



# THE GRIFFIN TIMES

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Editors Eve Ravid and Milo Gomez

## Lunar New Year

By Kayliann Zung

Many countries in Asia celebrate the Lunar New Year. The Lunar New Year is based on a calendar that follows the cycles of the moon instead of the sun. The date changes every year. This year, the Lunar New Year is February 10. There are many traditions from different countries and cultures of Asia. In many other cultures, there are various explanations for their traditions. 7th-grade Foothill student Kingsley Dy celebrates the Lunar New Year and is excited to share his traditions. His parents come from China to celebrate. His favorite part about celebrating the Lunar New Year is being in Chinatown. He celebrates by setting up decorations around the house and meeting up with relatives. A 7th-grade student says they celebrate the Lunar New Year by handing out red envelopes with money inside for good luck. They are from Taiwan and also enjoy going to Chinatown. Their favorite part about the Lunar New Year is the yummy food!

Another student, Zhihao Xu, is Chinese and celebrates the Lunar New Year. He has traditions with his family for the Lunar New Year, such as eating food and reuniting with relatives. The unique tradition that Zhihao does is watching 春晚 or The Chinese New Year Gala. The following day, he will 拜年, wishing your relatives good luck! (\*note: this will only be done to families older by generation) These are just some of the traditions that students around the school do! Though everyone is unique in their celebrations, we share a similar tradition: celebrating the new year. Happy New Year!



Dragon Dancing at San Francisco's Annual Lunar New Year Parade

## MRS. DUGGAN'S EGYPT NIGHT

By Matthew Connolly

Recently, Mrs. Duggan, a Foothill teacher, hosted an immersive Egypt Night in the MUR on Friday, February 2. It was from 7:00 to 8:00 PM. Mrs. Duggan's three Core classes (7,1), (3,4), and (5,6) worked on four items for Egypt Night: a papier-mache animal, a posterboard explaining their topic about Ancient Egypt (medicine, women, etc.), an interactive exhibit, and a homemade pyramid. All of Mrs. Duggan's students had to dress up as Ancient Egyptians. Her students also had to come up with challenges for kids to try and earn tickets for prizes. One example is Oliver and Rhys's shadoof, where you lowered the bucket and pulled out a piece of paper with a number. That would be how much candy you got. You could earn some tickets if you did it within a specific time limit. Using your tickets, you could redeem them with how many you earned. There was the Nile River (a big blue sheet of paper) with the paper mache animals and the pyramids on the sides, with the walls decorated with hieroglyphics.

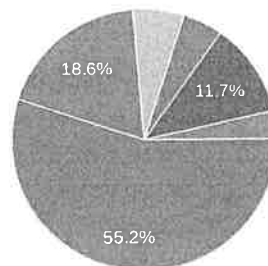


## VALENTINE'S DAY AT FOOHILL

By Eve Ravid

In the spirit of Valentine's Day, I conducted a poll to find how Foothill students celebrate Valentine's. After some investigating, I discovered that not many people have a specific tradition when it comes to Valentine's, so I asked Foothill their favorite thing to receive on Valentine's Day. Whether it's from a family member, a friend, or a partner, I gave people a few options for their favorite Valentine's gift: Candy, chocolate, stuffed animals, cards, flowers, or other handmade gifts, and I got one hundred and forty-five responses!

Out of the 145 responses, 55.2% or 80 people said their favorite gift to receive is candy, which, given the age, makes sense. The runner-up is stuffed animals, with 18.6% or 27 people. Next were handmade gifts with 17 votes, flowers with nine votes, cards with seven votes, and chocolate with five votes. I enjoyed getting to know Foothill students' favorite Valentine's Gift, and I hope you did too! Happy Valentine's!



