



THE GRIFFIN TIMES

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Editors Eve Ravid and Milo Gomez

THE ALIBIS- FOOTHILL DRAMA II FALL PLAY

By Mrs. Davis

Foothills Drama II class just wrapped up their first play of the year, *The Alibis* by Tyler Dwiggins, Jonathan Dorf, Kathryn Funkhouser, Patrick Greene, Mora V. Harris, Jason Pizzarello, Ian McWethy, and Carrie McWethy (McCrossen). The story is a murder mystery that investigates four suspects in the death of an eccentric billionaire, Leslie J. Arlington. Each suspect has a unique alibi, which connects them to other crimes. In the end, it is discovered that none of the suspects are guilty and Leslie J. Arlington set the whole thing up to trap them into joining his crime family.

The *Alibis* was directed by eighth graders Connor Valladolid and Marley Galloway. Both directors have been in drama since sixth grade and knew how to take the lead. The whole class worked many tireless hours, preparing for this performance, starting from auditioning, memorizing lines, and rehearsing during class and after school. Much time went into planning costumes, the set, lighting, and sound. Each person in the class played an important role in the success of this play. Foothill is lucky to have such talented students who take their passion for drama seriously.

Student Director Connor Valladolid reflects on his experience: *What went well?*

“The majority of people in drama were super good about communication, and I feel that everyone caught the same vibes, which sped things up a lot.”



What would I do differently? “I would speak up a little bit more. It wouldn’t change too much, but commenting on a casting aspect or this person doing something differently could have made things more progressive.”

Do I have other thoughts? “This was really fun; I would do it all over again next semester if Ms. Davis would let me.”

Student Director Marley Galloway commented, “I think that the play went very well, and I am very glad that it went so well.”

Seventh grader Lexi Garcia attended both nights and shared, “The drama play was amazing; I loved how well everyone did both nights; all of the lighting was perfect, and everyone acted great. Each of the stories was funny, and they perfected it like they were the people. I don’t think anyone forgot their lines, and if they did, they played it off so well I wouldn’t even notice! I’m so happy I went (both nights), And I would go again!” If you did not catch the fall play this year, the talented Drama II class will perform again in April. You will not want to miss out!



Dasha Chebotarev (8th), Jackson Horton (8th), and Max Fagin (8th) interrogation of suspect Sparky Randall.

LEADERSHIP'S CANDY CANE CARNIVAL

By: Gigi Fuess and Aubrielle Dorsett

The Candy Cane Carnival for seventh and eighth graders was hosted by leadership on November 30th. It included fun activities and delicious food! There were games like volleyball, cup pong, pickleball, and musical chairs at the carnival! At the games, you could win candy prizes. Tickets for food and drink were two dollars, and they had hot cocoa, Gatorade, pizza, popcorn, shaved ice, and cotton candy! Leadership did an amazing job running the event, and if you could not make this one, be sure to check it out soon! Check out these photos to see all the fun moments at the social!



FOOTHILL'S FAVORITE WINTER HOLIDAYS

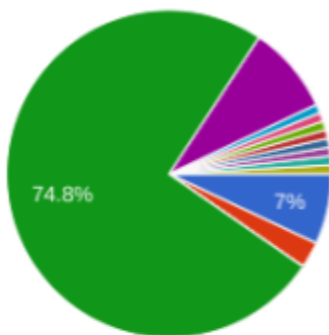
By Eve Ravid

Winter is a wonderful time of the year, with many holidays. I surveyed Foothill to find out which of these diverse holidays was a favorite among Foothill students, and I got over 100 responses!

I was not surprised that Christmas came out on top, with a whopping 74.8% of students favoring it- but Christmas was not the only popular holiday.

“ I love New Year, especially in Hawaii, because of the magical fireworks, awesome food, and overall the start of a new year.”, expresses 7th grader Aubrielle Dorsett.

Thanksgiving is Nia Bankov's favorite winter holiday because “It is when you can give thanks to people that you do not say it to everyday..... you need to be thankful for them, so this day is to appreciate those things.”



