



THE GRIFFIN TIMES

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Editor Eve Ravid

THE 2024 WALNUT FESTIVAL

By Matthew Connolly, Spencer Regenstein, and Andrew Lee

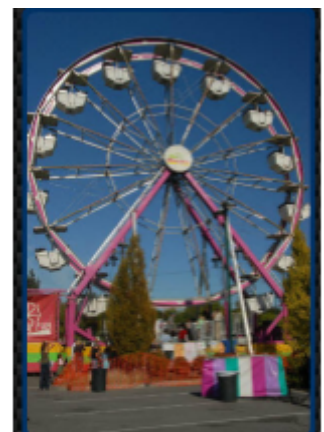
The Walnut Festival has officially returned this year after a 1-year absence! Many people waited long for this, especially since it had to be canceled last year. This article will tell you about the festival this year and what you guys enjoyed most.

The tradition of the Walnut Festival started in 1911, previously titled the “Grape Festival.” But then Prohibition came along, and since wine is made out of grapes, there had to be a new cash crop. So walnuts came along to replace grapes, and in 1936, it was officially titled the “Walnut Festival,” a few years after Prohibition was repealed. This year's slogan was “88 years- Small Acts Of Kindness Builds A Strong Community,” which lines up with its purpose: to raise money for non-profits, entertain people, and build community in Walnut Creek. It has been held in many different parts of Walnut Creek, starting in the center of town, then moving to Civic Park, and finally moving to Heather Farm Park, its present location. Although it was canceled a couple of times, including last year when there were not enough volunteers and another recent year due to COVID, it's still going strong after almost 90 years of entertaining Walnut Creek.

Every year, the festival is held on the third Thursday after the first Monday of September; this year, it goes from September 19 to 22. It featured a carnival, a marketplace, and live music. A lot of effort went into the festival, from operating rides to running booths, with many food stations (desserts, carnival food, etc.) and rides such as the Vertigo and the Zipper, fan favorites. There were also some changes to this year's festival, such as fewer rides (so long, OMG) and less carnival games. Some rides were completely reskinned such as the dragon roller coaster turning into an alligator rollercoaster, and the addition of a completely new inflatable place.

As an additional part of this article, we conducted a survey to see what students here at FMS enjoyed the most at the festival. We got 191 responses from many different students around the school, and about 69% of responders attended the festival this year. Out of those people, the favorite activity was the thrill rides, with 38% of you saying that you enjoyed them the most. The runner-up was hanging out with friends and family, receiving 20% of votes.

Overall, many people can agree that the Walnut Festival is one of the best annual events in Walnut Creek and that it's a great experience every year. Hopefully, this article was helpful and fun to read, and we hope you all had fun at this year's festival if you went.



The ferris wheel is one of the festival's main attractions, giving riders a bird's eye view of the whole event and neighboring buildings.

THE 2024 ELECTION AND FOOTHILL

By Eve Ravid

On November 5, 2024, American citizens nationwide will submit their votes to decide our next president. But our election process is more than just counting votes. Many elections in the United States are decided by a popular vote, meaning that the election will be decided directly by the number of votes for each candidate. However, in the presidential election, we use the Electoral College process.

How Does the Electoral College Work?

Every state in America has a certain number of electors. Electors are people whose votes determine the outcome of the presidential election. These votes are decided according to that state's popular vote. All the Electoral College votes will go to the majority winner of the popular vote. However, for Maine and Nebraska only, electoral college votes are given proportionally.

Is the winner of the popular vote the winner of the election?

While it may seem like this is the case, which generally is, it is not always. There have been five incidents in American history in which someone who did not have the popular vote still won the election.

If the electors vote for the winner of the popular vote in their state, then what accounts for these outcomes?

Small states have an advantage in the Electoral College because they have a disproportionate amount of electors. For example, according to The Washington Post, one elector in Wyoming represents 195,000 people, but in California, one elector represents nearly 4 times as many-712,000.

