



THE GRIFFIN TIMES

OCTOBER 2023 | The Student Newspaper of Foothill Middle School

Editors Eve Ravid and Milo Gomez

GRIFFIN TIMES 2023-2024

Welcome Griffin students to the Foothill Newspaper the Griffin Times. This club is run by Mrs. Davis, Eve Ravid and Milo Gomez with the purpose of producing a newspaper to provide you with information about our community and school. They have been running for one year already and are eager to start another year of producing newspapers for the students of Foothill Middle School. If you are interested in writing or being part of the club come to our meetings on Mondays after school, 2:40-3:10. Enjoy their first issue!

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: MRS. STULL

By Eve Ravid and Paree Kaujalgi

Any of you here last year remember Mrs. Stull as vice principal. Mrs. Stull has now been promoted to Principal. Before Mrs. Stull came to Foothill, she was a teacher at Concord High and a Vice Principal at Valley View Middle School.

“Highschool is a little different because the kids are a lot older and there is a lot more going on” she shares. Her least favorite part of being a principal is all the meetings she has to go to, but her job keeps her surprised and interested because everyday is different. One of her favorite parts about the job is spending time with students, “Hanging out with kids is my favorite place no matter what.”

“What was your favorite subject at school?” I ask.

“I loved english when I was younger and then, when I got older and could take electives, I really liked sign language and psychology.”

She wanted to be a psychologist when she was in highschool, but she first knew she wanted to be a teacher when she got to work in the deaf and hard of hearing class with students who signed. She then got a job after high school helping students who are deaf.

When Mrs. Stull isn't working, she loves to hike and spend time outside. She also loves to cook and bake, “I love cooking so many things, but I'm really into different Asian foods right now.” Mrs Stull has two boys, aged 17 and 8. “They are not impressed with me obviously, a mom, although my little one thinks he wants to go to my school when he's older and I'm like ‘wait buddy, you find out once you're older, you're not going to want to hang out with Mom!’” She also has two cats - a young energetic one who thinks she is a dog, and a not so energetic old and grumpy one.

We wish Mrs. Stull a great year and remember to say hello to her as you see her around campus.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT: MR. SNOW

By Aubrielle Dorsett and Gigi Fuess

This month we had the honor of interviewing Mr. Snow. It's Mr. Snow's second year teaching at Foothill and last year we both (Gigi and Aubrielle) had the privilege to have him as a math teacher. Mr. Snow only teaches sixth-grade math this year instead of sixth and seventh.

'Why do you teach?' we asked Mr. Snow. "I feel like teaching is a very important job. I worked in education all my life. I've always wanted to know how to teach better. After Covid, I wanted to work with students rather than study their way of learning," he states.

We then asked, what are your favorite hobbies and what do you like to do on the weekend? "I love mountain biking. I love it because mountain biking helps me do exercise and keep my energy levels up. But it also helps me work through problems in my head." He starts, "When I do tough exercise, it helps get out things in my head that are challenging for me. I also like going off trail and seeing places I can't see by car" he continues.

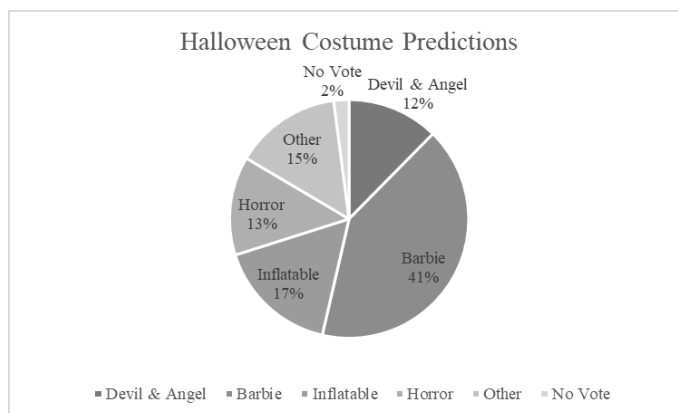
We asked if he would like to teach any other grades because we understand that teaching one grade for a long time can be challenging. He responded with "I think that 6th-grade math content is a bit boring for me. I'm more interested in 7th and 8th-grade math because the content is more interesting. I also have a single-subject credential in social science, and I would really love to teach history." I hope this interview helped you learn more about Mr. Snow.



WHAT HALLOWEEN COSTUME IS MOST POPULAR?

By Carson Honey and Sofia Simmons.

Thank you to the 186 people who voted in our Halloween Costume poll. Also thank you to Aubrielle Dorsett for running the poll box for these results during second lunch. These are our results, there was a landslide for the winner and thank you again to those who voted and helped on this poll.

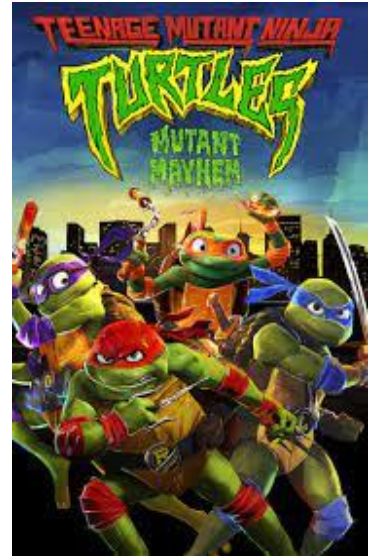


COWABUNGA! TURTLES DESTROY THE BOX OFFICE!

