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FIRST PERSON

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THE WARRIOR CHRONICLE

Walters Middle School * Fremont, CA * November 10, 2021

Boys' basketball team work hard to improve with their team

Armando Dominguez Martinez Reporter

The boys' basketball team is back as it has been gone due to the pandemic and this means both teams are trying hard so they can be the best team in the league. The team trains Monday to Friday. The first game was on November 9. The B team trains from 3:30 to 4:45 while the A team from 4:45 to 6:00 in the main gym. The 8th grade team consists of 14 players and the 7th and 6th team has 13.

One of the A team students Rheji Margarejo stated, "I love being in the team because all my friends are in the team. I think we have a solid basketball team, (we) just need to work on our defense."

7th grader Hamza Rabbani, like Rheji, loves being on the team because he can learn and have fun at the same time. He said, "If there's one thing we need to work on, (it's) our



Photos by Armando Dominguez Martinez
The boys' basketball team works hard to improve their skill.

communication." He was also a bit nervous when trying out because he didn't know if he would make it.

8th grader Josiah Stinson finds the players on the team "very fun and cool." He also stated about his teammate Kayden Dixon-Wyatt, "He has such an advantage on his opponents as he is really tall and can even dunk."

Josiah feels that they have a strong team when they have people who can dunk, shoot from afar and have a lot of tall guys who can body and opponent. He also said, "If there is something we need to work on, it's layups. We need to get the feel of them again."

Both teams are getting ready trying to form as much chemistry as possible to be ready to go up against any school this season.

Covid-19 vaccine for 5-11 year olds is expected to come soon

Daniel Vaidhyan Reporter

COVID-19, the raging virus that has forced everyone to wear masks and follow safety protocols, has had a vaccine for ages 16 and older since December 11, 2020. During summer break, the age limit was extended to 12 and older. However, as of November 1, the mystery that is still in question is when the vaccine for the 5-11 year olds will come out.

On October 26, the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) held a meeting to decide if they should approve the vaccine for the little kids or not. Eventually, they decided to evaluate it more before approving it. They announced that they would try to approve it in early November (www.fda.gov).

Despite the benefits of the vaccine, some 5-11 year olds don't want to get it. For example, Celine Vaidhyan, a 4th grader, is opposed to the vaccine. She thought it might hurt when she got it.

This is likely the result of other people's opinions about their acquiring of the vaccine. Aadit Sawhney, 7th grade, said, "After my vaccination, my arm was sore, and I had a small fever."

In addition, some people are averse to elementary school kids receiving the vaccine. They think it is too risky for them to be injected with anything. For example, Arjun Shinde, a 7th grader, commented that younger kids will probably think that they did not need to wear a mask anymore, since they got

the vaccine, but it will still allow them to spread the virus to others, even if they have a low chance of catching it. This could increase the spread, and people who have deficient immune systems or have not received the vaccine could catch it.

After the 5-11 year old vaccine is approved, there will be another vaccine for the 6 month old-4 year old kids. However, that will probably not be until 2022.

Disclaimer: This article was written before October 31. The 5-11 year old vaccine is now available as of November 2.

Chess enthusiasts find a place to enjoy strategy at Chess Club

Anika Phair Assistant Editor

Chess Club is a new club which meets every Tuesday in Room 10 during lunch. It is a club where you can play chess and learn how to play chess. It starts ten minutes into lunch every week.

Natalie Aye and Anirudh Gupta are the founders of the club. Natalie felt motivated to start the Chess Club since Walters did not have one yet and she enjoys playing chess. She has been playing chess since elementary school and wanted Walters to have a Chess Club. It took Natalie three weeks to prepare for the Chess Club. Natalie commented, "Preparing for the club is stressful, because we had to send morning announcements to the office..."

Natalie likes the Chess Club and getting the chance to talk to new people. "We got to, like, talk to people we usually don't get to talk to," she explained. Natalie enjoys meeting new people through the Chess Club.

Mr. Kenny is the club advisor and meetings are held in his classroom. "I like supervising for the Chess Club because it gives them (students) an opportunity to do something at lunch." Mr. Kenny has been playing chess since he was 15 years old and enjoys teaching students chess strategies through an online program.

Sarayu Annavarapu, a 7th grader, is one of the members of the Chess Club. She enjoys Chess Club because it helps her learn skills. "Strategy... plans in life... and I like to play chess," Sarayu stated.

The Chess Club is held in room 10 every Tuesday ten minutes into lunch. The Google Classroom code is tzhqip7. Even if you have missed the first meeting, you can still join. The first meeting was just an introduction to the club, so you can come to the next meeting and join the club to learn about chess and play with other students.



