for six years.

Mr. Bae said, "The students are working on projects to compete against other students in the Bay Area." The different

competitions involve building bridges, gliders, Rube Goldberg machines, and prosthetic arms.

This year, the attendance for MESA has been the highest yet. 7th grader Aedan Uyenco, explained, "I joined the club because I wanted to test my limits and try to win. I may use these ideas from the club in the future for other projects."

Students will compete at Cal State East Bay on March 7.

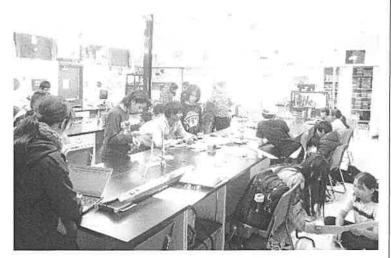


Photo by Alexander Lupoiu

Students work on their projects for the MESA competition after school.

Lunar New Year Word Search

Q	Ο	Y	R	A	U	S	R	V	T	U	N	T	В	Ο
J	G	D	Ο	В	G	E	A	Ο	E	W	N	E	Α	Y
Y	F	N	Ο	C	D	M	В	E	K	M	U	K	R	A
Е	E	Q	S	G	R	Ο	В	Н	K	Y	A	X	Y	L
S	M	X	T	D	A	N	I	В	E	Z	G	T	I	D
R	V	Н	E	Y	G	K	T	Z	P	K	Z	В	V	F
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Н	W	P	Y	V	P	N	K	C	I	K	M	A	A	M
U	Ο	M	I	U	Е	Z	N	D	Q	A	W	R	X	T

Word Bank:

SNAKE	RAT	DOG
HORSE	OX	PIG
GOAT	TIGER	DRAGON
MONKEY	RABBIT	ROOSTER

Calendar			
January 24	1st Semester Ends		
January 25	Lunar New Year		
February	Black History Month		
February 17	President's Day		

Editorial: Pros and cons of social media usage among teenagers examined

Lorely Esquivel

Social media is popular among teens and has affected them in good and bad ways.

I think one of the biggest cons of social media is bullying. I think bullying has increased when social media became more popular. I find it hard to believe that some people can sit behind a screen and say mean, rude stuff to people.

Cyber-bullying, has caused kids and even adults to cause self-harm. There have been more than 46,491 suicides according to worldometers.info.

Another con is health. I know many people who spend their nights on social media.



Photo by Google images

Social media affects a lot of teens every day.

This has caused mood swings, lack of energy, overeating, eating disorders, lack of communication, and even depression.

However there are also many positive effects. "Social media makes me happier because I can see what's going on in the world

around me and what is happening to all my friends and people who I idolize," explained Veronica Ortiz, a 7th grader.

Now with social media, people can communicate with family and friends, without having to see them in person. I think this is good because you can see how they are

doing, instead of only being able to hear them on the phone

"I can now see what my friends are doing and I don't have to walk all the way to their house just to see what they are doing," exclaimed Jasmine Botelho, a 6th grader.

Also social media can help businesses and charities. Businesses can promote their products and sell them. We can also spread awareness on charities on our social media.

It also can give us knowledge. This is helpful because it can help people with their work. In conclusion, social media can affect people in good and bad ways.

Lunar New Year of the Rat festivities begin Saturday

Jen Bumanglag Assistant Editor

This year on January 25, the Lunar New Year, or Chinese New Year or Tet, begins. The Lunar New Year begins after the winter solstice during the second new moon. The holiday's festivities begin on the first day of the first lunar month on the lunar Calendar. It continues until the fifteenth of the lunar month.

A Chinese legend states that the Buddha asked some animals to meet him on New Year's Day and named a year after each of the animals that visited him. The animals used to represent years are dog, pig, rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, and rooster.

Each day of the celebration has different traditions that take place, like visiting family and eating different types of food. Relatives normally give a red envelope filled with money as a gift to each other. The Lunar New Year concludes with a Lantern Festival at night. The Lunar New Year brings joy to lots of families.

Lunar New Year Egg Tarts

- 1 cup confectioner's sugar
- 3 cups flour
- 1 cup butter
- 1 egg beaten
- 1 dash vanilla extract
- ¾ cup white sugar
- 1 ½ cup water
- 9 eggs beaten
- 1 dash of vanilla extract
- 1 cup evaporated milk
- 1. In a medium bowl, mix together the confectioners' sugar and flour. Mix in butter with a fork until it is in small crumbs. Stir in 1 egg and vanilla until mixture forms a dough. The texture should be slightly moist. Add more butter if it is too dry, or more flour, if the dough seems greasy. Shape dough into 1 1/2 inch balls, and press the balls into tart molds so that it covers the bottom, and goes up higher than the sides. Use 2 fingers to shape the edge into an A shape.
- 2. Preheat the oven to 450 degrees. Mix the white sugar and water together in a medium saucepan and bring it to a boil. Cook until sugar dissolves, cool to room temperature. Strain your eggs through a strainer and whisk it into sugar mixture. Stir in vanilla and the evaporated milk. Strain the filling through a sieve, and fill the tart shells.
- 3. Bake the tarts for 15 to 20 minutes until golden brown and when it puffs up a little.

(Recipe from Allrecipes.com)

Boys basketball team wins games against Thornton

Jen Bumanglag Assistant Editor

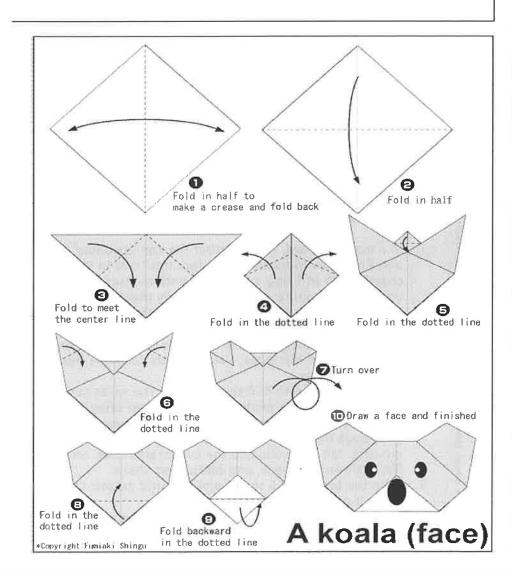
On January 9, both boys basketball teams had basketball games against the Thornton

Thunderbolts. Both their teams won final The games! score for the grade team was 36 to 12. according various sources. For the 8th grade team, it was a close game since the score was 50 to 49. Good job, Warriors!



Photo by Jennylei Bumanglag

Shawn Lapachet, a 7th grader, takes a shot for Walters against Thornton.



Publications class fundraiser raises \$400

Jen Bumanglag. Assistant Editor

The publications class had a fundraiser at Mountain Mike's on December 19, 2019. They donated 30% of sales from lunch and dinner sales. Mountain Mike's donated \$400 to the Publications Class to help it purchase more reliable electronics and journalism gear. Thank you to those who had pizza for lunch or dinner!

Buy a yearbook!

Buy a yearbook!

Buy a yearbook!

Buy a yearbook!

Buy a yearbook for \$40!

Buy a yearbook in Room 27!

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