

THE WARRIOR CHRONICLE

Walters Middle School * Fremont, CA * December 18, 2020

Second round of lockdowns in California to continue for three more weeks

Miranda Hernandez Reporter

As of last week, with the statistics of the Alameda County Public Health page, the county has reached around 30,000 cases and around 500 deaths. After California had its first lockdown in March, a new one was installed on Monday, December 7. In hope of lowering the COVID cases, health officials in some counties of the Bay Area have hastened the lockdown order from the California governor.

An 8th grade history teacher, Mr. Sachs, said, “We’ve come this far, stay the course. I feel the lockdown is hurting people of color more and our state and local governments should address this.”

Since December 7, Alameda County has allowed several places to be open with conditions such as social distancing and masks, restaurants only can do pick-up orders and stores need to operate at a lower capacity. Places closed now include bars (brewpubs, etc.), campgrounds overnight stay, casinos (bingo, etc.), drive-thru parades, family entertainment centers, hair salons/barber shops, indoor/outdoor photos with Santa, live entertainment,

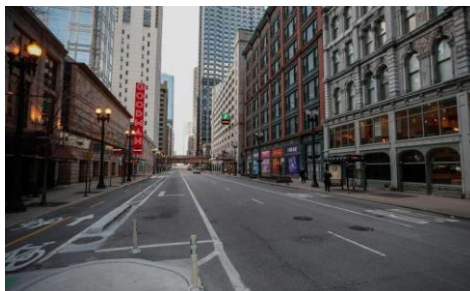


Photo from Google Images
The streets are empty after the U.S. government issued the stay-at-home order until January 4th.

museums (zoos, botanical gardens, etc.), nail salons, movie theaters, personal care services, private gatherings, and wine tasting rooms. Everything else that has been closed, still remains closed.

“Lockdown is absolutely necessary since coronavirus cases continue to rise. Going to school during the epidemic will certainly make it worse. Personally, the lockdown hasn’t affected my life too drastically and I don’t mind it too much. If I were to say something that I find frustrating, online classes aren’t as good of a learning platform than being at school. I do hope the lockdown and COVID will be over

soon,” Megan Yu, an 8th grade student, expressed.

However, a 7th grader, Sammy Shuman, explained, “I don’t really think the lockdown is necessary, but I also think that the government knows what they are doing, so I guess it might be necessary. There are still people who won’t care, and have parties and stuff, and then they’ll get sick and the entire thing will happen again until a vaccine comes out. Even then, there will be people who won’t take the vaccine because they are anti-vaccine.

The main thing I care about is the people I know won’t get sick. I also kind of hate lockdown because my entire family will be home and we’re six people, so it will get crazy and stuff. I also don’t like to be stuck in my house, even though I normally don’t come out. It’s still nice having the option to leave and go do something.”

Unfortunately, the coronavirus is still a serious problem, even with vaccines slowly starting, and the public should follow the lockdown rules until January 4, 2021, unless it is revoked or extended.



COVID vaccine distribution starts in U.S.



Picture from Google Images

After almost a year, the U.S. has started distributing the COVID vaccine, like the one from Pfizer. Now that the vaccine has been released, people will stop dying. The first to get the vaccine are doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers, the ones who are the most exposed to the virus.

Gitanjali Rao becomes Time magazine's first 'Kid of the year' with invention

A 15-year-old girl, Gitanjali Rao, currently living in Colorado, became Time magazine's first 'kid of the year.' Her invention is a device that detects lead in drinking water. She wanted to help places like Flint, Michigan where nearly 100,000 people drank water contaminated with lead, which is poisonous. She also developed an app that detects cyberbullying. The latter is a problem that happens online and is a huge issue on social media.

