

# THE WARRIOR CHRONICLE

Walters Middle School\* Fremont, CA\* March 20, 2023

## Women’s History Month honors the accomplishments of females

Nyla Ahmed Reporter

In March of 1987, a law was passed which assigned the month of March as Women’s History Month. This month was fought for by women to make the world recognize and reflect on overlooked inventions and contributions of women. Through the 20th century, women had stereotypes created about them, were denied education, did not have many job opportunities, and made only about 80% of what men made.

Unfortunately, women still have negative stereotypes being created about them. 8th grader Katie Hong stated, “The stereotypes have gotten better over time, but one common stereotype is that women can’t do as much as a man. Women actually contribute a lot, most teachers here are female and they teach us valuable lessons. So many important figures in society are female.”

Now in the 21st century, more women are going out, getting an education, and getting high-paying jobs. Now less women are staying at home



Photo from Google Images

Many amazing achievements of women have happened despite the constant discrimination that they have faced.

and caring for the house and family. More women have started to use their voice after being silenced for years. They have changed laws about reproductive rights and many other rights that they have been denied. Their pay has gone up and they now make 86% of what a man makes. It is not too large of an improvement, but it is progress.

Thousands of women now try out in professional sports and enter tournaments. Finally, more women are

the faces of jobs – police departments, doctor’s offices, the military, government jobs, and many more. It is a large improvement in comparison to just last century. Now these benefits for women have given little girls a broader choice when it comes to choosing what they want to do with their lives.

8th grader Marrlin Gutierrez commented, “Women got more powerful. They got important jobs that help society and started to use their voices to get what they needed.”

Women have been given more positive attention and have been looked upon as more admirable in the past century. 8th grader Ryan Vang added, “I admire my mom because she raised me. She’s always there for me. She also checks on me and asks how I am.”

Women over the past many years have broken stereotypes and improved how women are looked upon. Women have been making history for centuries and will continue to do so.

## Fremont voted happiest city in America for the third year in a row

Tony Miclaus Reporter

With the International Day of Happiness on March 20th, the website WalletHub ran a study to find the happiest city in America.

To come up with the results, they analyzed over 30 indicators of happiness across 180 of the largest cities in the United States. The indicators have grouped the elements of emotional and physical effort, income and employment, and community and environment to find people’s opinions.

The highest score of all the ratings was the city of Fremont, California, winning for the third time in a row. According to Wallethub, the town of Fremont outperformed many other

cities in terms of emotional and physical well-being. Many other articles also agree that Fremont is one of the least stressful cities in the country.

Mrs. Subha, librarian, stated, “We live in a very safe city with lots of diversity. Nobody is treated differently and there are also good schools here. The city also hosts lots of public events for the people.”

Similarly, 7th grader, Christian Arcangel feels Fremont has many good places to hang out with friends and have fun. Moreover, Christian thinks that the city is a great place with barely any violence and lots of nice people.

Education also plays a big part in a happy society. It can lead to higher



Photo from Google Images

Many factors have resulted in Fremont being determined as one of the happiest and least stressful cities in America.

incomes, which leads to more opportunities. Ian Palomares Alcaraz, a 7th grader, believes that Fremont has a good education program that can help people get good pay at different jobs.

Fremont’s community, diversity, and education lead it to be named the happiest city in America for the third year in a row.

# Families come together to celebrate Persian New Year

Hayden Tesler Reporter

Persian New Year, also called *Nowruz*, is celebrated on March 20, 2023. 7th grader Omera Islam described it as, "...an important part of Persian culture." People started celebrating *Nowruz* over 3,000 years ago in Persia, where it originated.

*Nowruz* is now an official holiday in a variety of different places, such as Afghanistan, Albania, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iraqi Kurdistan, and Kazakhstan, just to name a few. According to National Geographic, "Its roots are as a feast day in Zoroastrianism, a religion practiced in ancient Persia that viewed the arrival of spring as a victory over darkness." People started celebrating *Nowruz* over 3,000 years ago in Persia, where it originated.

Over 300 million people celebrate *Nowruz* and its traditions. Shabnam Faramarz, 8th grader,



Photo from Google Images

Nowruz is a traditional Persian holiday celebrated by many around the world.

commented that some of her family's traditions are to dress up in traditional Afghani clothes, draw henna, and the older relatives give out money. Some gifts that are typically given out include small toys and colorfully painted eggs.

