

# THE WARRIOR CHRONICLE

Walters Middle School \* Fremont, CA \* June 2, 2021

## PTSA plans special year-end promotion events for 8<sup>th</sup> graders

Miranda Hernandez Yearbook Staff

With the end of the school year approaching, every student is finishing up assignments, every teacher is wrapping up their lesson plans, and every other staff member is carrying out their last tasks.

Again, like last school year, 8<sup>th</sup> graders prepare themselves for the next chapter of their lives: high school. Before that, however, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students must be promoted, and when they do, a celebration will be carried out in honor of their achievement. This year has been the most different, but that won't stop the Walters PTSA to step up and plan yet another great event.

Acting Principal Mrs. McClintock said, "8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion is one step in a student's educational journey. It's important to commemorate the moment and recognize students'

accomplishments during their years at Walters. I am always excited for students as they are promoted to high school. Many opportunities await them in academics, clubs, sports, activities, and social events."

As a result, the PTSA is permitted to hold a drive-thru promotion celebration on Friday, June 11th. The guidelines follow as: Students and their families must stay in their vehicles with their masks on, they must arrive at the appointed time, they must show their last and first name on the dashboard of the car, and then they will be able to proceed to the next station once they first check-in at the ID station.

"The PTSA is ecstatic to be able to celebrate the 8th graders' promotion," stated PTSA member Fawada Mojaddidi.

Since this is a big event, Mojaddidi also mentioned that if anyone wants to help, they can either contact her at [fzmojaddidi@gmail.com](mailto:fzmojaddidi@gmail.com) or sign-up on School Loop.

The event will be on Friday, June 11th, from 9 am to 1 pm, in the student pick up/drop off loop on Logan Drive, and each student will have a different time according to their last names. The schedule is on School Loop named: *Updated Community Message*.

Therefore, mark your calendars, set up your reminders, and get ready for a great 8<sup>th</sup> grade event that will mark the beginning of your special and unique experiences in high school.

Congratulations 8<sup>th</sup> graders on your promotion!

## School yearbooks always provide a unique source of memories

Maritza Pulido Yearbook Staff

The Memory Keeper sounds more like the parts of the brain that keeps memories like the hippocampus, doesn't it? There are several Memory keepers besides those parts, such as diaries, journals, and yearbooks

One reason to buy a yearbook is to conserve memories. This is because you may one day look back and see the friends you had, or all the events that you attended. Seeing everything that happens whether it ended well or badly always makes us remember that those years are over and that we're now living in a new present that's hopefully better than the past.

7th grader Janel Kailee Abarro stated, "When I was in the third grade, we went to the Georgia Aquarium for a field trip and the yearbook helps me remember what it was like."

Another reason why yearbooks are needed is to see how much things have changed since then such as the world, in terms of trends, technology, and more.



Photo from Google Images

As the school year comes to an end, people buy yearbooks to cherish the memories they had with their peers

Every year that goes by, humankind is improving in its knowledge of technology and is changing its beauty standard.

Acting Principal, Mrs. McClintock, said, "Trends change constantly in areas like fashion, music, technology, and slang. When I was in junior high Reebok pumps were "in" and we listened to music on a Walkman."

Even though there are several other reasons why yearbooks are important memory keepers, yearbooks

can see how much you have developed as a person or how you are still the same. This relates to looks, personality, mental state, and more. A wide range of teenagers and kids deal with a lot of emotions and changes that they have never experienced which leads to confusion and possible distress. When you grow up, you have already experienced the emotions and changes. So when you look back on what you used to be, you feel proud for how far you have come and how you've survived.

6th grader Anika Phair, who also bought this year's yearbook, said by looking back at her elementary school yearbooks, "I see that I look different since I was a little younger. Also, I had different friends in different older pictures. It is nice to see the different friends that I had and remember the fun times I had with them."

In the end, yearbooks are an important factor for keeping memories, good or bad.