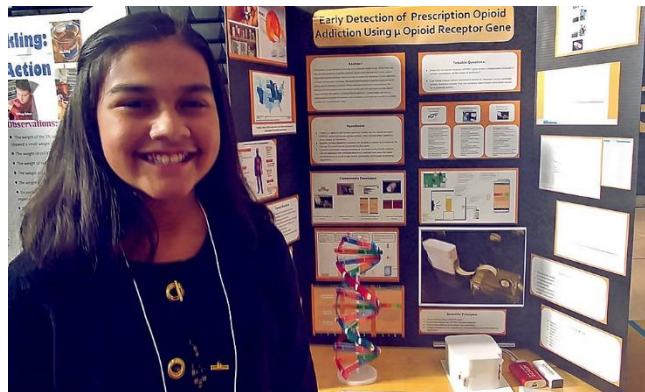


Photo from Google Images

China tries to modify COVID-19 origin story and change global image

Sara Lele Editor

Nearly after a year has passed after the COVID alert in Wuhan, China, according to *theguardian.com*, China is now trying to question the origin story of this deadly pandemic and restore its global image.

According to *theguardian.com*, "Wuhan was where the coronavirus was first detected but it was not where it originated," said Zeng Guang, formerly a chief epidemiologist at the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention."

"It's interesting that they think that it came from somewhere else because COVID-19 started in China from what we know, and if it started off somewhere else, it would've been a huge secret to keep," stated 7th grader, Zoey Roper.

Theguardian.com stated, "Chinese scientists have even

submitted a paper for publication to the Lancet that claims, 'Wuhan is not the place where human-to-human Sars-CoV-2 transmission first happened', suggesting instead that the first case may have been in the 'Indian subcontinent'."

"I think China's trying to pin the blame on anyone they can to keep their influence over the world. They want people to continue buying from them, so they remain rich, even though they were probably the ones who let the virus reach the rest of the world," commented Nikita Garg, 7th grader.

But, according to *globaltimes.cn*, "Instead of trying to change the narrative on the epidemic, China has been calling for joint efforts by the international

community to track the origin of the virus, share information and fight the coronavirus together." There have been cooperative efforts with finding and distributing a vaccine and helping with global medical aid, for example.

This shows that China is also trying to help find the origin of it, not just release their responsibility. Understanding the origins and spread of this disease is important to worldwide prevention. As reported in *globaltimes.cn*, "Experts admitted that tracking the virus origin around the world is a complicated scientific question that is hard to answer." New scientific data is constantly being discovered.



Photo from Google Images

Kamala Harris will be a vice president-elect of many firsts, "but not the last," as she once stated.

EDITORIAL: My top 10 reasons why Kamala Harris is cool

Navjot Waraich Reporter

1. She's from the Bay Area.
2. She's an inspiration to a lot of young women.
3. Her parents were immigrants AND were super smart.
4. Her mom is from South India.
5. She's the first vice president-elect to be a woman.
6. She the first vice president-elect who is Black and Asian.
7. She was born in Oakland, like me.
8. She served as the deputy district attorney for Alameda County, California.
9. She is the first South-Asian American attorney general in the nation.
10. She loves wearing Converse sneakers.

Iran Nuclear Scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh assassinated

Omar Mojadidi. Assistant Editor

Satellite-controlled machine guns armed with artificial intelligence assassinated Iran's top nuclear scientist, Mohsen Fakhrizadeh on November 27. Iran has blamed the assassination on Israel.

Reuters reports, Fakhrizadeh led a coordinated nuclear arms program in Iran, which was halted in 2003, where he supervised operations "in support of a possible military dimension to the nuclear (Iranian) program."

A couple of weeks ago CNN stated, a senior US administration official said Israel was behind the assassination but declined to give details about whether the Trump administration knew about the attack before it was carried out or provided support.

Ms. Kent-Berge, librarian, responded, "I really think Trump knew. History has shown us that Past Presidents knew about attacks, Roosevelt knew about Pearl Harbor, Nixon knew about Watergate, Bush knew about the Iran Contra incident."

In another report CNN published an article saying,



Photo from Google Images
Mohsen Fakhrizadeh was assassinated by a satellite controlled machine gun from Israel.

The Iranian nuclear scientist, Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, who was killed Friday, November 27, had been a target for the Israelis for a long time, the official added.