Another tradition celebrated is fasting, which is mandatory for men and women starting at the age of 15. Shabnam added, "You fast, you can't eat and you get up at 2 a.m. to pray then eat in the middle of the night."

Another part of *Nowruz* is the food. According to [bbcgoodfood.com](http://bbcgoodfood.com) "The main traditional *Nowruz* meal consists of Sabzi Polo (an aromatic herb rice), Mahi (fish, sometimes smoked but these days, anything goes), plus Kuku Sabzi, Kotlet, Salad Shirazi, Reshteh Polo, and plenty of fresh Sabzi (fresh herbs, usually mint, basil and tarragon, paneer [feta], naan [Persian flatbread])."

Omrone Khaliqi, a 7th grader, likes many of these foods. He stated, "There are many cultural foods like kebabs, rice and sweets like Baslogh (a Persian sweet with starch, rose water, walnuts and coconut)."

Lots of families come together to celebrate *Nowruz*. Omrone Khaliqi mentioned that he enjoys the festivities because, "...there is lots of food and your family comes together." *Nowruz* promotes values like peace within the generations and families. Happy *Nowruz*!

# Students return from MESA competition with many awards

Eduardo Godoy Reporter

On the weekend of March 4th, the MESA competition was held at Cal State East Bay. MESA stands for Mathematics, Engineering, Science, and Achievement. MESA is an afterschool club run by Mr. Bae that works on engineering projects to participate in a future competition which includes challenges that are related to one of the categories that students are allowed to choose from.

MESA has five different categories that students can partake in. These categories are Coding Solutions, Think Tank, MESA Machine, Moon Base, and NEDC MS. There were 18 competitors from Walters who made it to the top three in the categories.

The winner for Coding Solutions was Rumiz Nellasery and in third place were Mishca Ghelani and Sarayu Annavarapu, both of whom won the same spot. The winners of Think Tank were Jerusha Prabhudass, Myrea Young, Phyu Sin Lamin, all earning first place. In second place for

the MESA machine was Natalie Aye, Ian Luong, and Aarna Gupta.

For the moon base, 6th graders Varun Subramoni, Tavisha Samarya, Eva Garg, were awarded first place. For 7th and 8th grade, Daniel Vaidhyan, Daniyal Satpalkar, and Aryan Saiya received first place as well.

Lastly, for the final category, NEDC MS, 7th and 8th graders Daniyal Satpalkar, Daniel Vaidhyan, Ridhima Kapoor, Aryan Saiya, all got first place, in second place 7th graders Akash Muthukumar, Atri Birru, Aditya Misra all achieved the same spot.

Jerusha Prabhudass, one of the 7th graders who earned first place in the Think Tank stated that she is proud that she earned first place. Jerusha explained that if she could change something that she did during the competition, she would change the amount of work. Jerusha said that she would rate the difficulty at 8 out of 10.

7th, Aditya Misra, who competed in the NEDC MS stated, "I was

excited and nervous because it was my first academic competition." He confirmed that he was excited to take part in the competition.

He added despite being in second place, he was still happy to make it to the top 3. Aditya commented that if he could change something about what he did he would change the prototype. He said, "Definitely our first prototype pitch, we could've done a lot better... it was challenging, we just implemented everything we knew into the competition."

8th grader Mishca Ghelani, a student who competed in coding solutions, said that she felt satisfied with getting third place. She said, "I feel happy because I didn't believe in myself." Mishca added that she is happy with the spot she ended up with in the competition because she thought the difficulty would limit her.

Congratulations to the MESA participants!

# Walters hosts first open house after multiple years of being online

Ellen Wang Reporter

After virtual learning, Walters hosted its first ever in-person Open House since lockdown. Last year, it was online, but now parents and students interacted with teachers and saw the school in-person.

Open House was on March 1st from 6pm to 8pm. This event was hosted by Ms. Roberti, the president of the PTSA, Ms. Graham, Ms. Tibbs, and Mrs. Lemke. Many parents, guardians, and students attended the event. While attending, students and guardians visited their students' past, present, and future teachers and staff members. The visitors were greeted by staff while they looked around the school.

Principal Graham stated, "This year we welcomed families onto campus and even had music and food trucks! It was pretty fun."

Ms. Graham also added that the focus of Open House is to allow parents to see what their child has been doing and have them tour the campus.



