



# THE GRIFFIN TIMES

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**Editor Eve Ravid**

## FOOTHILLS PFA- MAKING OUR SCHOOL A BETTER PLACE

By Eve Ravid

The Foothill Parent Faculty Association is a group of committed parents and teachers who dedicate their free time to making Foothill the best school it can be. Did you know that all Foothill parents are automatically members of the Foothill PFA? The PFA meets once a month, generally on the 3rd Wednesday, to discuss how they can improve our school together. These meetings are important because they help the Foothill community learn about issues affecting the school and how to get involved to help Foothill.

Government funding does not provide enough for all of Foothills' needs. PFA helps to close the gap through fundraising, parent donations, and volunteering. Without the PFA, we would not be able to have many things, such as our social-emotional counselor for two days every week, online learning products for teachers and students, technology, campus improvements, and an Instructional Media Assistant.



PFA funded 7th and 8th grade dance.

The PFA is also responsible for fun events, such as February's 7th and 8th grade dance with fun music, cool decorations and a photo booth to capture memories with your friends. Not to mention, the upcoming 8th-grade promotion dance is an exciting evening to celebrate their time at Foothill, made possible by the PFA's hard work. Ways you and your parents can support the PFA include attending fundraisers such as Dine and Donate events, attending meetings to get involved and ask questions, and donating to the Education Fund. It is important we continue to support the PFA and be thankful for all their hard work and improvements to our school. Thank you, PFA!



## 2024 FOOTHILL DANCE ASSEMBLY

By Sofia Simmons

On March 20th, students left their period 6 class to attend the dance assembly. The dance assembly was held in our Foothill gymnasium. A lot of people worked very hard to perform for us in this assembly. There were 14 dance groups with their original and fun dances. Some dance groups had cool songs and themes. One group danced along to the theme song for Barney the Dinosaur, and another dressed up in Hawaiian shirts with sunglasses. Some people clapped or sang along to dances they knew.

Mr. Meek, one of the P.E. teachers, said that he helped set up the gym for everybody to prepare



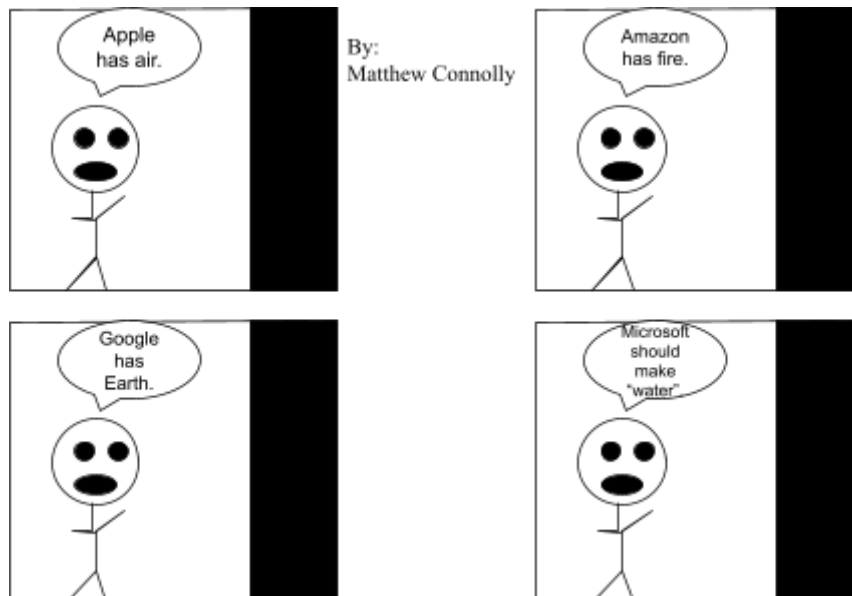
The final dance group dancing to "Stayin' Alive" while the crowd stands up and dances along to the song.

for the assembly. Also, I asked him how he chose the groups to go into the assembly, considering there were so many good dance groups. He responded, "All of the P.E. teachers watched all of the dances and looked for the most entertaining ones." He also said, "We wanted to have a good balance between the grades, and we looked for the most unique ones. My favorite dances were YMCA and Stayin' Alive."

Next, I interviewed some students who performed in the dance assembly, and here is what they had to say.

Drake Barney said, "I was excited because I knew that the crowd would enjoy the dance." He was right; during the finale dance shown in the image above, everybody got to their feet and danced along.

"I was really nervous because we were going first in the assembly," Tehya Hernandez responded to my question about how she felt right before the assembly. She also added, "It was really fun; everybody worked very hard on their dances." I agree that everyone did an amazing job performing in the dance assembly of 2024.