Mr. Kenny, 7th grade history teacher, commented, "They are trying to slow Iran's nuclear program, so if you take out the top scientist you could potentially slow the program."

In a separate article CNN writes, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and others have promised revenge for the killing. The Israeli government did not have any comment on the allegations.

He added, "I'm sure Iran will seek revenge. Earlier in the year, they said they were going to get revenge on

the United States after the US killed one of their top generals, Solemani; and they did fire missiles into a US base in Iraq (though with warning to respond to, but not necessarily increase, the conflict). But in this case, Israel isn't as powerful as the U.S. and I know Israel doesn't want a direct war, but I wouldn't be surprised if they got struck by something. Iran can't do too much because they could provoke the U.S, but I wouldn't doubt Iran responds with something."

The New York Post reported that a satellite-controlled machine gun equipped with "artificial intelligence" was used to assassinate Iran's chief nuclear scientist, according to officials in the country.

Mr. Sachs, 8th grade history teacher, said, "It just tells you it's a dangerous world. Drone warfare is dangerous because it takes the human element out of it because at some level you don't want to inflict too much damage unless someone is really trying to damage you. And it would be a very dangerous thing if warfare went to simply be automated."

Connecting Biden's age to ability

Cynthia Ortiz. Reporter

"I think it's important for people – it's a legitimate question to ask about my age," Biden said in a past interview. "Hopefully, I can demonstrate that ... with age comes wisdom and experience that can make things a lot better. That's for you all to decide, not for me to decide." Good Morning America reported that on November 5.

Lots of people have different opinions about Joe Biden. Some probably have worries if something were to happen to Biden and Kamala were to take over. Biden is going to be the oldest in history with the age of 78. But that also means that he knows what he is doing gathered through his life experiences, including being in the White House before as Obama's vice president.

We just have to wait and see and hope he does the best with his time as the new president come January 20.



Photo from Google Images
President-elect Joe Biden will be the oldest president to serve in the White House.

Walters book pick-up opens up a new journey for readers during COVID

Daisy Lwin. Reporter

The library is a great place to go to. You could do so many things like getting a library card and have free access to books. You could also get help with research and homework. The library offers free access to the internet so you could get the right information you need. But ever since COVID arrived, it has been hard getting books from the library. However, now Librarian Ms. Kent-Berge has set up a library pick up for anyone who wants to borrow a book.

She wanted to do this library book pick-up because she believed it's different from reading the books online and that it is better to have a book in your hands. "Reading and going to the library is a good way to entertain yourself," said Ms. Kent-Berge.

The way the library pick-up works is first the students go to the school Destiny website, put the book they want on hold, and when it's time to do the library pick up, Ms. Kent-Berge takes it off the shelf and gives the book to you clean and safe. She sends you an email when the book is ready for pick up near the office.

"What makes this library pick up hard is communication. People sometimes forget to come and sometimes aren't allowed to come because of their parents," said Ms. Kent-Berge. She also said that if you forget to pick up your books, it will be in the janitor's office for 2 weeks. If you still don't come and pick it up by that time, the book will go to someone else.

"Well, this is one of the best ways to read books because it is less expensive than going out to buy books," added Ms. Kent-Berge.

"I think picking up books is the better way to read them in this pandemic because it's so nice to see Ms. Kent-Berge. You go to the side, wait for your turn, give the books, get the books, and leave. Very simple," explained 7th grader Rachael Zitzmann.



Photo by Ms. Yuen

Ms. Kent-Berge distributes library books to Rachael Zitzmann during one of pic-ups that happen every two weeks.

Fremont School District Board votes to cancel 22-year old SRO program

Isabella Cisneros. Reporter

For the first time in 22 years of having the SRO (student resource officer) program, Fremont School District Board members Michele Berke, Ann Crosbie, and Dianne Jones voted in favor of removing the SRO program from school campuses.

The SRO program helped the schools keep the students safe and if there were any emergencies, the police would be right there ready to help. But now with them gone, Board member Larry Sweeney said in an interview, "If we do give up our SRO program, we are putting our students and our families at a much higher risk than they are now."