Photo by PTSA president, Ms. Roberti Ms. Tibbs, Ms. Lemke, and Mrs. Graham gave a presentation before visitors went around campus.

Ms. Roberti said about 500 people attended Open House. She took time out of her day, to call and email many food trucks including Mr. Softie, Taco Yet Extra, and Just Eat Mix. Ms. Roberti stated that her goal was to let the students have a good time with their parents looking around the classrooms and school.

Many students enjoyed Open House. 7th grader Ashley Stephanie Lugu

commented, "I only went because of the food trucks."

Ashley described, "It was really fun but I was kind of scared because I didn't want my teachers to tell my parents my grades." Ashley mentioned that she and her parents enjoyed going to Open House.

Megan Helgeson, 7th grader, stated, "It was important for my parents to see my school because I walk home, so they don't see it often. They also wanted to visit my learning space."

Her favorite part of the open house was buying food from food trucks, such as Just Eat Mix, a Korean BBQ. She also enjoyed when her parents met her teachers.

Most students went for the food trucks but parents went to see their child's school. Meeting the teachers and staff members was a great experience for both the students and their parents.

# Beachside city in California bans use of mylar balloons because of pollution

Reymond Miguel Reporter

Some beachside Californian cities are banning balloons to prevent marine pollution. One city, Laguna Beach, has approved a strict ban for balloon sales and releases starting 2024 because of wildfire risks and also how it's a major source of marine pollution.

They are the most common types of plastic that are consumed by marine life according to a 2020 Oceana report. Ocean animals are getting tangled or distressed after trying to ingest balloons. These are the main reasons why most of the southern cities passed restrictions on balloon use.

Mylar balloons are getting banned because of their foil coating. The foil coating can cause power outages and wildfires when tangled in power lines. There have been more than 1,000 cases of mylar balloons causing power outages reported by a 2017 California utility. To add on, mylar balloons never break down.

Amanuel Solomon said that balloons are a big issue because it causes bad things for the environment like

pollution. He also stated, "I don't think balloons should be banned but if needed, then yes."

Seaside city is going to fine people up to \$500 for using balloons at public events and property starting in 2024. People can still continue to use balloons but only on private property. Also business owners who break the rule can lose their business license, according to nypost.com.

Justin Luong, a 6th grader, mentioned that balloons shouldn't be banned completely because they are used for celebrations. He said, "Balloons should have restrictions because of pollution." Other cities like Manhattan Beach, Solana Beach, and Encinitas are enacting these similar policies.

Balloons can take years to biodegrade, leaving plenty of time to harm the environment. Balloons are lightweight, so they can travel very far from the point of release. When they pop, they drop in the ocean, float back up to the surface and wash up on beaches. That's where animals like birds and turtles eat the balloons.



Photo from Google Images Mylar balloons, like the ones pictured above, never decompose, cause harm to wildlife, and even can start wildfires.

The new law won't completely get rid of metallic balloons, only if they conduct electricity. Jarvis Legaspi, a 7th grader said that balloons should have restrictions but not be banned completely because it makes children happy.

# Netflix movie “The Swimmers” reenacts the story of two refugee swimmers

Bethsabe Hernandez Montiel Reporter

Following the release of “Bones and All,” “The Fabelmans,” and “Devotion,” Netflix released the film “The Swimmers.” This film featured the real life story of Yursa and Sarah Mardini’s journey all the way from refugees from a war in Syria, to swimmers the 2016 Olympics. This recent release shows the bravery and struggles of refugees, and shows women in more than traditional roles.

7th grader Keira Huang stated, “I think having more representation in movies would encourage others to open their minds to different people.”

Yursa Mardini is a refugee from Syria, who escaped in 2015. She helped others, and almost died. Throughout her childhood, she lived in Damascus, Syria. She was a gifted swimmer, earning her the position to represent Syria in the FINA Short Course World Championship.

However, things started going downhill once war broke out in Syria due to the government handling protests violently, according to shelterbox.org. Because of these issues, Yursa's passion was cut short.



Photo from Google Images

The movie “The Swimmers” reenacts the story of two refugee sisters who find their passion for swimming again and join the first refugee team in the 2016 Olympics.