**BUY A YEARBOOK FOR \$45 cash, this week during book return days.**

# Families should start to prepare as California's wildfire season approaches

Sascha Tung Reporter



Photo from Google Images

As wildfire season is coming up, people in California start to prepare as they don't want to face the wrath they faced last year.

Since 2020, wildfires have burned more than 3.2 million acres in California, which is about the same size as Connecticut. California wildfire season is when it becomes hot and dry with more

wind causing an increase in wildfires. With the wildfire season upcoming, it is very important to learn how to prepare for it. There are many various ways you can get ready for the possible outbreak of a wildfire near you during wildfire season. This includes, creating a defensible space, making sure you have an emergency supply kit, preparing escape routes, and securing necessary important documents that your family may need.

8th Grade John Guzior said, "We have fire extinguishers and we have an escape plan and in our house, all the exits are marked."

Here are some things you can do to prepare for wildfire season. According to PG&E's website: Make a defensible space around your house that will help prevent your house from catching on fire. Clear your gutter of leaves and debris to prevent embers from setting it on fire,

remember embers can travel up to a mile. Trim branches and clear biomass excess from trees and shrubs.

8th grade Russell Salasac from Palm Middle School commented, "I have prepared absolutely nothing in the event of a wildfire, but I do have an emergency kit in case of an earthquake. That can act as an emergency kit for wildfires because it has food, water, and extra appliances that I might need if I don't get home right after the event. My family needs a place to meet up just in case this happens but other than that I guess you could say at the end of the day I'm somewhat prepared."

There are lots of little things you can do to help you be more prepared for a wildfire, and the little things can make a big difference when the time comes that a wildfire is near you so you don't have to panic so much.

# Violent protests in Colombia continue to threaten the lives of the everyday citizens

Alicia Wong Yearbook Staff

Since April 28, 2021, thousands of citizens across Colombia are protesting a proposed 90% tax increase made by the government on essentials and public services. These protests and demonstrations were frequent in the cities of Cali, Bogotá, Pereira, Ibagué and Medellín in Colombia, South America.

According to Colombia Reports, in Colombia 2020, the minimum wage is about \$268 per month. For many, however, \$268 is not a living wage. On top of that, the pandemic has impacted poverty in Colombia, causing Colombia's poverty rate to be one of the highest in South America according to the United Nations. The pandemic also caused many Colombians to lose their jobs.

Paying this tax meant that many Colombians cannot have a livable wage. This sparked the protests against President Ivan Duque. However, these protests have been mostly met by violence from the police, like being tear-gassed and in some cases shot at.

According to the AP, this resulted in about 90 people missing and more than 800 people injured. Numerous of these protests have turned violent. The government in Colombia suspects that rebel groups have infiltrated protests and drug-trafficking enterprises are funding

demonstrations. President Duque has classified these actions as "low-intensity terrorism."

As of now (May 20), the government confirmed only 14 deaths that were directly tied to protests but the Human Rights Watch received reports of 48 deaths ranging from ages of 13 to 34. Despite this, many say that the demonstrations security forces have done have been immensely violent.

Many young people and college students are at the forefront of these protests using garbage cans and umbrellas as shields from tear gas and gunshots.

7th grader Aurora D. O'Neil commented, "It's not right that they're raising tax... We should try donating some money to help stop them..."

"The police brutality is, put simply, disgusting. As per usual, cops are taking advantage of the power given to them using it to terrorize the people they were hired to help. We can donate to organizations that give that money to helping and supporting ending police brutality- at least that's what I'm doing. We as students can also spread information about events so everyone can be informed," said 8th grader Sophy Limsumalee.



Photo from Google Images

As Colombians fight for freedom, it creates a dangerous situation for others around them.

Savan Gupta, an 8th-grade student, said, "I feel terrible for the Colombians. Seeing how they are being treated in a brutal manner reminded me of the Black Lives Matter protests. I think that the Colombian government should show some sympathy for their citizens. As a student, I could probably help the movement by creating posters, and artwork showing how terribly the citizens of Colombia are being treated..I would probably help start a GoFundMe or another form of fundraising."