2024's Presidential Candidates.

Kamala Harris- Democratic

Kamala's parents were both immigrants, and she was raised in the California Bay Area. She has served in the U.S. Senate as an attorney general for California and is the current vice president of the US. She entered the presidential race unusually late after Joe Biden dropped out. Kamala Harris will be the first female and Asian-American president if she wins.



Donald Trump- Republican

Trump was born in New York, and his father was a successful property developer. Donald Trump went to business school, began working in his father's business, and eventually became the head of The Trump Organization. He won the 2016 presidential election. If he wins this election, Donald Trump will be the oldest US president ever.



What does Foothill think about the Election?

I conducted a poll and sent it to the people of Foothill, and I got over 60 responses. When asked which was their favorite candidate, 63.6% of respondents answered Kamala Harris, and 18.2% answered Donald Trump. Surprisingly, 18.2% of people did not express a preference, often adding comments indicating a lack of enthusiasm for either candidate.

Several people said that they thought both options could have been better. "I think that they are both not the best options," says one student. Another replied, "I think both Kamala Harris and Donald Trump are not fit to be our president." One student comments, "As a kid from a democratic household, I have strong, mostly negative, feelings about Trump, and do not agree with his view of abortion, taxes, and a lot of what the Republican party stands for, but I don't love Harris as a president,"

A few students said they would prefer a third option but are still supporting Kamala Harris or Donald Trump. "I like Kamala Harris more right now, but they both don't seem super great to be our president. But I would much rather have Kamala Harris as a president than Donald Trump."

On the other hand, most people are clear on their choice of candidate: "Kamala Harris should be elected into the presidency, Donald Trump should not," and "I think Kamala Harris is a down-to-earth person who wants to help America thrive as a country. I think of Donald Trump as a person who regards the upper class more than the rest of America's citizens."

Students are also clear about their choice for Trump: "I think they both can be good presidents. I prefer Donald Trump a little bit because he's strong with the economy, which we kind of need right now." They also think that everyday items are less and our country is safer when Trump is in office. "Even though he did some bad stuff as a person, it doesn't mean he is a bad president."

Others are extremely passionate about their choice. One stated, "I think Donald Trump is a person who thinks he is king and knows what he is doing, while in reality, he's just causing more trouble and harm."

In response to another question, "How will you feel if your favored candidate does not win?" Many people express concern and even say they plan on moving out of the country!

Engagement of voters by age.

In the 2020 election, voters aged 65 and over had a 71.9% turnout. This means that 71.9% of eligible voters in this age group submitted a vote. However, in the 18-24 age group, there was only a 48% turnout. This is why it is so important that people of our generation get out and vote. Four members of my family are excited to vote for the first time. My parents have both recently become American citizens and my two older sisters are old enough to vote for the first time. I encourage you to remind your friends and family to vote!



HAPPY BACK-TO-SCHOOL!

By Zoya Desai

Back to school once again. A roller coaster of so many new emotions. Maybe you might be experiencing déjà vu, or maybe you are scared. Maybe you are super excited to get back to school and be with your friends. All of us experience many different feelings when going back to school, and that's perfectly okay!

Let's dive into some of the new changes that are happening around campus this back-to-school season.

1. **So many new teachers!** Please welcome Mr. Thompson (6th Grade Science), Ms. Gibson (7th Grade Science), Mr. Macy (7th Grade Core), Mr. Belanger (Spanish), and Ms. Ciardi (PE). Here are some fun facts about some of the new teachers!
 - a. Mr. Belanger likes to bodysurf on beaches.
 - b. Mr. Thompson loves to cook.
 - c. Mrs. Ciardi used to be a flight attendant and is very well-traveled
2. **Griffin spirit on steroids!** We also have tons of new and fun noon-time activities and socials leadership has planned. On September 26th, there was a full-on concert during lunch and a couple of anonymous sources have stated there will hopefully be more this year. Our first social, the 6th grade social, was also amazing. Those 6th graders sure did have a fun time!
3. **Tons of brand-new clubs!** We have the Debate Club, S. Korean Culture Club, Astro-Psychology, Crochet Club, and Drama Club. If you have any questions, you can go to the FMS school website and click students and clubs. It will show you a list of clubs and how to contact their club administrators.