Mardini’s family fled overseas, searching for a safer home and a new start. After landing in Turkey via Lebanon, Yursa and her sister Sarah were arranged to be brought to Greece by boat. However, the sisters had more trouble due to the boat being overfilled. These issues caused the engine to stop working, putting their life at risk.

Yursa and Sarah got off and pushed the boat along with two others who knew how to swim. Saving the lives of those on board is considered to be the most memorable and impactful action in her career as reported on unhcr.org.

7th grader Nadia Danishmand added, “Saving the lives of those in the boat is the most important actions of her career, because it showed her kindness and bravery.”

After arriving in Germany, the sisters settled down and started regaining interest in swimming. This is when they had the opportunity to be selected for the 2016 Olympics, as the first refugee Olympic team. [www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org) mentioned, “She was catapulted onto the world’s stage and subsequently went on to address world leaders at the UN General Assembly, meet the Pope and be honored with several awards.”

7th grader Grace Spivey explained Yursa Mardini moving to Germany gave her more opportunities to accomplish what she did, rather than staying in Syria.

These brave contributions from both sisters shows the importance of helping others and gives hope to refugees in making a difference in the world. According to [harpersbazaar.com](http://harpersbazaar.com), Yursa Mardini commented, “... this movie tells the story of millions of refugees all around the world, it’s not just my story.”

# California’s drought still exists despite the huge stormy weather patterns

Sabdjot Harry Reporter

The lingering rainy weather in California may be a shock to everyone. Even after all the cold weather, snow, and rain, many wonder if California is still in a drought.

With all this rain, California still remains in the drought that Governor Gavin Newsom declared an emergency back in 2021. “We’re in better shape than we were two months ago, but we’re not out of the woods,” said Yana Garcia, secretary of California Environmental Protection Agency,” in the LA Times.

As reported in UCLA’s Daily Bruin, the sudden stormy weather is caused by “Humans burning fossil fuels and heating the atmosphere, the warmer air holds more moisture. This causes storms in many places including California. It is more likely to be more wet & intense.”

Mateo Casas, 6th grader, stated the rain is affecting his baseball and more fun activities he wants to do, like socialize



Photo from Google Images

2023 has been the wettest year in the past 129 years.

with other people. He thinks the drought is not fully over and explained that the drought simply cannot just be over with just rain.

Hennah Lali, 8th grader, mentioned the recent weather and cold feels depressing in California. She explains that weather can affect our moods, for example colder weather may feel more sad or depressing and sunnier weather may be more happy and joyful.

Studies show that rainy days are more likely to cause you to feel sad and depressed. This is because of serotonin levels caused by the lack of sunshine.

Leilanie Trinidad, 8th grader, explained that not only is all the excessive

rain helping the drought emergency but it's also helping all the plants and wildlife that have been affected by not having enough water. She also explained that she feels that the rain will slowly end the drought if we get it continuously.

California, even after all this crazy weather, is still in a drought, but it has gotten better. We could still hope that this whole situation gets better, and hopefully the rain does dispel the drought but as of right now, we are still in the drought.

**THANK YOU FOR MAKING WALTERS FIRST WARRIOR ZONE SO AMAZING. THANK YOU TO THE PTSA FOR ORGANIZING THE EVENT!**



Photo by Ms. Roberti PTSA President

The Warrior Zone event had four zones: archery tag, karaoke, chill zone, and rec room on Friday night, February 24.

**FLORIDA is CALLING!**

6th and 7th graders, do you want to swim with dolphins? Snorkel amongst shipwrecks? Kayak through mangroves? Then sign up for the 2024 Spring Break Florida Trip with Ms. Goodfellow!

You should have gotten a flyer from your science teacher that has more information.

**ARTISTS NEEDED:**

*Do you want to design the agenda cover for next year?*

Competition begins NOW until March 30!

Check Google classroom code: gwewtu4 for more information.

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**Lunchtime Hockey Tournament**

Congratulations to the Bobbies, Isaiah Ebrahimi, Owen Pierce, Hamza Rabbani, Hozaiyah Saeed, Christopher Velasquez, Giovanni Vellutini! Thank you everyone for participating!



Photo by Tristan Luu

**March Event Calendar:**

March 20: Persian New Year

March 22: Take Down Tobacco Anti-Smoking Campaign Lunchtime Activities

March 22: Ramadan

March 27-31: Spirit Week!

March 31: Spring Dance!

March 31: Cesar Chavez Day