Ms. Gentry, a 7th grade PE teacher, whose sister was in SRO, added, "I think it is important to have SROs on campus because if something happened, this person already knows the teachers, staff and students and the layout of the campus. Other officers off the street may or may not even know where certain

things are on campus or be able to identify adults who work on campus."

On the other hand, Casey Jackson, 9th grade at John F. Kennedy commented, "SRO program is cancelled because they are said to be racist."

According to the Mercury News it has been reported that citing data in the task force report showing Black and Latinx students were arrested at disproportionately high rates in recent years of the program.

This could show that the majority of the students who were arrested were only Black and Latinx, and because of their skin color, some of the officers allegedly treated them unfairly.

Casey Jackson also said, "I really think we should train police to not target or discriminate certain students." Even after the George Floyd incident, some students of color could feel uncomfortable with all the officers at the school.

Because the SRO program was cancelled some students may feel unsafe or scared to go back to school knowing that there are no more officers on campus helping and making sure everyone is safe.

Perhaps this is now putting students at a much higher risk because the high school students no longer have officers on campus protecting them.

Kennedy High School student Yuliya Eruslanova, 9th grade, stated, "I wouldn't feel safe since they took away our SROs. The teachers and staff got to work quick on figuring out how to keep students safe in emergencies. If they don't have a safe plan for us that we all know, then I refuse to go back to school knowing if I'm in an emergency and we don't have a safe plan."

Fremont must now work on building a program that promotes mental health support and restorative justice along with school safety.

Editorial: 25-year old “Toy Story” proves its staying power

Diego Gurrola Reporter

Pixar recently celebrated the 25th anniversary of their beloved film “Toy Story.” Toy Story (1995) has spawned a franchise with three other movies with their most recent being Toy Story 4 (2019), a climactic conclusion to the franchise. It has spawned many spin-off shorts, and TV shows, it also spawned an empire of merchandise and sales.

The movie centers around main character “Woody” after Andy, the child who owns Woody, gets a new toy called Buzz Lightyear, a toy astronaut who, unlike Woody, doesn’t know that he is a toy. Woody then envies Buzz. Through all four parts of the “Toy Story” movies, the toys go through many adventures that teach them important life lessons not only with their human owners, but amongst their toy counterparts.

The movie was directed by John Lasseter and stars the voices Tom Hanks and Tim Allen, with the story written by Andrew Stanton, John Lasseter, and Joe Ranft. The movie starred and had many big-name people working on it.



Photo from Google Images

Pixar, with its headquarters in Emeryville, CA, has produced 22 films since their first movie in 1995, “Toy Story.”

This plot is simple, which adds to the charm of the movie. I feel like this was important for the computer animation industry, as this was the first full animated movie there was from Pixar. This was groundbreaking at the time because this was their first full animated movie, ever. This influenced many studios, big and small, to make their own computer animated films,

even influencing Disney to work on their own films.

I believe it should be considered a classic because of its legacy it left on for 100s of studios to break from 2D animated films to 3D full animated films. It also has a great story, that even 4 movies later, manages to tug at heartstrings (looking at you Toy Story 3!). Thus even 25 years later, this is a classic, enjoyable for kids and adults

Editorial: Reflections on 2020 coming from eyes of the editors

Sara Lele & Sana Kamlesh Editors

We all know that 2020 has been a tough year for all of us. Starting from COVID-19 to the Black Lives Matter protests, this year has had its ups and downs for everyone in different ways.

In our opinion, the worst part of this year was the arrival of COVID-19. It has affected many things in our lives, including us not being able to visit our friends and family, or go to school.

Second, the fires have definitely gotten out of hand this year. Usually, the firefighters have it controlled in a couple days, but they were so big this year, that one morning, we found that there was ash on our cars!

Third, too many great people have died this year. One of them is Kobe Bryant, who was a basketball player and died from a helicopter crash. The second is Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who was a Supreme Court Justice and died of cancer at the age of 87. We think that

Ruth Bader Ginsburg was (and still is) really influential to us because she showed us that women can do extraordinary things.