This school year, we hope that the Foothill community can stand as one student body and that we all can make sure everybody feels included and feels like they have someone they can talk to at school. So if you see someone who may look lonely, maybe sitting alone, say hello. It can make someone's day. Happy back-to-school!



Favorite Hobby Poll

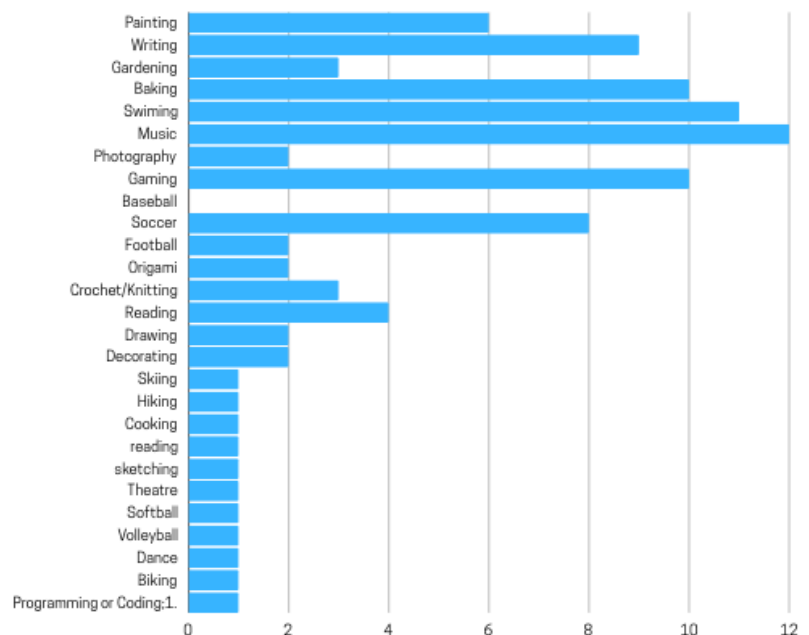
By Jose Porras

Here is the favorite hobby of most people here at Foothill and why, based on the responses I got from my favorite hobby poll. Based on the average response, music came out as one of the top hobbies. One student answered, "It is fun to listen and play music." This shows the joy students get from music, whether listening to songs or creating their own. It's a great way to have fun and connect with others.

Another popular hobby was video games. As one student said, "Who doesn't like to play video games, it just feels so relaxing to me." Gaming isn't just about playing alone, it lets people play with friends too. Some people also love games with good stories, making them even better and fun to explore.

Swimming also got a lot of votes. It helps people relax and stay active at the same time. "Swimming just feels so relaxing to me," another person shared.

Activities like these are a great way to chill down after a long day. It's clear that most people enjoy hobbies that let them either chill out or have fun with their friends!



WELCOME MRS. CIARDI!

By Tabahn Tabatabaei, May Neaz, and Willa Joly

Hello there! Today we interviewed one of the PE teachers, Mrs. Ciardi. Now you can get to know her a bit more. Ms. Ciardi also attended Foothill Middle School. This is her 6th year teaching P.E. She says that her favorite thing about Foothill is the students. One goal of hers is to have students find one physical activity that they will enjoy throughout their lives. The reason that she decided to interview at Foothill was because, as she says, "I knew that it was a great school and community, and it was my old middle school." She says that she likes Foothill a lot and that it has been fun meeting all the students. She is enjoying Foothill so far!