Even though recently this tax plan has been discarded by President Duque, Colombians are still protesting against the government for ignoring their needs and pleas.



# Historical Asian American figures influence American History

Manas Basvaraju Yearbook Staff

Photo from Google Images

Filipino immigrant, Larry Itliong, formed a strong labor union and convinced 2,000 Filipino workers to strike in California vineyards.



Influential figures have made world-changing developments in many fields. Asian Americans, have changed the world in one way or another.

"It's great that Asian Americans have pushed through segregation and hardships to make an impact on the world around them," said 8th grader Ansel Al-Mehdi. From Civil Rights to Farm Workers Rights in

agriculture or to develop a cure for a disease. Asian Americans have changed the world in many fields.

For example, Larry Itliong. Larry Itliong was born in the Philippines and immigrated to America in 1929 at the age of 15. He began working as a laborer. In 1930 he joined in a strike against lettuce pickers. For the next several decades he worked as a labor organizer, and then a Union Leader. He formed the Filipino Farm Labor Union in 1956. In 1965, Larry and some union colleagues organized the Delano Grape Strike. He ultimately convinced Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta's union of Mexican farmworkers (NFWA) to join forces.

"I feel empowered that Asian Americans are changing history. These role models are inspiring, and show us that anything is possible," said 6th grader Saanvi Raghavendran.

It was not only in the field of agriculture where Asian Americans made great strides. They also progressed in

medicine. Katherine Luzuriaga, for example, has made significant contributions to our understanding of viruses in children. She developed one of the early diagnostic tests for HIV in children. In 2014, Katherine and her colleague Deborah Persaud were credited with being the first well-documented case of an HIV-positive child being functionally cured of the virus. This means that they couldn't see any signs of the disease in the child's body.

Research has given humanity the power to stop mother-to-child transmission of HIV, but unfortunately, some children are still born with HIV. This gives HIV-diagnosed children hope that we can cure or bring a more positive outcome to their lives.

"It's awesome that more people are changing the world in better ways. I hope to change the world like them one day," said 8th grader Alea Abigail Guzman.

## Oakland's A's baseball team might be moving out of Oakland in near future

Isaac Luong Reporter

The Oakland Athletics was founded in 1901 in Philadelphia and was known as the A's. In 1955 the team decided to move to Kansas City in 1955. They stayed in Kansas City for 13 years when they decided to move to their current location Oakland, California in 1968. Now in 2021, the team is talking about possibly moving to another city.

The Oakland Athletics have been in Oakland for 53 years. According to latimes.com the Oakland Athletics have considered moving to Las Vegas, Portland, Charlotte, Nashville, San Antonio, Vancouver, and Montreal. The most likely destination for them to move to is Las Vegas. However, if they do leave Oakland for someplace else this will make three teams that moved from Oakland.

Isaac Chang, a 7th grader, stated, "I don't know why so many teams are leaving Oakland." The Golden State Warriors, The Las Vegas Raiders, and the Oakland Athletics. Some people are wondering if Oakland is a bad spot to play for.

Rumors have said that the Oakland Athletics are leaving Oakland because the



Photo from Google Images  
After 53 years, Oakland Athletics will decide to move from Oakland if the City doesn't meet its requirements.

city of Oakland declined approval of a waterfront ballpark.

Ethan Kennedy, a 7th grader, stated "I am very sad that the Oakland Athletics are trying to leave Oakland." The MLB got involved and said that it is best if the Oakland Athletics explore relocation if there is no waterfront ballpark. It has also been said that the Oakland Athletics requested 1 billion dollars in public infrastructure financing and requested the City Council to approve their actions.

Next week the Oakland Athletics are going to visit Las Vegas to see if it has

enough space for a waterfront ballpark. If they do move to Las Vegas, they would be in the same city as the Las Vegas Raiders. Of course, the Las Vegas Raiders were originally known as the Oakland Raiders but changed locations in 2017.

If the Oakland Athletics do decide to move to Las Vegas, they could share a stadium with the Las Vegas Raiders as they did in Oakland. Amay Bhardwaj, an 8th grader, said "I like the idea of sharing a stadium since it was fun to see dirt when the Oakland Raiders were playing."