Foothill students' favorite winter holidays! Happy holidays to all!

Candy Craze

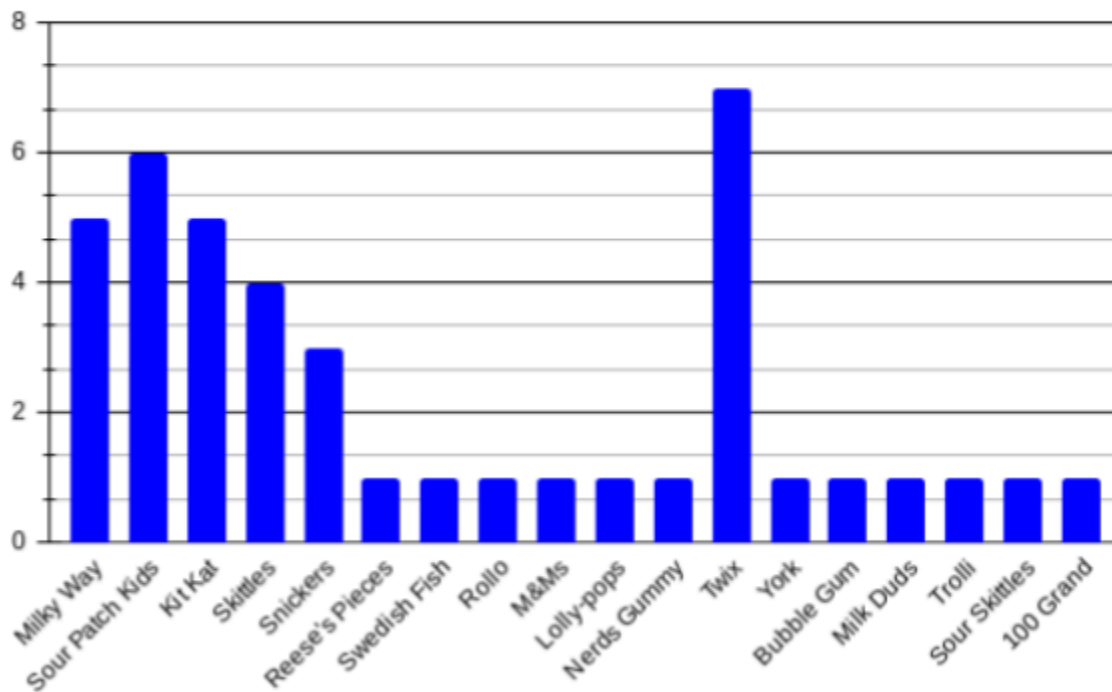
By Rebecca Boulton

Halloween has recently passed (depending on when you're reading this), and the candy is all the rage. Our favorite candies are Milky Ways and Sour Patch Kids, but we wanted to see who agreed with us and what candy was the most popular amongst Foothill students.

The overall winner was Twix, with 16.7% of people (seven people) saying it was their favorite. Second place was Sour Patch Kids, with 14% of people favoring it.

There were mainstream candies such as Twix, Milky Way, Kit-Kat, etc. Since they were all mainstream candies, most of them were popular. The number may not seem big as we asked forty-two people and documented the results. There were lots of candies that had only one, such as Reese's Pieces, Swedish Fish, Rollos, M&Ms, Lollipops, Nerds Gummies, Yorks, Hubba Bubba Bubble Gum, Milk Duds, Trolli, Sour Skittles and 100 Grand. Graph showing data from the poll

Overall, this was quite interesting and fun to do. I was not very surprised that Twix won. What surprised me is that 100 Grand got only one vote.



Graph with data from the poll.

HOMEWORK: IS THE “A” WORTH THE STRESS?

By Rhea Lokesh and Kayliann Zung

In the entire world, the U.S. has the most stressed students in school. Today, the average middle school student (aged 11 - 13) experiences more stress than a child psychiatric patient in the 1950s. Piles of never-ending work can significantly impact a child's behavior.