## INTERNATIONAL CULTURE CLUB

By: Rebecca Boulton and Nathan Khosravi

International Club is a club that explores all different kinds of cultures around the world, from the tip of Argentina to the top of Greenland. They explore these cultures in depth, learning about food, geography, culture, etc.

Interview with International Cultures Club leader, Aisha Lee:  
Aisha Lee:

Q: Why did you found the International Culture Club?

A: **“Well, it all started with a text message from Aiden, like, ‘Are you making a club?’ I was thinking of creating one, and he was like, ‘Okay, sure, I’ll message the principal,’ and I was like, ‘OK,’ and that’s how we created it.”**

Q: What does your club do?

A: **“We research other countries and we make presentations about them. We are right now working on an article called Club Crisis.”**

Q: What is the typical meeting schedule?

A: **“Well first we start by doing country cards. Our country cards are like a set of slides, and each slide has a different country and we spin a wheel on which one to do. We also do a lot of research and most of the time, we do posters and lots of art and create about other countries.”**



Aisha Lee, showing us the geography of Denmark



Photo of club president and founder, Aisha Lee

Q: How many members does your club have?

A: **“About 16-18.”**

Q: How does your club affect the school?

A: **“Well, I think it’s making the students more aware of the world around them and more aware about all the cultures and countries out there.”**

We went to the International Cultures Club meeting to see how it operates. The first thing we did was pick a country and research about that country on Wikipedia. In this meeting, we chose Denmark. After we looked at the government of Denmark, we looked at the architecture. The architecture in Denmark is a very storybook and traditional townhome. In summary, the International Club is a club that explores different types of cultures from all over the world.

## RAMADAN 2024

By Zoya Desai

Ramadan (Ruh-muh-daan) is the 9th month in the Islamic (Iss-laamic) lunar calendar. This year, Ramadan started on March 11th, 2024. Muslims (Mus-lims), or followers of Islam believe that the Holy Quran (Kur-aan) was revealed during this month. The Quran is the holy book of Islam, similar to how the Bible and Torah are the holy books of Christianity and Judaism. This isn't the only special thing about Ramadan, though. Another big part of Ramadan is fasting. Fasting is when you don't eat or drink anything (yes, even water!) from sunrise to sunset. You start with a small meal before dawn called suhoor (soo-hoor). After eating, you say a dua (doo-ah) or a special prayer to initiate your fast for the day. At sunset, you break your fast with additional prayer and a meal called iftar (if-taar). This is done continuously for 30 days. Fasting is not obligated for people under certain conditions. If you are a young child, sick, pregnant, elderly, or traveling, you do not have to fast. Fasting is a common practice in many religions, not just Islam.

Over 4 million people nationwide observe Ramadan. One reason why Muslims fast is to put ourselves in the shoes of those who don't have as much as we do, which is a harsh reality for a lot of people in the world. Fasting allows us to practice gratitude for all the blessings in our lives. Also, during Ramadan, we practice good behavior, like kindness, honesty, and discipline, to hold onto these habits year-round. We also take time to pray more, donate to charities, and volunteer in our community.

Ramadan is also full of special traditions for Muslims throughout the world. When I asked my fellow peer about her favorite thing to do during Ramadan, she said, "My favorite Ramadan tradition is decorating. I love spending time with family." There are also many other fun customs in Ramadan, like making colorful lanterns, extra-delicious foods and desserts, and getting together with friends for breakfast; as you can see, even people in our own school fast during the month of Ramadan. If you know anyone fasting, be discreet while eating lunch (it really helps us out!). At the end of the month, Muslims celebrate the completion of an entire month of fasting with a holiday called Eid (Eed), often enjoyed for three days. Wishing Foothill Eid Mubarak (Happy Eid)!

## END OF LIFE FOR NINTENDO 3DS AND WII U

By John Gomez

On January 23, 2024, Nintendo announced the discontinuation of the Nintendo Network. This would affect online services for the Nintendo 3DS and the Wii U, causing their online functionality to be shut down. People were saddened by the discontinuation as many memories were made and games such as the original Splatoon and the Wii U version of Mario Kart 8 will not have their majority of functionality available anymore. Additionally, Streetpass, a service where people could walk with their 3DS to meet new people, shut down its games due to the discontinuation. Many are saddened by the end of the Nintendo Network, but many don't use the Wii U or 3DS anymore, leading to the inevitable discontinuation. People are already homebrewing their consoles to have internet and online store functions so they can preserve them as long as possible. Just remember that just because it's not supported doesn't mean it's outdated, which the Nintendo hacking community has shown time and time again.