Of course, nothing is official yet. Right now they are planning to leave Oakland but nothing else has happened so far, since right now they are visiting different cities and states to see if it is suitable for them to play in. Perhaps they are going to leave in the next two years since both Las Vegas Raiders and Golden State Warriors have left Oakland in less than two years.

[Info is current as of 5/20/21]

# Editorial: Mask mandate in California should be extended

Ruben Alonso Reporter

Masks have helped all of us during COVID-19 and have helped us slow down the spread of the virus. Governor of California, Gavin Newsom, announced that on June 15th, people in California who have gotten the vaccine will no longer need to wear a mask. Some people have gotten annoyed of wearing masks everywhere in public and are happy that it is ending soon even though, as of now, COVID-19 hasn't ended, but is slowly dropping down in cases.

I personally believe that the mask mandate should be extended a little bit more time because COVID-19 hasn't officially ended. The masks we have to put on are really effective at preventing COVID, and I believe that once COVID officially ends, then we should be able to remove our masks overall throughout the world. I believe that once COVID is really hard to catch, then we should stop wearing masks.

Alejandro Saldivar, an 11th grade Kennedy student, said that Governor Newsom should extend the mandate. He is about to get the vaccine and has gotten COVID-19, so he said that he doesn't want others to feel what he went through.

He stated, "It's always better to be safe than sorry. Just because the cases are going down doesn't mean COVID has officially ended." The reason we have



Photo from Google Images

Starting on June 15, fully vaccinated people in California will not be required to always wear their masks.

vaccines is so it can reduce the chance catching COVID and also of dying from it, so if we've been preventing it all along by wearing our masks, we might as well continue wearing it to reduce our chance of catching it or even possibly death. There is still a chance that we can catch COVID, but masks help reduce that and how extreme we might get it.

Even a fellow restaurant worker, Saul Gonzalez, suggests that if people who have the vaccine don't have to wear a mask, that at least the workers should continue to wear a mask. He said, "Even though people are most likely going to fake that they have the vaccine to avoid wearing masks, I feel like all workers should still keep them on while working. I'm going to keep my mask on even after June 15 just to be safe and to avoid catching and spreading COVID-19 to my

family and myself." I agree with him because that's the least we can do. If customers aren't going to wear their masks, the least thing workers can do is wear a mask because, usually, restaurant workers work with their colleagues and serve multiple customers in a day. Without masks, they can spread it to their co-worker and families.

COVID-19 hasn't ended and there are still cases all over the world. Everyone should be safe, so I recommend that everyone should still follow the rules of wearing our masks and staying 6 feet apart. Wearing masks helps reduce the chance of catching COVID, so what I would recommend is to wear a mask even after the mask mandate is not required anymore for people who have gotten the vaccine.

## 8th graders prepare to leave middle school, see what awaits them in high school

Konchence Delaney Reporter

This year, 8th graders are leaving Walters and going into high school, most likely Kennedy. Some are scared or excited. They are already preparing for their first year of high school.

Current 8th grade students have different ways to prepare for high school. "I'm working harder this year and hopefully next year won't be too hard," said Kafadence Delaney, an 8th grader.

Fortunately, they do not have to go into their first year of high school online. The current 8th graders will be going to high school in real life, instead of virtually.

Some students are also very excited to make new friends. "I'm a little



Photo from Google Images

Some 8th graders are nervous but excited to move up to high school.

nervous but mostly excited to meet new friends," said 8th grader, Elizabeth Hinh. They'll be able to meet new people and make more friends in high school.

Most 8th grade students are going to Kennedy, which is the high school

closest to Walters. A lot of 7th graders have siblings and friends who are going into high school. "I will miss the 8th graders from this year. I hope they have fun next year in their first year of school..." said Lio Bernardino, a 7th grader.

According to *adlit.org*, many students face anxiety and fear while transitioning into high school. Studies show that if someone is feeling anxious or scared, walking around or stretching helps them calm down.