Photo from Google Images

Shrinidhi Ivaturi and Jayden Herr face off at Chess Club.

Editorial: Screen time is beneficial for kids under certain circumstances

Marfa Gnedovskaia Reporter

In our new age technology is everything. Phones, laptops, computers and smart watches are dominating the industry. But with tech becoming so popular, younger and younger kids are using them. With this much hype around technology a question arises: is it harmful for kids and teens to be on their phones so much? To that, people differ in opinion dramatically. Some people say it is absolutely crucial for kids to explore the internet from a young age, others think it could potentially harm the innocence of the kids too early.

I believe that screen time is not something we should fear. It is natural for everyone to experience the media, sooner or later. Some people would argue that screen time should be controlled. Of course not everyone can use the internet safely, but trust and responsibility can be taught by letting the kid decide what is good or bad.

"As someone who is big on privacy, they'll (children) will find out about things sooner or later," Morrow

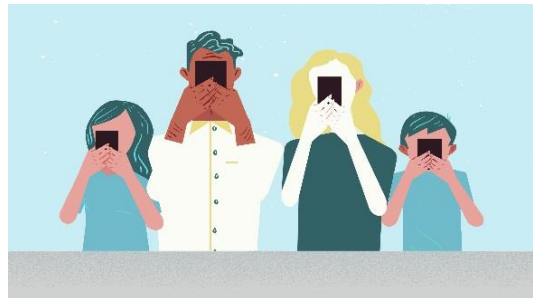


Photo from Google Images

Technology is exposed to kids more and more over time.

Ivanez, 8th grade, stated. Morrow also mentioned that every action has its equal opposite reaction, making it clear that it is the teens responsibility to go to bed on time, to have enough sleep. Rather than relying on their parents to take away their electronics at night.

I agree with these statements and would further the topic by saying that with age children should gain more and more responsibility to how they manage their time, including screen time.

Another crucial detail to worry about screen time is balance. "Using their phone wisely can teach kids and teens balance and responsibility," said librarian, Ms. Kent-Berge.

And yes, balance between the internet world and real life is very important, especially during developmental stages. Developing critical thinking could be difficult if the only information about the world the child receives is through a phone screen. On the other hand, electronics are useful tools for information and entertainment alike. That is one of the most important and most fun parts of the internet that kids our age are lucky to access.

Overall, I think that screens are not necessarily a bad thing, there is lots of good about technology. But, it is important to understand that they can cause harm like anything else out there. There are many ways to negotiate a way that works for both the child and the parent when figuring out how to decrease screen time. It is important to remember that there are positives and negatives to everything. Screen times leans more towards the positives, if done right.

Bay Area rent cost skyrocket during the COVID-19 pandemic

Arthur Nechayev Reporter



Photo from Google Images

Low supply, high demand, and lack of resources causes rise in rent cost.

After the 3rd wave of the pandemic, Bay Area renters are starting to see a slow increase in their rent. This, fueled by low supply, high demand, and decreasing resources (including land) are making a big problem for renters across the Bay Area. To fix this problem, we can tighten regulations, make home material more sustainable & cheaper, and create more affordable housing.

Realwealthnetwork.com says after the pandemic, people like Millennials and Baby Boomers are looking to rent (mostly because they can't maintain a property by themselves). Now that these people probably recovered financially from Covid-19, a surge in demand has popped up in the real estate market.

With resource (including land) shortages on the rise, new affordable rent isn't easy to find. Now, many renters are wondering how we can fix this problem.

Vice Principal Mrs. McClintock said, "We can increase the supply of affordable housing." This could be by building and repurposing buildings into affordable housing.

7th & 8th grade science teacher, Mr. Del Carpio commented, "We can pass more laws to control the rise of rent, like decreasing the amount landlords increase their rent, or requiring a percentage of new rental buildings to be affordable."

With less affordable housing, more renters, and dwindling resources to solve our problems, cities have to find creative ways to solve this crisis.

FIRST PERSON: Celebrating Diwali, the festival of lights

Zain Ul Abdeen Mazhar Reporter

Diwali is a holy event that dates back almost 2,500 years when, as per Hindu mythology, it is believed that on this day, Lord Rama returned to Ayodhya after 14 years of exile. Since then, Diwali is celebrated to represent the victory of good over evil. This event takes place from October to November, and it is important to ward off evil spirits and to bring good spirits closer. Diwali is celebrated by Hindus, Jains, Buddhists, and Sikhs.

Diwali contains cultural and religious importance. The reason for the religious importance is because people celebrate the aura of good around them and the bad aura of evil being suppressed. While the cultural importance is mainly more on the "for the fun of it" side, as they only celebrate it for fun and not for religious reasons.