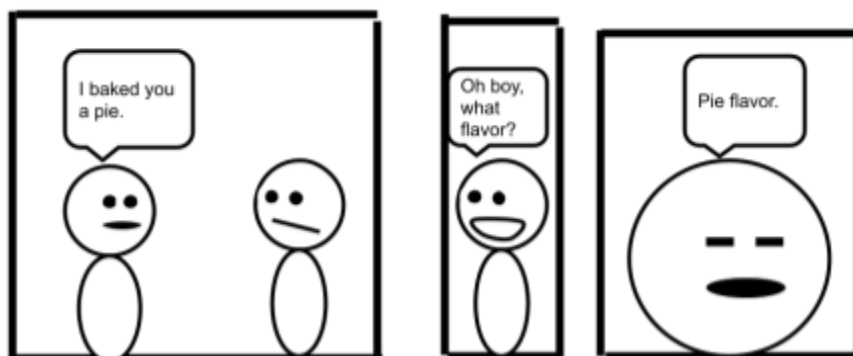
By Oliver Ward, Kiran Pannu, and Elijah Salter

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle Mutant Mayhem produced and written by Seth Rogen “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles” is a comedic action movie with heart” and is what it is described as. Unlike all other films and TV shows of TMNT, it has a teenage cast, giving it a much better tone and similarity to the characters and cast. The rating of this movie is a whopping 98% on Rotten Tomatoes surpassing Oscar-winning *Spider-Man: Into the Spider Verse*. The movie pulled in over 1.67 million US Dollars. This Movie is PG and is an excellent addition to the world of childhood movies.

The film has the best cast you will ever see, including Nicholas Cantu, Brady Noon, Seth Rogen, Jackie Chan, John Cena, Ice Cube, and more. Dave Morales says “It’s the funniest cast ever assembled.” This film also has one of the best soundtracks, including “Ante Up”, “No Diggity”, “Ninja Rap”, and more. It has been confirmed that a sequel will be released.



This movie starts 15 years ago with Techno Cosmic Research Institute’s (or TCRI) lead scientist going rogue. The lead scientist has created mutants, but TCRI wants to use them as a weapon which he couldn't allow. When he died the mutants got away. While searching the lab where the mutants were created, a canister of ooze was knocked into the sewer, creating the turtles. Fifteen years later, we see the turtles planning to steal groceries from a bodega and get Party Size Cool Ranch Doritos from a Lays van. Seth Rogen said, “That 15 seconds into the movie you see they’re teenage boys.” This statement implies very heavily that the boys are teenagers to match their character counterparts. They go and see an outdoor movie night (With Leo being skeptical) They realize they can’t live their entire lives in the sewer. They return to the sewer where they are scared by the rat father, Splinter (Jackie Chan) . Then Splinter gives them the worst punishment, the story of him and the turtle's back story, which to them is a punishment, but to the audience, it’s a recap of their story. This movie has created a worldwide phenomenon that has shaped many people's lives, families, happiness, and finally, the ultimate move... COWABUNGA!!!



By Matthew Connolly

WHY YOU SHOULD GO TO THE CREEK

By Rhea Lokesh and Sofia Simmons

Many people at Foothill Middle School go to the Creek. Why? Well the Creek has a variety of activities and fun staff members. But, unlike other after-school programs, The Creek, in our opinion, is the best.

The Creek is the best because it offers a wide range of activities such as cooking, arts crafts, and games. "I really like the arts and crafts because there is a variety," says Juliet Giurnalda, a student that attends The Creek. After interviewing some people, I find that the favorite activity in the Creek is cooking because the staff members make it fun. They also have a pet gecko named Dart (that you can pick up), a foosball table, pool and more! Additionally, there is a homework room available for students to work in, making it easy to complete your homework. As soon as you arrive, they serve snacks everyday. There are other activities to enjoy as well, including a Wii and an Xbox. They also play movies every Wednesday.

The staff at The Creek are very helpful, they can help you with art activities, homework and they make outdoor games more fun. The director, Paulina, has worked at the Creek for seven years, and made a difference in making the Creek more enjoyable and a safe environment for students. Paulina says "My favorite part of the Creek is watching students grow and learn new things." Other staff members include Dalia, Hailey, Jared, Tiana, Seira, and Michel.

Many Foothill students enjoy going to the Creek because the staff make it fun and we "It is very easy to make new friends at the Creek because everyone is so nice." says Alisha Ratinaoua. The Creek is a fun way to spend your time after school. We hope to see you there soon!

HOW ARE 6TH GRADERS LIKING FOOTHILL?

By Rebecca Boulton

Recently I was wondering what percentage of 6th graders are enjoying middle school, so I decided to interview one person, along with polling twenty-five people!