Students returning to campus next year will be facing a big challenging year, adjusting to school, seeing teachers and students face to face.



# Life lessons learned as a newspaper editor for a whole year

Sara Lele UCLA Editor

1. I learned how to keep my sentences short and to the point.
2. I learned that writing and editing are related but are really two different things.
3. I learned that in order to be successful in editing, I need to plan the layout ahead of time.
4. I learned how to cut a story without eliminating the writer's own voice.
5. I learned that reading a story is easy - but writing that story is hard.
6. I learned that the most important thing about editing is consistency.
7. I learned how to format a story so that it looks inviting.
8. In order for the story to fit on the page, I learned that I might have to cut parts of a story or add onto it.
9. In order to write a caption correctly, I learned how to add verbs into the sentence and make it attract the readers' interest.
10. To choose the right headline for each story, I need to add adjectives and the right verbs to make it appealing for the readers.



Photo from Sara Lele

Sara is the UCLA Editor. She has been an editor for this whole school year.

## EDITORIAL: Yearbook editors share life lessons learned

Halley Buenrostro & Thejasree Venkatesh Yearbook Editors

We, the editors of the Walters Middle School 2020-2021 yearbook, were indeed struggling throughout this school year. With the pandemic, everything was new. We had to adapt to working online and it was not easy, to say the least. Communication and staying in touch were crucial to the job.

Everyone on the yearbook staff had to pull their weight. We needed to work as a team and finish the yearbook before the deadline. After editing every page multiple times and making sure everything was good to go, we managed to submit it on time! Now, looking back on all the deadlines we went through, and all the stress we felt, we realize that we learned many important lessons during our time as editors that will prove to be useful to us in the future.

One of these skills is time management. After working on the yearbook for 2 years, we've realized how important it is to be wary of our time and how we use it. When starting a new project, it's essential to make a schedule detailing what needs to be finished. This lets us keep track of everything that needs to be



Photos from Halley Buenrostro and Thejasree Venkatesh  
8<sup>th</sup> graders Halley and Thejasree have been part of the yearbook staff for two years. They were the editors this year.

done. For example, near the end of the year when we were making our final edits to the yearbook, many tasks needed to be done before the deadline.

We needed to edit the index, review the pages we had already done, and edit the other staffers' pages as well. With the deadline getting closer and closer every day, a schedule was essential to keep us organized and on track.

Another thing we've learned is how to function as a team. Since we were the editors this year, we had to take the lead and teach the new staff members everything they needed to know. For example, we had to show them how to operate the site we used to create the yearbook and

explain all the terminology used in the class. After they learned the basics, we still had to work together and brainstorm ideas.

When creating the yearbook, we had to be inclusive and give everyone a chance to shine. So when multiple staffers used the same student, we had to discuss and decide who would get to keep them on their page.

When it comes to yearbook, we are always doing things out of our comfort zone. For example, we had to adjust to our new leadership positions when we first became editors. Guiding and talking to the new staff was a bit nerve-racking. Not to mention, we had to get used to distance learning, and designing the yearbook online.

Since we had only done the yearbook in-person last year, this was a bit out of our comfort zones. Nonetheless, we managed to pull it off using the new skills we'd learned this year.

Finally, we learned about the importance of patience. With creating the yearbook online, it's important to be patient with the staffers and offer them our help whenever they need it. We also have to be patient when waiting for students' replies to survey questions in the yearbook. It's not always easy, especially when we have a deadline coming up and we're stressed about it. Nevertheless, we worked as a team and got the job done!

Despite the nights where we felt like we couldn't get it done, we kept pushing forward. We've made so many memories and learned many important lessons while designing the yearbook. We weren't sure what was going to happen when we first joined this elective, but we don't regret anything. These two years were so memorable and we're happy to have written them down to look back on in the future.