Fourth, there have been many Black Lives Matter protests all over the nation. Following the deaths of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd, people have been rioting through the streets to bring justice for Floyd, and hopefully end all kinds of systemic racism. We think that these people are doing the right thing, but are taking the wrong approach to it. They have all the rights to stand up for what they believe, but they could do a safer and peaceful way of showing it.

Finally, Donald J. Trump, America’s president, was elected out of office. In his place, Joe Biden will be president, starting January. We think that Biden will be a fitting candidate for this role, as he is taking the correct approach on making our nation safer. In

Mike Pence’s place, Vice President, there is Kamala Harris. Kamala Harris is a very inspiring and influential person to us, as she is the first South Asian and African American woman to hold such a high position in government.

Also we feel there are some positives that the virus has revealed to us.

Some people, including us, got in contact with old friends. Also, we got to spend way more time with our family now that we are stuck at home.

Another positive is that the pollution has decreased. We think that with the pollution sinking, the global warming rate is possibly slowing, so people with asthma would find it easier to breathe.

Hopefully, after all that we have been through in 2020, 2021 will be better.

Coronavirus causes changes in traditions during winter break

Jade Rodriguez Assistant Editor

As winter break comes closer, people are starting to realize that it will be different this year due to the pandemic. People will not be able to go outside with family as much as they used to do before. Many traditions might change, for example traveling.

Kiara Moral, 6th grader, stated, "With my family, we usually go to one of the Aunties' houses and celebrate there for Christmas. From there, me and my cousins usually play around with each other while the adults talk and prepare the food. Obviously, our family plans have changed this year by not celebrating with a big number of people and not seeing everybody. Also including not eating the different dishes made by the family."

A large gathering of people in a closed place can cause the virus to spread more quickly, especially if the people are not wearing masks and taking other instructed precautions. By meeting up with a great group of people, there is a possibility that someone there

is infected with COVID and does not have knowledge of it. Meanwhile the virus would spread among the people assembled.

Ms. Staley, a 7th grade English teacher, said, "I'm disappointed that people didn't follow the guidelines earlier so we could spend the holidays with our family. I'm still going to try to make the most of it, but it's going to be hard. It's not going to be as merry and happy as years in the past." She added that she usually visits her parents to decorate the Christmas tree with them. However, if she decides to visit them this year, she will have to stay far away and wear a mask. Ms. Staley described how it will be kind of sad not being able to give anyone hugs.

Besides the difficult changes this winter season, students and staff are still trying to make the holidays special in different ways. A common solution for enjoying the holidays this year is to call other family members and friends through the phone. For some students, this winter



Photo from Google Images

Big gatherings during the holidays will not be the same this year because it can cause COVID to spread faster.

break will be an opportunity to spend more time with their family.

Camden Phillips, 7th grader, commented, "This year, I'll miss hanging out with my friends and being able to go and do special things. I feel quite out of the Christmas spirit because I miss doing things I do every year, and I miss the people I do them with. It won't feel the same without these traditions, but I can still enjoy this break."

PE teachers adapt to classes online while students crave in-person PE classes

Urian Paek Reporter

COVID-19 has been a devastating virus, causing tens of millions of casualties all over the world. It currently affects almost every aspect of society, including school. COVID-19 has caused schools to temporarily take their teachings online. However, what does this mean for PE?

It is called "Physical Education," so when the "physical" is removed, it seems like an immediate recipe for disaster. And yet, in spite of this, schools have somewhat been able to replicate PE at home to the best of their ability. Most PE teachers have a daily routine of stretches and exercises for the students to perform every day.

Ms. Alves, a 7th grade PE teacher, said, "I've been teaching for 27 years, and this is different [from] everything." The new, virtual PE has certainly been very unprecedented, but the schools have been able to fit the needs of both, the students and the teachers, surprisingly well.



Photo from Ms. Alves

Physical Education teachers, like Ms. Alves, give students daily exercises to stay active at home.