# GEOMETRY DASH

By Matthew Connolly

When Robert Topala released his game Geometry Dash in 2013, he had no idea it would blow up in the indie game world. He had no idea that it would change millions of lives. He had no idea 100 billion levels would be released. Geometry Dash became one of the most popular indie games ever.

Geometry Dash is unique because it relies on community rather than updates to keep the game alive. This is especially relevant when the game went through a 7-year drought without updates - and still kept a steady player base! The creator of the game is RobTop (Robert Topala). He is a famous mobile game developer. His first mobile game was Boomlings, a Candy Crush clone. While the game was deleted, he previewed his next mobile game on YouTube. This game was Geometry Dash. The game was released on August 13, 2013. When it was released, one part of the game set it apart from other games. It was a Create button that led you to an entire level editor where you could make your own levels with it. Then you had to prove it was possible, and then you could upload it for players to enjoy. The editor was the main reason the game skyrocketed to fame. Another reason was what you could choose in the toolbox. There is a huge variety of portals, blocks, orbs, and pads! This, and its community's contribution, makes Geometry Dash popular.

Geometry Dash wasn't the first game to focus on a cube jumping over spikes. That honor would go to *The Impossible Game*, released in 2009, four years before Geometry Dash. It was popular initially but fell out of style because of extreme limitations, such as no editor and only five levels. RobTop eventually made a clone of *The Impossible Game*, Geometry Dash. The version the game was released in was 1.0. About a month later, Update 1.1 was released, adding the mirror portal and the new main level, "Time Machine." The next update was 1.2, adding a new game mode - the gravity ball. When you clicked, the ball would flip upwards. More updates came along - 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7 and 1.8. Update 1.9 was the golden age for the game, as amazing, modern masterpieces came out during this update, one example being Nine Circles. Update 2.0 was the advancement towards the amazing levels in GD, with levels like High Life released. Update 2.1 was the longest update period, lasting 6.9 years! Update 2.2 recently came out in December of last year, and it is the biggest update in all of Geometry Dash.

Geometry Dash is available on mobile devices and computers (not Chromebooks). You can download it on the App Store or Google Play on mobile and on Steam on PC. The game costs two dollars to buy. So, if you're still reading this article, stop reading and start downloading!



"Aeternus" by Riot and more. (Impossible)

## **KEEP FOOTHILL CLEAN; SORT YOUR TRASH**

By Sofia Simmons

Have you ever seen chip bags on the blacktop or candy wrappers in the halls? Have you ever asked yourself who will finally pick up all this trash? The answer is you! Everybody should help clean up our campus instead of letting all this trash build up. About 5% of all the garbage ends up in our oceans. That might not seem like a lot, but that is 363.8 billion pounds of trash. This is affecting our water supply, wildlife, and seafood imports. But before this trash gets into our oceans and rivers, you can help stop it from leaving our campus. Many people think it is okay to litter on streets, sidewalks, and everywhere! Trash is not supposed to be thrown onto the ground and harm our planet and fellow people. It matters when your carelessness affects the only planet we will ever have to live on. Put your garbage in one of the many trash cans located all over Foothill.

Another thing you should do is sort your trash instead of dumping it all in the trash bin. Recycling is a fantastic way to reuse paper, glass, cardboard, and plastics. Recycling enables the items to be used not only once but multiple times. If the same piece of paper can be used for five different sheets of paper, then you are saving five sheets of paper's worth in trees. Our forests are being cut down because you are not recycling. Deforestation impacts how much oxygen is in our air and affects global warming. You must dispose of your trash if you want to keep our planet and school unpolluted. Keep Foothill clean; sort your trash!

## **MRS. SMITH INTERVIEW**

By Kingsley Dy - Interview by Eve Ravid

Mrs. Smith is a seventh-grade Core teacher at Foothill Middle School. Before Spring Break, we interviewed her!

This is Mrs. Smith's third year teaching. Her two years before Foothill were in Woodinville High School, in a town nearby Seattle, WA. called Woodinville. Mrs. Smith told us that she didn't grow up in California and recently moved into the Bay Area after growing up in Woodinville.

Mrs. Smith then explained that she liked Foothill because of the vibes, the energy, and the students. She enjoys teaching middle school better than high school because it suits her style more, and she said that middle school students are less grumpy than high school students.

Her favorite part about teaching is that her students keep making her laugh. Her favorite grade in middle school was seventh grade. A fun fact about Mrs. Smith is that she taught Spanish for six months at Woodinville High School. She also wanted to be a teacher since she was in first grade

Mrs. Smith says that she doesn't have pets right now, but she's getting a kitten soon. When she has free time, she likes to camp, hike, and mountain bike. At home, she likes to read, watch TV, and relax.