# FIRST PERSON: Celebrating Eid ul Fitr during pandemic

*Omar Mojadidi* UCLA Assistant Editor

The first day of Eid ul Fitr was on Thursday, May 13, 2021. Eid ul Fitr was celebrated for three days by nearly one billion Muslims around the world. Every year, Eid ul Fitr falls on a different day because it follows the lunar calendar and begins the day after Ramadhan finishes, which was on May 12, 2021. A lunar calendar is a calendar based on the monthly cycles of the Moon's phases.

Eid, which means "the festival of breaking the fast," honors the completion of a month-long fast for Muslims all over the world during Ramadhan. The festival is a significant event in Islam because it allows families, loved ones, and communities to gather and celebrate after

a month of fasting and devotion to Allah SWT -"Glory to Him, the Exalted."

In preparation for Eid ul Fitr, the evening before, we bake sweets, decorate our house, and women usually do henna, a dye made from the Lawsonia inermis plant. My family and I wake up at dawn to do ghusl (full-body ritual purification mandatory before the performance of various rituals and prayers), pray Fajr, and prepare our clothes for the Eid prayers and celebration.

It is a tradition for Muslims all around the world to wear their best clothes, or the new clothes they have bought, for this special occasion. We also have to pay Zakat ul Fitr, or to give charity before Eid prayers.

For Eid prayers, we normally go to a mosque with friends and family, but because of the current state that we are in, we performed prayers at home. Eid prayer is different from the other prayers. For example, in Eid Prayers, we perform more takbeerat.

We then normally greet the people at the mosque, or in our house in this case, and wish them an Eid Mubarak. Later our family goes to the elders' house, usually our grandparents, where we celebrate by getting together for brunch. The elders give money to the children and in my own family, we buy gifts for one another. The visiting of family and friends continues for the next three days. Wishing you all an Eid Mubarak!

## Students feel relieved to complete a full school year online

*Sirena Perez Hernandez* Reporter

Due to COVID last year, many schools closed and students were unable to go to school in-person and have had to do school online since then. This school year will soon be over, which will mean students WILL have completed a full school year online.

"I feel proud of myself and very accomplished for finishing a full school year online, because it was very hard to keep up with all of the work that was assigned to me," stated Arayana Singh, an 8th grader. She mentioned that she found doing online school harder than doing school in-person, so she is glad she was able to keep good grades throughout the school year.

Arayana felt that the easiest part of doing online school was that she had more time to turn in assignments, but that she still could've done way better if she had gone to school in-person instead.

Overall, she feels that doing online school has affected her in a negative and positive way and if she had the option to keep doing school online or go to school in person like before, she would rather choose school in-person because she can spend more time with her friends, but also learn better and have the very chance to get better grades.

"I feel like online school was a different experience," said Tanush Yedal, a 7th grader. He felt that online school was a bit easier and that he would choose to do



Photo from Google Images  
After experiencing a full school year online, students have developed different emotions toward this.

it again if he could, but he also did miss going to school in-person. He mentioned that when you go in-person you can see everybody, like your friends and teachers.

"You can wake up at 8:14 A.M. if your class is at 8:15 A.M. and wear your pajamas in class. After, just press a link and in a minute you'll be in class," he said. He stated that there wasn't really anything he found hard about online school except having bad internet connection. He also felt that online school affected his performance in school in a positive way, since it was easier for him.

He, like Arayana, feels that this year has passed by quickly and the most memorable part of this year for him was running for class president.

Siran Kuppanda, 6<sup>th</sup> grader, stated, "I feel really relieved to almost be done with online school because, while parts of it were enjoyable, after an entire

year of this new way of school, it has been tiring being indoors and stuck in front of the screen. I'm proud of myself for being able to adapt and make it through this year after everything that has happened." She found online school to be quite easier than in-person because when she finishes a class on Zoom, she's able to log off during the break and review the topic she has been taught.

"I think that online school has affected me in a positive way because being in school and at home at the same time has helped me develop better time management skills," she added. It has also helped her train to say no to things that could distract her from paying attention in class or from doing her homework on time. She felt that in the beginning of online school she could have done a bit better with her performance in school, but she has learned to adapt and has had a good overall performance through the year.