The homework load for many 6th-grade students at Foothill includes an IXL or IP assignment for math, science, and some core homework. The specifics may vary depending on a student's elective courses, but if you take music, you must practice your instrument for 20 minutes daily. This homework workload can range from 20 minutes to three hours for a typical 6th-grade student. According to an online survey, 72% of students exhibit negative behaviors associated with stress from homework. Parents can inadvertently add to the stress when they question their children about their poor grades. There is also the "what if thinking": when students ponder, "What if I don't achieve good grades, and my parents become upset with me?"

Ms. Casassa from the 6th-grade math department emphasizes that staying organized is the key to success. She assigns 20 minutes of online homework and acknowledges the advantages and disadvantages of using Google Classroom. "It's important for easy communication with students, but some students click the 'turn in' button even when they haven't completed the assignment." Additionally, there are opportunities for retakes to alleviate some of the stress related to testing and achieving specific grades in her class. Ms. Casassa stresses that the top priority is not getting an “A” but ensuring her students master the standards.

Now that we've heard from the teachers let's see what the students have to say! Levi Hershman believes that a letter grade shouldn't define one's life. He argues, "Stress isn't worth a letter. You should pass your tests without stress." However, some students disagree with that. Kayliann Zung disagrees, saying, “ A little stress can be a good thing; it can motivate students to be organized. But too much stress can take a toll on their behavior.” Stress could motivate some students, but for some, it scares them; everyone is different in their mind, emotions, and opinions.

In conclusion, homework stress is a pressing issue affecting students worldwide, especially in the United States—the burden of assignments and the fear of parental disappointment. Homework can take a significant toll on students' mental and emotional well-being. However, it's crucial to recognize that teachers like Ms. Casassa are aware of these challenges and are taking steps to remove stress through innovative teaching methods and focusing on mastery over grades.

ECK CLUB

By Rhea Lokesh

The Environmentally Concerned Kids Club or ECK Club is helping to make Foothill Middle School an environment-friendly school. The club does various activities, such as working in the garden, making posters, etc. The ECK club will also go to the Monterey Bay Aquarium on an overnight trip later in the year. They are starting a raffle this year where you can win various gift cards to encourage people to sort their garbage correctly.

Some people need to pay more attention when they sort their garbage during lunch or brunch. Therefore, recycling goes into the garbage bin when it can be recycled and reused. So, the club had a great idea to start a raffle. To get a raffle ticket, you only need to sort your garbage correctly, and you might get a ticket. You then go to the office and put the ticket in your grades box. At the end of every month, a few names will be given prizes. By participating in sorting out your trash, you can win MYO, Teaspoon, Starbird, MOD Pizza, and Starbucks gift cards. There will also be an individual raffle in the ECK club, so if you join, you could win more gift cards.

Alex McCarty is the ECK club President, and Chloe Carey is the ECK club Vice President. Chloe's goals this year are to restore the garden, present at Walnut Acres, go on a field trip at the end of the year, recruit more people to help save our planet, and make Foothill Middle School greener and a better school. Sixth grader Alisa Ratnikova has recently joined the ECK club.



REUSE
REDUCE
RECYCLE

“I love helping to restore our school's garden because you can get dirty, do good deeds, and help the environment,” she says.

Alisa likes the ECK club because it is fun to be with friends, and you have a better opportunity to win prizes. Most ECK club members also enjoy working in the garden because it helps the environment and is fun.

Overall, Foothills’ ECK club is doing many things this year, such as launching a raffle, restoring the garden, and recruiting more people. If you are interested in joining, club meetings take place every

Monday in B3 from 2:45-4:00 with Mr. Jackson. We hope you will help make Foothill Middle School a better and greener place!

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: MS. SCHNEE

By Paree Kaujalgi

This year, Ms. Schnee came to our school as a vice principal. Ms. Schnee was vice principal at Sequoia Middle School before coming to Foothill. Foothill is similar to her old school because there are amazing kids and incredible teachers.

Her least favorite part of being a vice principal is doing paperwork; the best part is hanging with and talking to kids. She also likes working and helping kids make positive decisions.