Everybody has been faring well during virtual PE. Landon Chau, an 8th grader, said that "one good thing is that...it can be less tiring."

However, many expressed their praises of physical PE and its superiority to online PE, teachers and students alike. Ms. Alves said, "It's not as fun, it's boring and monotonous, I would say."

Landon emphasized, "Honestly I'd take physical PE because...it's hard to do stuff on a screen. It's not the same."

Ayler Ehling, an 8th grader, agreed with Landon. Ayler commented, "You can't do the actual sports that we're learning about...Yeah, I definitely prefer the physical PE."

STUDENTS & STAFF:

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Please **FOLLOW DIRECTIONS TO ENSURE** you'll be included.

EDITORIAL: 2020 reflections

Navjot Waraich Reporter

It's finally almost over! After all the crazy things that happened this year, it could come to an end in 2021. From the Australian bushfires to the global pandemic.

2020 has taught us many things, and I also feel like it has toughened us up; I feel like there's nothing that 2021 can do that 2020 hasn't already. Although 2020 has been absolute madness, there were a couple of things I learned--like how to use Zoom, not try to buy a ps5 off of Walmart, and get creative use my time more efficiently.

I feel like everyone can agree when they say the thing that stood out the most of 2020 is COVID-19. I have a feeling that when it's 2021, COVID-19 will have a vaccine for all, hopefully. I cannot take more of this quarantine, and I think we can all agree on that. I'm not much of a person who goes out ever, even when there wasn't COVID. If there were no quarantine, I would probably take my cat out on a walk.

Ms. Weber, an 8th grade math teacher, said the importance of nature and the outdoors stood out to her in 2020. She also mentioned that she always loves to hike and spend time outdoors. Along with that, the only thing that made her feel better was going on a walk and breathing fresh air.

She added, "I have learned teachers can do ANYTHING. Of course, that goes for our students too." She explained that in March, teachers were given no real instructions on what to do, on how to teach, communicate with students. She had also said in after four months, they were doing completely different jobs and noted that in a million years, she would have never thought she could teach math to students over a computer screen. And finally, she mentioned that she learned how to knit.

One of the many life lessons I learned in 2020 is don't take anything for granted. Like sports. I miss how much fun I used to have. Going to meets and tournaments used to be so much fun. Things like being in a classroom and eating lunch with friends, I wish I hadn't taken sports for granted.

Mr. Bae, the 8th-grade science teacher, said, "Life can either be seen as extremely depressing and the world falling apart or you can see the world as a time filled with possibilities. Ultimately how the world is viewed is largely dependent on my attitude and feeling towards it, which can be changed for the better."

Overall, 2020 was probably the craziest year ever, and there were many tough things I had to go through; there were many things I had learned from this year. A lot stood out. In the end, it could have been worse.

EDITORIAL: Looking forward to 2021

Urian Paek Reporter

Well, ladies and gentlemen, we made it. We are in the final month, the home stretch of 2020. It's been an undeniably rough and unprecedented year. Everybody was talking about how bad 2019 was and how amazing 2020 was going to be. Hah! We severely jinxed it. A virus running rampant all over the world, slaughtering tens of millions of people worldwide. Wildfires ravaging countless acres of land across the United States. Division over race. Riots, protests, police brutality, the deaths of precious names whom everybody knew. 2020 has been pulling out all the stops, punishing us in all the ways possible for taking the previous year for granted, and making 2019 seem like a warm, heavenly dream in comparison.

However, there was also some good that came out of 2020. Because everybody was scared and didn't know what to expect next, we all had to stay close to each other and work together in order to survive. Even though everybody has been physically distanced from one another, we have been brought virtually closer than ever.

Not only that, but now we have Joe Biden as the president-elect of the USA. Countless people have been celebrating Trump's defeat. Not just people in America, but all over the world! From America, to Britain, to Paris, and everywhere in between! Joe Biden has usurped Trump's position as president of the United States, and people all over the world are overjoyed! We will have a new president leading the paragon nation of the world. Hopefully, a better president as well.