- Candy
- Stuffed Animals
- Flowers
- Card
- Other handmade gifts
- Chocolate

# Foothill's Longest Paper Chain

By: Sofia Simmons and Kayliann Zung

In Mrs. Duggan's core periods, five and six sixth-grade students in two periods made the longest paper chain this school has ever known. Reaching longer than the core plaza is wide, even with curves along the way. Made of a lot of paper, staples, tape, hard work, and determination, these students put together a chained masterpiece! When Mrs. Duggan's sub said that the activity of the two classes was to watch 'It's a Wonderful Life' in the corner or to help decorate the classroom by making paper wreaths, snowflakes, and of course, paper chains, most of the class decided to create a paper chain so long that it would reach along the whole classroom. Little did they know, their paper chain would reach even longer than expected! On December 18, yearbook students came to take a picture of this work of art.



Most of the full length of the chain. It continues to go past the picture starting from one end to the other.

Tia Bright says, "It was really fun, everyone was working together and building friendships. I love how we are going to be part of the yearbook".

"This chain will never be complete until it's as tall as the Statue of Liberty", says Josie, who's idea started this all. That will remain true as long as this class stays friends and continues to add to the chain.



Students including I, Sofia Simmons hold part of the chain.



Students hold another end of the chain even though it goes off the photo.

## STANLEY WATER BOTTLES: WHAT'S THE HYPE?

By Rhea Lokesh and Kayiann Zung



A tall Stanley cup on a desk towers over other water bottles at Foothill. But what are these water bottles, and why are they so popular? Some say it's because of a viral car crash video or its ability to keep drinks cold for numerous hours. Others just purchase them because their friends have them.

The viral Stanley cup has popped up on desks around our school, but why did people start getting them? Perry de Lucia says it's because of the popular video with 90 million views after a lady's car caught fire. The Stanley in her car survived the fire and still had water and ice. After this video, Stanley's sales went up 750 million dollars.

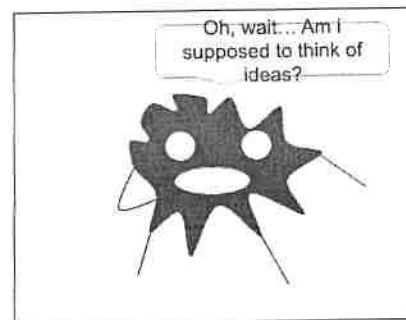
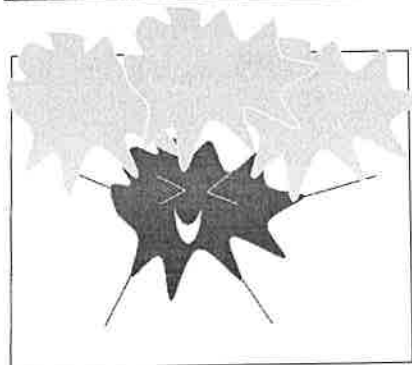
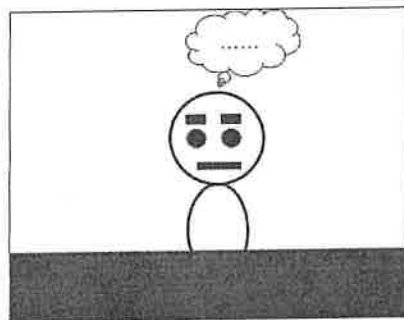
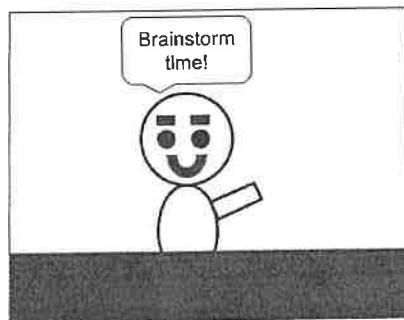
Perry de Lucia recently purchased a pink Stanley on her birthday in January. "I think owning a Stanley encourages you to drink more water, and it's really big." Perry heard about Stanleys when they started to gain popularity. "I think Stanleys are popular and practical

for school." Alisa Ratnikova disagrees, saying, "Stanleys are overrated." She thinks Stanleys are overpriced. "Why would you pay \$45 for a water bottle? You can get cheaper water bottles for \$20 or less." Others like Marianna are two-sided about Stanleys: "I have a Stanley, and personally, it is good for holding water, but it's so popular because people want to act cool and be part of a new trend."