The way I celebrate Diwali is from a religious point of view, but other people might only celebrate it from a cultural point of view. I first start waking up early in the morning and after breakfast, I start preparing by



Photos from Google Images

Families gather to light diyas (candles), create artwork, eat, and enjoy an eventful evening of Diwali, on November 4.

lighting my home with bright and beautiful lights and preparing numerous firecrackers, etc. I am very serious with preparations as this event only comes once a year and only last a day, therefore I tend to go 'all-out' with my preparations.

Finally, when the time comes, we start to get ready and start celebrating. Our family comes together to celebrate, pray, and light firecrackers. We also tend to make some food and give away sweets. And when the night falls, we sleep, determined to be better people

tomorrow, and be better people for the rest of the year.

But other people (mostly people based in Northern America) also make various sweets, snacks, and food for guests who come to their homes to celebrate Diwali. They still light their homes and firecrackers but mostly skip the praying part.

Diwali indicates a time to destroy all those dark desires and thoughts, erase dark shadows and evils, and give people the strength and the determination to carry on with our goodwill for the rest of the year. Happy Diwali!

People of Bay Area celebrate Día de los Muertos at Oakland Fair

Amalia Rigmaiden Reporter

The Dia de los Muertos festival, or the Day of the Dead festival, in Oakland's Fruitvale District is an event that many people look forward to every year. Over 100,000 people have gone there every year since 1996.

The festival was on Sunday, October 31 from 10am to 5pm. It's a festival that celebrates the lives people have led up until they died. Many people in Oakland go and see the altars and activities that are there. The festival is organized by a non-profit organization and is completely free so people can go and enjoy the festival for free. People get to watch the shows and learn something new, and they get to have fun and participate in exciting activities every year.

The altars at the festival this year is a tradition that many people get to see. Although there is only a select number of artists that will be able to create altars this year, it is still something people appreciate every year.

Noemy Mena-Miles,
Development and Communications



Photo by Amalia Rigmaiden

Visitors visit the various altars in the fair in Oakland.

manager at the Unity Council in Oakland said, "It's a celebration to celebrate people's lives." She also includes that she relishes the festival every year because she gets to be closer to the community and the festival reminds her of her culture. She also says that so many people look forward to this event every year.

Housing and financial coach Kimberly Esquivel from the Unity Council explained, "The festival creates space to have conversation and get education on culture." She also says that the festival brings folks together and introduces kids to a new culture and education.

Small businesses also benefit from the festival every year. Many small businesses are declining but the Dia de los Muertos festival helps to those small businesses get on their feet. Some of the businesses say that the festival is the busiest day of the year.

The activities and booths this year are focusing on community health. The Unity Council partnered with Kaiser to help the community during these hard times. The Unity Council have also provided jobs booths for people who have lost their jobs. It is still a very hard time for everyone because jobs are still being lost and a lot of people still can't provide the essentials to themselves.

Andrea Ramirez, organic waste outreach employee from Waste Management, added that the festival helps the economy and brings people from other districts there. She also explains that the festival does bring joy. People think it is well put together and it is the best part of the Fruitvale district.

New solutions assist students to adapt to in-person school during pandemic

Ethan Foust Reporter

Covid-19 has affected school education by a lot. Going from online school to in-person school can also be very challenging for students from many different schools. Our school has made many rules to protect students from Covid-19

In which can help the health of students. every classroom, there is an air purifier that helps prevent not only Covid-19, but any other sickness. "I think the air purifiers are very helpful and can help students with their safety. They also work well," 8th grader, Josiah Sweat stated.

With the Covid-19 booster shot ahead of us, students and also adults have the chance to protect themselves even better than the two Covid-19 shots. Mr. Bae, the 8th grade science teacher stated, "I feel like the booster shot, when it is available to students, should be recommended but not forced for students to get it. However, it is up to the parents if they decide whether they want their child to get the booster shot."

Online school is offered to some students and has the ability to protect students from Covid-19 better than in-person school. However Principal Graham stated, "I don't think we should go back to online school because students would sometimes not pay attention and students couldn't communicate with each other as much as they could communicate when they were in school in-person."



Photo from Google Images

Air purifiers help students adjust to school conditions during the global pandemic.

Minecraft releases a new update and disappoints excited fans

Liam Ailling Reporter

October 16, 2021 - The video game franchise Minecraft is getting some major additions and changes throughout the various games Mojang Studios has. For Minecraft, the 1.19 update, known as the Wild Update, was announced.