So with new life lessons fresh in everybody's minds, a longing to see family and friends again, and a phenomenal new American leader at the wheel, things are looking up post-2020. So much death and loss has occurred in 2020. If 2020 has been a year of destruction and separation, then 2021 should be a year of rebuilding, connecting, restoration. Not just locally, not even nationally, but for everybody all over the world, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, or any of that. At the end of the day, we're all part of the same species, so why don't we treat each other as such?

Tips on how to study better during COVID-19

Fariza Kayanath Reporter

Did you know that disorganization and feeling overwhelmed is the thing most students have trouble with? School can create lots of stress, especially now because of COVID-19. Here are tips that can help you study more and procrastinate less:

One way to keep organized is school-loop, school-loop is designed to help students by helping them keep track of assignments and late work. You can check off work that you have done by scrolling down on the main school-loop page. If you scroll down further you will find something that looks like a tiny orange calendar, click that and it will take you to a bigger calendar. This calendar will have all your due dates on it, you can also add your own personal events to it.

Another way is using a paper calendar if you don't like using computers much. Mrs. Fiala said, "I use a calendar to write down the things I have to do." Mrs. Fiala also said that one way to learn better is to ask questions but now students don't ask as many questions because they don't like the spotlight.

Slowly moving back to in-person classes despite pandemic

Sana Kamlesh Editor

People in nearby counties from the Bay Area have slowly been reopening schools. Even as cases are rising during the winter, some may think this is the right decision.

When in the state of COVID-19, it is very dangerous and difficult to be with others and have to wear a mask the entire school day. You can't socialize with your friends like how you did back in January of 2020. There are so many differences with COVID, especially when students and teachers have online classes. Still, various counties have decided to reopen up schools with some restrictions.

According to College Times, "Universities are offering students the option of taking their classes in person or online. And while not all classes have this availability, the amount of online- and in-person offered classes continue to increase."

Online and In-person classes hold the same weight in different ways. Many people are questioning the school's decision to reopen.

Sahasra Chandrakantham, 7th grade, stated, "I don't think that total in-person classes are very safe as even



Photo from Google Images
Students and professors adapt to courses provided online and in-person during the pandemic.

though kids are mature at this point, they might not notice and get COVID themselves or infect others."

In the circumstance that Fremont does go back to in-person classes, it will be very different than school back in March. There will be masks and hand sanitizers everywhere so that students and staff can sanitize their hands and stay safe in a public place with lots of people.

Saanvi Raghavendran, 6th grader, said, "If we do go back to in-person classes (which we will, at some point in time), I don't think my studying habits will differ. Distance learning is just school but on a

computer. We do the same things during distance learning as we would in school like taking notes, using the agenda, and doing homework."

Many districts have decided to reopen up even after the cases rising in the winter, including Lammersville Unified, Los Angeles Unified, and Beverly Hills Unified. These areas are relatively safe to go back to school, whereas schools from the Bay Area are not as safe. Many have accepted the decision of opening up, while others don't agree with this decision.

Mr. Nicholson, 7th and 8th grade Math teacher, said, "I feel like their [other school districts back on campus] decision was not ideal for anyone including the staff. For teachers especially, it is not safe as they are older than and not as healthy as the kids. The kids will be more immune to the virus, whereas adults are not as immune."

As districts decide on whether and when to reopen next year, many think it's best to do online school, so we will all be safe. Principal Weems said, "This has been the worst since March. I don't think it is safe to open it at this point."

PTSA helping the school during difficult times

Ariana Narvaez Reporter

The PTSA helps the school in many different ways. But having to do online schooling has changed the way that they can help.

Since having online school has stopped people from meeting in person, they too have to do meetings online. Just like students and their classes, the Walters PTSA also has to meet through Zoom.

"Every meeting this year has been conducted on Zoom. Since all meetings are on Zoom, some people may not be able to join meetings and miss important details and have to contact the

members privately for the information that they missed," said Joy Garibay, PTSA Historian. This school year the PTSA president is Rosanna Sarmiento.