We polled some people on their favorite colors of Stanleys; the most popular were Creme and White! It's hard to predict whether or not Stanley will go out of fashion in the next few years. However, as long as they continue

providing high-quality and durable water bottles, they will likely remain popular among consumers. Ultimately, it's up to the individual to decide what type of water bottle best fits their needs and preferences. Maybe Stanleys will go out of fashion like the other water bottles in a couple of years?

### Brainstorm



By Matthew Connolly- Idea from Bored Panda

## PIZZA TOWER

By John Gomez

The 2023 platformer Pizza Tower has taken the world by storm, getting 10/10 on Steam with ‘Overwhelmingly Positive’ reviews, being nominated for 3 of the most significant game awards, and winning the Gamemaker awards against high-quality nominees such as FAITH and The Unholy Trinity. Unsurprisingly, the 4-year wait for Pizza Tower to come out was worth it! The game revolves around pizza chef Peppino Spaghetti, who runs a struggling pizza business and gets visited by a floating Pizza called Pizzaface, who threatens his restaurant with a nuclear laser. Peppino is helped by Gustavo, one of Peppino’s associates, and Mr. Stick. Pizza Tower is a fast-paced game like Sonic the Hedgehog and the spiritual successor to the Wario Land series.

You do not have health or lives, unlike most platformers, and the game’s difficulty depends on what you plan to achieve and what level you play in the tower, as they are not in a specific order. On every level, there are five toppings, each granting \$10 to open the boss gate of that floor, three secrets, and a Tower Secret Treasure. These Tower Treasures are needed for the true ending. A new gimmick is added once per level called transformations. These transformations will change Peppino’s move set and need to progress through a level to defeat “Stupid Rats,” which cannot be defeated with Peppino in his base form. These transformations can be removed by finding a priest. Some of the transformations include golfing, a pizza box, a knight, and a ghost. After seeing the John Pillar at the end of every level, you need to break it to start “Pizza Time,” in which you’ll have a certain amount of time to get back to the exit gate; otherwise, Pizzaface will be alerted; and if you are caught, the game is over, and you’ll be sent back to the tower to try again. If you reach the entrance gate where you started the level, you’ll get a ranking based on your score and money based on how many toppings you saved.

After getting a certain amount of money, you must find Mr. Stick in the tower lobby of that floor to rent a boss gate. After renting the boss gate, Peppino will face a boss who will grant the key to the next floor needed to progress to the next floor. The game has a visual art style reminiscent of 90’s cartoons and a stunning soundtrack, although it has some light profanity and sometimes offensive hand gestures. The game also has homages to popular series and characters, such as The Noise, which is based on Domino’s Noid mascot, and a level that is a homage to Five Nights at Freddy’s. Overall, Pizza Tower is the spiritual successor to Wario Land 4 with a similar level of design and gameplay. If you can’t buy the game on Steam, there is a demo from 2019 on Itch.io that shows some of the game aspects from that standpoint, such as finding Pizza Coins to use a particular transformation.



## WHY VOTE?

By Zoya Desai

“The ballot is stronger than the bullet” - Abraham Lincoln. “Someone struggled for your right to vote, use it” - Susan B Anthony.

2024 is the 60th federal election held in our country since 1789. Voting is a crucial aspect of any democratic society as it allows citizens to actively participate in the decision-making process. It empowers individuals to have a say in shaping the future of their country and ensures that their voices are heard. The process of voting involves several steps, starting with the registration of eligible voters. Once registered, citizens are provided with the opportunity to cast their votes either in person at designated polling stations or through mail-in ballots. This process ensures that every eligible citizen has an equal chance to exercise their right to vote.

When it comes to voting, there are several important people involved in ensuring a fair and transparent process. Election officials play a vital role in organizing and overseeing the voting process. They are responsible for setting up polling stations, verifying voter identities, and ensuring that the voting machines are functioning properly. Additionally, political candidates and their campaign teams are instrumental in encouraging citizens to vote and raising awareness about the importance of participating in elections. They engage in various activities such as organizing rallies, debates, and advertising campaigns to mobilize voters and garner support for their respective causes. Ultimately, the collective efforts of these individuals contribute to the smooth functioning of the democratic process. Make sure you encourage your parents, relatives, friends, and anyone else who is eligible to vote to do their part in our democratic society!