Siran does want to go back to school and be able to interact with her friends and teachers in person. She would also like to join more clubs and do more sport activities at school physically, like basketball. She felt that each school day online passed by slowly, however looking back, she now feels that it has passed by quickly. For her, the most memorable part of this school year were the teachers, who she felt always found ways to make each day fun and interesting.



# Students and staff hope for new safety procedures in August

Guneet Gill Reporter

Due to COVID, for the whole school year, we have been doing distance learning. But there's a big chance school might open next year, and that is what Fremont is planning for. It's not going to be the same though.

There will be new procedures so students and staff could stay safe during school. For example, students and staff will be required to wear masks and social distance. In the classrooms there will be at least 3 feet of distance between each desk.

Ms. Staley, a 7th grade teacher said, "The new procedures are probably going to slow down the school day. I think we may have to do some sort of hybrid where you have three classes one day, instead of all six." No solid schedule is available yet for anything modified.

According to the CDC, it's wise to "improve ventilation to the extent possible to increase circulation of outdoor air, increase the delivery of clean air, and dilute potential contaminants. Bring in as much outdoor air as possible. Ensure Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) settings are maximizing

ventilation. Filter and clean the air in the school by improving the level of filtration as much as possible. Use exhaust fans in restrooms and kitchens. Open windows, even just cracking windows open a few inches improves air circulation." These things would be ideal at school.

Rhea Singh, 7<sup>th</sup> grader, said, "People should be mindful of giving everyone their space. I remember my previous years seeing everyone so close around each other, but maybe this year, some people might feel uncomfortable due to everything that has happened. I think we'll all slowly know which procedure we need to focus on more."

Melissa Pudasaini, another 7th grader, said, "I think we should all stay 6 feet away from each other, and wear our masks so others won't get COVID"

When school opens during the fall, to keep yourself and others safe you should: always bring and wear a mask, try to stay 6 feet away from each other people to reduce the spread of COVID-19, stay home when you feel sick so you don't infect others, and have a habit of washing your hands a lot, and don't touch other people.



Photo from Google Images  
Schools continue to reopen under COVID-19 circumstances.

## CALENDAR

June 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> – Book Return

June 2<sup>nd</sup> – D Day, WWII

June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> – Technology Return Days

June 9<sup>th</sup> – Last day of School

June 20<sup>th</sup> – Father's Day

## Staff Feature: Mrs. Yepez loves helping student navigate middle school

Itzayana Justo Nunez Reporter

Mrs. Yepez has been counseling for 11 years, three years in San Mateo and eight years in Fremont. She really enjoys being able to help students out and provide support.

Ever since she was very young, she thought about being a teacher but when she started working at Mission San Jose High School in the early 2000's, she really liked how the counselors there were able to help students and families out. So, she decided to become a school counselor instead.

Her first job was in a middle school in San Mateo called Bayside School Academy. She was the only counselor for the whole school. Mrs. Yepez's favorite part about counseling is being able to comfort students who are having a bad day. She started counseling with 7th graders, and then when the 7th graders go to 8<sup>th</sup>, she goes with them. Next year she will be counseling 6th graders for three years as they progress to the next grades in middle school.

Her job has changed since she can no longer see students in person ever since the pandemic. She also notices less students are reaching out for support. The majority of her work now is through Zoom, email, or phone calls but mainly through parents.



Photo from Mrs. Yepez  
Mrs. Yepez is a counselor at Walters who has worked with students for 11 years.

# Editorial: School should not reopen yet and stay online

Evyv Diaz Reporter

I believe that schools should stay online. I think they should stay online because for one, children are not the most responsible people when it comes to following rules. What benefits would there be to have us at school with masks on all the time and being six feet apart? Are children really going to be able to handle staying six feet away from their friends?

Now some people may say well we can all just wear masks and we will be fine. Unfortunately for them, not everybody is going to want to wear a mask.