This year the PTSA is going to help the school by running fundraisers at various restaurants. They have already completed a few this semester. PTSA is also using "wish lists" for the classrooms where parents can help fulfill a teacher's need for the classroom. PTSA is continuing to use their funds to have teacher grants too.

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Calendar

Hanukkah- Dec 10-18

Winter Break- Dec 21- Jan 1

Christmas- Dec 25

Kwanzaa- Dec 26

New Year's- Jan 1

School resumes- Jan 4

Staff Feature: All about Mrs. Fiala

Germeen Shaker Reporter

Mrs. Fiala has been working at Walters for about three years, but this is her 5th year as a counselor in Fremont. So her taking off three months was definitely a challenging thing, but she had to take care of her newborn, Lyla. So it was a hard decision; it's not something where she could just pick up where she left of and it would be an easy choice.

While she does her best not letting motherhood affect her work, she also decided to take three months off (maternity leave), and her balancing work and parent responsibilities can be a challenge. "Choosing to take off three months to spend with my newborn was not easy," said Mrs. Fiala. It wasn't easy because of many things but most importantly it was because it meant that she wouldn't get to be there for her 6th grade students who would be new to Walters and with the online learning.

"I am lucky enough to live with a family who can help take care of my children, Julius and Lyla, while I'm in my office," said Mrs. Fiala.

She added, "It can be hard to focus on meetings sometimes when I can hear them outside my door."

She would want to get up and check on the baby, also because it's extremely distracting if she's trying to talk to a student and she hears crying, babbling, etc.

A thing that helps her focus is that while she's working from home, she tries to focus only on her students and when she's off of work hours, she tries to just focus on her children.

Working from home is easier and challenging at the same time for her because she doesn't have to wake up as early, since she doesn't have to commute "But working from a computer screen is not the same as having meetings and counseling students face-to-face," said Mrs. Fiala.

She also thinks that it's harder for students to communicate with her or because students don't feel comfortable sharing it with her, since it might be harder to create a confidential space online. So this makes it a lot harder for her to really communicate with her students and help them or comfort them.

Mrs. Fiala also feels really grateful that having a baby hasn't negatively affected her career. She said that because she feels like it can and does for unfortunately too many women. So she feels like the Walters community has been so supportive of her taking the time off.

"It was so nice to not feel guilty or like I had to choose between my children and my students since they are both so important to me," she added.

Mrs. Fiala also wanted to let her students know that she is here for them.



Photo from Mrs. Fiala
Mrs. Fiala, Julius (2 years) and Lyla (4 months) spend time at home during her maternity leave.

She said, "If there's any way I can support them at school, I will be happy to do so."

She is also very concerned that maybe because they're at home and surrounded by people that they wouldn't be able to contact, communicate with her, or reach out to her and find her as someone they could talk to.

She doesn't want anyone to feel like they are disconnected with her. If you want to reach out to her, here's her email wfiala@fusdk12.net or you could fill out Walters Virtual Counseling Request Form on the school website.

Over four million cases of COVID-19 in November alone in the U.S

Melissa Lujan Reporter

The United States has reached over 4 million cases of COVID-19 in November, which is more than double of the 1.8 million COVID cases in October, according to Fox7Austin.com.

Lots of people haven't been social distancing and not wearing their masks correctly or even wearing one. In other words, wearing masks and social distancing can help prevent COVID from spreading as it is, as Webmd.com stated.

Lots of things happened during November, such as Thanksgiving, Black Friday or people going Christmas shopping early, most people are crowded together for these events. The election also was a big thing that happened, where lots of people were at the same places at once, spreading the virus, since lots of people don't show symptoms or are unaware.

7th grader Kelly Orozco said, "I know on Black Friday lots of people were crowding stores and weren't social distancing. I think that's where

more COVID cases came in since most (people) aren't wearing masks."

Many families and other people are still throwing parties, even with COVID, that is another reason why COVID cases are going up. A couple of holidays are during these times, such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, and even New Years. The parties they throw spread COVID faster since most of them are not social distancing, considering the fact they are crowded together, spreading COVID faster.