## SUPER BOWL LVIII

By: Kingsley Dy & Ethan Ho

Recently, on Sunday, February 11, the Super Bowl came and went once again. It was a big game between the National Football Conference (NFC) Champion, the San Francisco 49ers, and the American Football Conference (AFC) Champion, the Kansas City Chiefs! The game took place in Las Vegas, inside the Allegiant Stadium. The Super Bowl is the National Football League championship game (NFL) for people who don't know. People were predicting the 49ers to win.

By the end of the 1st quarter, it was 0-0, which would be another close game for me. But that quarter was boring.

The 2nd quarter got more interesting, with 10-3 Niners at the half. Jake Moody got the Super Bowl record for a 55-yard kick. Then CMC catches a pass from Jauan Jennings to make things 10-0. And then the Chiefs get on the board with a Butker field goal kick.

Usher performed in this year's Apple Music Halftime Show. Social media said the halftime show was arguably one of the best ever.

The third quarter they had the Chiefs roaring back, with Butker kicking the 57-yard FG and claiming the record for himself. Then a muffed punt turns into a Marquez Valdes-Scantling TD, making it a 10-13 KC lead. It sounded as usual, like Super Bowl LIV.



The fourth quarter was just a roller coaster. Jennings caught a 10-yard touchdown, and the 49ers had a 16-13 lead. Butker kicked a field goal to tie things up, 16-16. Jake Moody hit a 53-yard clutch FG and took the lead 19-16. The 49ers seemed to start celebrating, but it was not over for Magic Mahomes and the KC Chiefs yet.

Mahomes took it down the field for a long drive to put the Chiefs in field goal range. Butker kicked the FG, and we're headed to the 2nd OT in Super Bowl history. The 49ers won the coin toss for OT and elected to receive. They turned that into a field goal but then tried to contain Mahomes. He tried a final drive to win the Super Bowl. These were 75 yards that Kansas City had to earn because it was clear the 49ers had no intention of giving up, and boy, did the Chiefs earn it- they got it 60, 50, 40, 30, 20, 10, and then all heck broke loose. The last 10 yards were intense; it was clear that the 49ers had to give everything they had for these 10 yards. Those 10 yards for both teams were ridiculously high stakes. Although the 49ers were up 3, none mattered because if the Chiefs could score a touchdown, they would get 6 points and win the Super Bowl. It was eventually the game's final drive, and the 49ers wouldn't get possession unless the Chiefs kicked a field goal.

This Super Bowl represents everything they could want: their pride, their team's pride, their joy, and their rings. This was everything they lived for. None of these yards were free to take, and both teams knew that for Kansas City to take these final yards, they would have to work for it - and they did. After ramming into their defenses rather successfully, bringing it to 2nd and 7, 10 yards away from the goal, they decided surprisingly to take a gamble and try to pass the ball.

After Mahomes threw it to Kelce in the middle, all that was left was to charge and hope for the best. After ramming through several 49ers players, he was finally brought down. He successfully gained 7 yards in that play, bringing it to 1st and goal, just over 3 yards from touchdown.

This was not good for the 49ers because the Chiefs only had around 10 feet left from the touchdown, but they had four downs to make those 10 feet. After Mahomes threw it to Hardman, he quickly ran the remaining few feet and scored the final touchdown. Suddenly, the stadium was wild, with red and orange confetti falling and players hugging, celebrating, and crying. Their fans did the same thing as the players. Meanwhile, on the 49ers sideline, heartbroken and sad players were heading for their locker room. Their fans started to pack the gates. This was the greatest Super Bowl ever played. The Chiefs are Super Bowl Champions once again. It was the first repeat since the 2003-04 Patriots. The Chiefs cemented the dynasty, marking the beginning of something new in football.



Comic By: Drake Barney and Mayo Akinsola