I believe that there are multiple benefits that are to come with online classes. One benefit of classes staying online is that people can follow their own schedule like when they should get things done. Something else that would be extremely beneficial is the time we wake up in the morning. This is really helping me because now with the help of online classes, I can



Photo from Google Images

Online classes will disappear as school reopens again.

wake up 10 minutes before our class starts and still have a high chance of getting there on time. On the other hand, before online classes you would get to class late for sure.

Some people may argue that they could do the same things if they had regular school, but when you are in in-person class, if you want to get something like a test done on time that you forgot to do, you can get it in before the set time its due on Google Classroom, unlike in-person school where you must get this test done right here as soon as you end class.

Something that benefits me now is that I can have a little bit more independence and I would not have to worry about getting something done right then and there--instead I could have the whole week to do it.

Thomas Ekman, an 8th grader, commented, "I would rather have it in person but if it's online I can see why there are kids like me with bad allergies and chronic asthma who may not be able to go, but I would personally want to keep it in person since it's much easier".

As a person who also has bad allergies, I understand where he is coming from and I agree 100 percent that since people have bad asthma or bad allergies, they should stay home from school.

People with symptoms such as this are way more likely to get the sickness of COVID-19 and this is why I believe schools need to stay online for at least one more year so that everything can settle down to the point where people won't have to wear a mask or stay 6 feet apart all the time and everything will be back to normal.

## Students look forward to summer break after over a year of being at home

Morrow Ivanez Reporter

Summer break is meant to be something that all students can enjoy. It's meant for students to de-stress, and start preparing for the upcoming school year. Many of the ways to de-stress include gathering with family, watching shows, and playing video games. De-stressing also affects the way students prepare for the school year.

7th grader Mikaela Fronda said, "Well, I play video games a lot and call or hang out with my friends and family, it helps me de-stress a lot. I also listen to music a lot. Lacking stress makes me more impulsive and due to that my preparation for school makes me have a good feeling that I'd do good for the upcoming school year especially with more motivation and concentration."

Lacking stress greatly improves the way students perform during school. It makes sure that the students come back to school with a fresh mind and ready to face whatever happens during the school year.

Motivation is also a big thing. Too much work or work that's too hard can easily make someone lack motivation to do it. Being relaxed and prepared helps motivation and concentration levels.

7th grader Caitlin Bautista said that she likes to binge watch shows or do some art like drawing or painting. She commented, "Art itself helps me feel more relaxed by it

just being calming and it feels nice not to be rushed like I am with school work and watching shows is relaxing by just being able to laze around and rest. Relaxing by painting, drawing, or binge watching affects my preparation for the upcoming school year by it just calming me to be ready for whatever is coming next school year."

She added, "I prepare for the upcoming school year by first, trying to relax and calm down from the past school year. Then, towards about a week or two before school starts, I try to remind myself of things that I learned last year and see if I still remember them. This helps me be more prepared by being able to start getting back into the flow of doing work and getting used to it again. Relaxing just helps me to calm down and not to be stressed."

Since students feel like they're constantly being rushed, summer breaks allow them to get away from this constant feeling that's nagging at them all year long. Being rushed affects the quality of the school work too. The student may have done it but maybe not to the best of their ability because of that feeling.

All of this is especially important after going through the pandemic, being at home so much, and doing school on Zoom.



# Migrating Western monarch butterflies on the decline

Photo from Google Images

30,000 milkweeds are being planted in over 600 acres in a variety of ecosystems in California by the organization River Partners. This is an effort to bring more migrating Western monarch butterflies back to California. They usually spend winters in coastal California and migrate to Central California to breed. According to the SF Chronicle, the monarch population “dropped by 99% since the 1980s mostly because of loss of milkweed habitat to agriculture and development, as well as pesticide exposure.”



Photo from Google Images

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**Thank  
You  
for Reading  
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and  
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## Seeing the Yearbook through



Photo by Ms. Yuen  
Yearbook staff, Manas Basavaraju, Miranda Hernandez, Konchence Delaney, Thejasree Venkatesh, Alicia Wong, and Halley Buenrostro, successfully distribute most of the yearbooks in the afternoon on May 26. THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTERING TO HELP!