Her favorite subject in school was science because she liked doing experiments. When she was in middle school, she wanted to be a teacher.

She has two kids, one girl and one boy, who attend high school and middle school.

Her kids think being a vice principal is an okay job for their mom.

Ms. Schnee's favorite dessert is pecan pie, and she has a dog named Budder, a very cute beagle pug. She also has a cat named Miso and another dog named Daisy. Be sure to say hello to Ms. Schnee around campus!



Winter Break Activity Ideas

By Mrs. Davis

1. Sleep
2. Eat
3. Ski/Snowboard
4. Cook/Bake
5. Hang out with friends
6. Read a book
7. Watch sports
8. Go to the movies
9. Crafts
10. Listening to music



11. Travel
12. Family time
13. Play games
14. Build a snowman
15. Make gingerbread houses
16. Play video games
17. Sledding
18. Snowball fights
19. Sleepover with friends
20. Go for a hike





Puzzlemaker is a puzzle generation tool for teachers, students and parents. Create and print customized word search, criss-cross, math puzzles, and more-using your own word lists.

Holidays Around the World

P X V N V R R S Z Q B B I M N B W E R V V D N N H D R H A R
U M L C B A A L C L A G P S K X B M Y E I M Y F I F A N A P
O D L T M W L F R B K W I K L H G J A A T M O T N Q F W Z R
D D M R S Z E E A I O Q O E J D U T D F S S M E A V Z S N Y
O M I S O K A A N N H E L Z U S R E I O I Q A I M K N X A E
Z X X M G U X R F T S Q Y R I E L Z H S T X F E A Q L M W N
K I T Q V D V G A U I W V N K O I L D Q P L A X T N M F K S
K J B H O L I R H Q D N M G S I D T O L D W V M S E E A N U
R X Y X S J X C E J U T E M C M H K B P D S V K U G P D N B
E N T Z B E T D I V X S U S M Z M I L R J E Z X R F H C N R
R P E N M U B Z C L O E G Y D W V T H A N K S G I V I N G T
I T R W Q Y H Y G H R S E E C A I G G M I L D Y D D S S K U
H R N X Y H P Q I T L G S H I M Y F U A Y B Q D Y Q I D R Q
U C E L M E J L O E Z U W A H V K R K D B J N R H D T E I O
D H J C G P A S E Z B F A L P N D P M A N M M G W P S I U E
H S M W Z W Y R S U W G H G N Y Y U I N N M W A X I Q Y W T
U T U X I M V H P Q J C E I J A S A M T S I R H C Y F A Q M
H I J D A T R A M A R C H Z T D A R V Q M Y B O K G F F W A
M F F A E Q W F W J I B O S I W J M E V O P J R J T I I F D
B V N J C A H Y R P R I F A Z W X M O B S M I M Y N J I L E
L S U Z F X B P Q Y J M J X Z K R Y J R C C B V M C A K E P
W G Z B X Q O G A U Z H P F H T T K O B Z G L Y Q A T N B M
H R D U H E S D M A R O P A U K I T C M T R E Z B B W D F C
D A D A K V G N L Z Y V M B D W F C C S K T F P U S O Z Q Z
I G K L Y N H H Q I Z O C I H G L U U F Q I Q K U I Z E W I
B Z K K I W W B W D T D O A Q S A K A Q I O P P T H M X P C
G N Z X U Z N X C X U Z H Z U J D Q H X U E B P A N Z W N U
F G O G W N Z Z V V G Y Y Q B A I N Z I W P E K U Y X V P N
J B V M Y L A N E E W O L L A H E I X D N D D G C R B M Y B
L Y K H C J J K D G R L J E Q S W N C N T N G C Y P M F G H

Baba

Christmas

Diwali

Halloween

Kanukkah

NewYear

Ramadan

YomKippur

BodhiDay

Chuseok

Easter

Hinamatsuri

Kwanzaa

Omisoka

Thanksgiving

BoxingDay

DiaDeLosMuertos

EidAlFitr

Holi

Marta

Passover

ValentinesDay

22 of 22 words placed.