Interview with Bo Biagi:

Q:How do you like middle school?

A: I like middle school, even though there is a bit of homework and a ton of drama. But I love hanging out with my friends!

Q: What is your favorite class?

A: My favorite class is probably PE.

Q:Why do you like PE?

A: I like PE because we get to play a bunch of sports and learn new ones too.

Q:What is your least favorite subject?

A:Science, because there is a lot of work and I don't understand a lot of it.

Out of 25 students in 6th grade 18 students said yes, they enjoy middle school and 7 students said no, they are not enjoying middle school. 72% of kids said they were enjoying middle school. So almost 3/4 of the students said that they like middle school. That means that 28% of students are not enjoying their year at Foothill Middle School.

NORTHGATE BEATS MIRAMONTE VOLLEYBALL

By Kingsley Dy

The game started with the Freshman team with Miramonte getting the first point. Soon the set became 10-4. Miramonte called the first timeout of the game.

After the timeout, Northgate #11 made two good plays which put Northgate at (12-5) and (15-7). The first was a putback to Miramonte's side. The second was a block. Northgate then took a 22-12 lead as they were three points close to winning the set. Then, Northgate entered its set point. But, it wasn't over for the Matadors yet. Miramonte went on to tie the set! Northgate then calls a timeout.

Miramonte led by one before Northgate ended their rally. The rules of volleyball state that a volleyball team must win by at least two points. It was 24-25, 25-26, and 26-27, all set points for Miramonte. But after the 26-27, Miramonte won set one with a score of 26-28, it was an amazing comeback! A 3-minute intermission to the second set afterward.

Northgate took the first point in set two. They went on to score 14 straight before Miramonte scored a single point! Two timeouts from Miramonte happened during the Northgate rally. As Northgate reached 20 points, Miramonte only scored two points!

Then Northgate went into its set point with a score of 24-5. They just went on to win the set, 25-5, a dominant set for the Broncos. A two-minute intermission followed.

Set three was the final set of the freshman game. It was first to 15 points to win the game. Northgate got the first point of set three. And then the intensity rolled in for the first time in the game as Northgate grabbed the point from that rally. Miramonte called a timeout afterward. Northgate reached 10, and Miramonte only scored three. Northgate enters their match point with a set score of 14-5. The Broncos went on to win the game with the set three score of 15-5. The Match score was 2-1. A 20-minute break followed as we transitioned from the freshman team to JV team. The highlight players of the game for me were #8 and #13.

The JV game started with Northgate blocking Miramonte. It was a 2-0 game to Northgate before the Mats took two back as they tied it, 2-2. They then led by four and Northgate called a timeout. That timeout proved not helpful as Miramonte became the first team to go to ten points. And then we saw Northgate come back and Miramonte tacking up eight more points to go up 16-18. Miramonte called a timeout after an intense spot of the ball landing, which led Northgate to a point.

Northgate then tied it at 18 for the first time since 3-3. One rally later, the Broncos took the lead. It became an intense battle for the set, but everyone was confused because the scoreboard malfunctioned and displayed a huge 1-22 lead for Miramonte. It was fixed back to 23-22 later. Northgate then entered the set point and later won the set by a score of 25-23. I was still wondering if it was a comeback or not. Some old intermissions are as follows.

Northgate took the first point in JV set two, then the brutality came in. As #33 from Miramonte slid to hit the ball, she got hurt. We all clapped as she did well during the game, and what we were supposed to do when a player is injured. When Northgate tied the set at eight, Miramonte called another timeout.

A crazy rally happened but #16 came to score a point for Northgate in an intense set. The ball then hit the lifted-up basketball hoop and Miramonte couldn't hit the ball because of that I was confused.

Northgate called a timeout. Miramonte took a three-point lead in the set but Northgate came back to rally back to tie it at 20 as this set became the most intensifying. Northgate entered it's match point but just as Miramonte tried to come back,

ALL ABOUT BLAYNE BALLARD

By Carson Honey

Blayne Ballard is number 10 on the Northgate High School football team. He is in his sixth year of playing. His dad is the coach of the team, which, according to Blayne, has its pros and cons. The con is that people always think he is not as good as the other players because he is the coach's son, but his dad also helps him by making him work harder than everyone else. They talk about football a lot, which helps him to improve. Usually, Blayne plays as a wide receiver on the offense and as a corner on the defense. But, in one game, the quarterback got hurt so Blayne had to play that position.

He went to Mount Diablo Elementary and Diablo View Middle School. Blayne also plays two other sports, soccer and baseball. He thinks football is a special sport because you can't play it as an adult unless you play for a semi-pro or pro team. He enjoys being able to use his anger, aggression, and resentment in a way that doesn't get him in trouble. I hope you enjoyed getting to know Blayne Ballard.

Fall Fun

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SQUIRREL
TREE
CRISP
GRATEFUL
PIE
NOVEMBER
APPLES
THANKFUL
AUTUMN
SUNFLOWER
LEAVES
FEAST
PUMPKIN
SQUASH
OWL
SCARECROW

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