The Wild Update is set to release in 2022, which will have updated Birch Forest, Swamp and Deep Dark biomes, with new naturally generated structures. Some of the new mobs being added in the update include the Warden, frogs, fireflies, tadpoles, and the Allay, a helpful mob that won the vote this year.

“I think they’re underworked, but if they work on it a bit longer, it’ll be great,” 6th grader Aman Arsala said.

7th grader David Sandoval misses the old Minecraft. “I feel like there’s too many mobs, but that can keep you more aware,” he commented.

On the other hand, Minecraft Dungeons, the dungeon crawler spin-off released in May 2020, is going to get Seasonal Adventures, starting with the Cloudy Climb, set to be released around December this year.

According to minecraft.net, the official Minecraft website, “Seasonal Adventures are free,

themed events—up the ante in Minecraft Dungeons. Join weekly challenges to earn Adventure Points and work towards unlocking exclusive rewards, through an all-new progression system.”

Caves and Cliffs Part 2 is going to be added to Minecraft by the end of the year. It won’t include the Warden, which is now going to be added to the Wild Update.

8th grader Kelly Orozco said, “I feel sad. They won’t add the Warden on Caves and Cliffs Part 2 and on the Wild Update.”

Minecraft (and its spin-offs) are going to get many updates and additions in the near future.

Halloween Social returns for students to enjoy the spooky holiday

Evelyn Rodriguez Reporter

Leadership held a Halloween Bash on October 29 in celebration of Halloween. Almost 600 people attended, which is the most Walters has ever seen. The PTSA volunteers offered food and drinks. The food consisted of pizza, chips, cookies, and other snacks. Many students helped by volunteering to run Halloween-themed game booths with candy prizes.

Leadership did a lot of work to make the bash the best it could be. Ms. Alves said that Leadership had to plan game booths then build them, sell tickets, work with the PTSA, hire a DJ, decorate, and at the end they had to clean up everything. Most of this was done in the month of October.



Photos from Rocky Yang

The Halloween social was on October 29 from 2:30-4:00. There were many different games, food, and songs. One thing that wasn't different was the amount of fun everyone had after distance learning.



November Calendar:

November 11- Veterans Day Holiday

November 15-19-Food Drive

November 17- Turkey Trot

November 22-26- Thanksgiving Break

Student tutors help their peers at the weekly homework club

Ruby Sanchez Morales Reporter

The student tutors from the Homework Club volunteer to help students understand their homework. Tutors help students who are confused or uncertain about their homework. Tutors are in the Homework Club at all of its meetings so that no one worries about needing assistance. As tutors help their fellow peers, they get their personal work done, too.

Evan Shoulders, an 8th grade tutor, stated, "A lot of people do tend to ask for help." The tutors say that they enjoy helping people. It gives them a chance to relearn the old lessons they forgot about and refresh old knowledge.

Tutors have their own unique teaching methods. Some tutors reread the prompt of their peers' work and help teach it step by step. Others want to know what you already understand and guide you from there.

Even though the tutors do seem to enjoy helping the other students, the students disrupt their own personal work. The amount of tutors does seem low, and as Rodrigo Guzman, an 8th grader,



Photo by Ruby Sanchez Morales

Students at the Homework Club can get help from student tutors whenever they are having trouble in classes.

explained, "Some days can be very busy... and work doesn't get finished." Rodrigo also mentioned that the homework club helps him in the long run because it counts as community service hours.

Tutoring is a great way to support your community and you are still able to join as a tutor in the homework club. Head to the library after school on a Monday, Tuesday, or

Thursday and talk to Mrs. Yepez. "Hardworking and willingly helping people are some good qualities (to be tutor)," Mrs. Yepez said.

She notices that students are able to learn how to be more patient and understand different solutions through being a tutor. Most importantly, a tutor is meant to assist and help students understand their homework. Although, you should be aware that if you become a tutor, some students are slow learners and can be very shy or even very talkative.

Happy Veteran's Day!!!

Thank You to Mr. Cumpian and Ms. Alana and any Walters family members who are Veterans!



UCLA Staff

Adviser: Ms. Yuen

Editor: Khanh Do

Assistant Editors: Sana Kamlesh, Shrinidhi Ivaturi, Anika Phair

Reporters: Liam Aliling, Ethan Foust, Trenton Gilbertson, Marfa Gnedovskaia, Armando Dominguez Martinez, Ruby Sanchez Morales, Arthur Nechayev, Anika Phair, Amalia Rigmaiden, Evelyn Rodriguez, Zain UI Abdeen Mazhar, Daniel Vaidhyan

Photographers: Armando Dominguez Martinez, Ruby Sanchez Morales, Anika Phair, Amalia Rigmaiden, Rocky Yang