HOW STUDENTS MANAGE THEIR HOMEWORK WITH AND WITHOUT SPORTS

By Willa Joly and Tobin Lustig

Many Griffins play sports, some maybe for Foothill and others for clubs and teams outside of school. Some, although, do not. Whether or not a student plays sports, teachers must assign homework. If students have sports, they would have to make time for homework. Fortunately, students with no sports can easily finish their homework with no problem.

This article will compare how rushed sports players are compared to how rushed non-sports players are. At the end, there is a table filled out with our conclusion.

Interview with 6th Grader Emma

Rinow-Sports:

Willa: What sports do you play?

Emma: I play volleyball and soccer.

Willa: How much homework do you generally get?

Emma: Well, I will try to finish it in class, maybe in 30 or 45 minutes.

Willa: Would you say you are rushed?

Emma: Sometimes, yes, when they overlap. And sometimes, I find myself staying up late.

Willa: So you are rushed?

Emma: Yes, sometimes.

Interview with 6th Grader Daniel Porras-No Sports:

Willa: How much homework do you generally get?

Daniel: Like usually, an average of 20 minutes. I finished it quickly, but if I had wanted to take longer, it would have been about 40 minutes.

Willa: Would you say you are rushed?

Daniel: I mean, not really, but like I push myself to be the best I can be and finish it. I'm not trying to be rushed; I'm just being focused.

Interview Reese -No Sports:

Tobin: Do you play any sports?

Reese: No, I don't.

Tobin: How much homework would you say you get?

Reese: Not that much; we do enough in class, so I get most of it done

Tobin: Do you ever feel anxious or rushed about getting it done?

Reese: Yes, I get as rushed as most people do.

Tobin: How much homework, on a scale of one to ten, do you have every day

Reese: 4-6.5

Non Sports Players-

Don't play sports

Have Generally More Time To Complete Homework

Sports Players-

Play sports

Are Generally More Rushed Due To Commitments

QUESTIONS FROM 6TH GRADERS

By Kayliann Zung

From a survey, many students asked a lot of questions. I picked out all the most common questions.

Q: Is being a 7th or 8th grader better than being a 6th grader?

A: A little bit better, since you have a better understanding of the school's system.

Q: How much homework is in 7th grade?

A: There is going to be a lot, but if you manage your time wisely you will have little. According to some of your classes, you might have minimal homework.

Q: How do you get or read the Foothill newspaper? Is it online?

A: The foothill newspaper can be read online or in person on the Foothill Website! It will be passed out during lunch!

Q: Do school years go by fast?

A: Yes, it does go by really fast. It is faster than you realize, so cherish your time now.

Q: What was it like in your first time in middle school? Were you scared, nervous, embarrassed?

A: Yes, I was a little nervous and scared, but I got more comfortable with the surroundings and made a lot of new friends.

Q: Why are some teachers so strict?

A: Teachers are strict to help teach you. I had a teacher that was strict when I was in 6th grade. I had her 2 periods a day. At the time, I hated how she was so strict about standards. And yes, you'll wish that some teachers could change, but there were and always will be positives. As I look back on the school year, I realize how well she taught us. Not only that, I realized how much she cared about her students. I am forever grateful that she was my teacher.

Q: How do you guys write notes for your class fast?

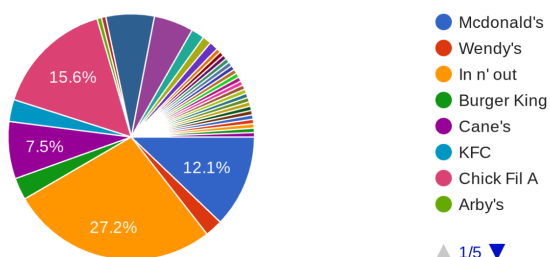
A: We use strategic listening and only write the most important information. I recommend bullet notes!

Q: On a scale from 1-10, how hard does 6th grade get?

A: Not to make you 6th graders nervous or anything, but a 7. Once you are used to school, it will be better.

FAST FOOD POLL

By Kayliann Zung



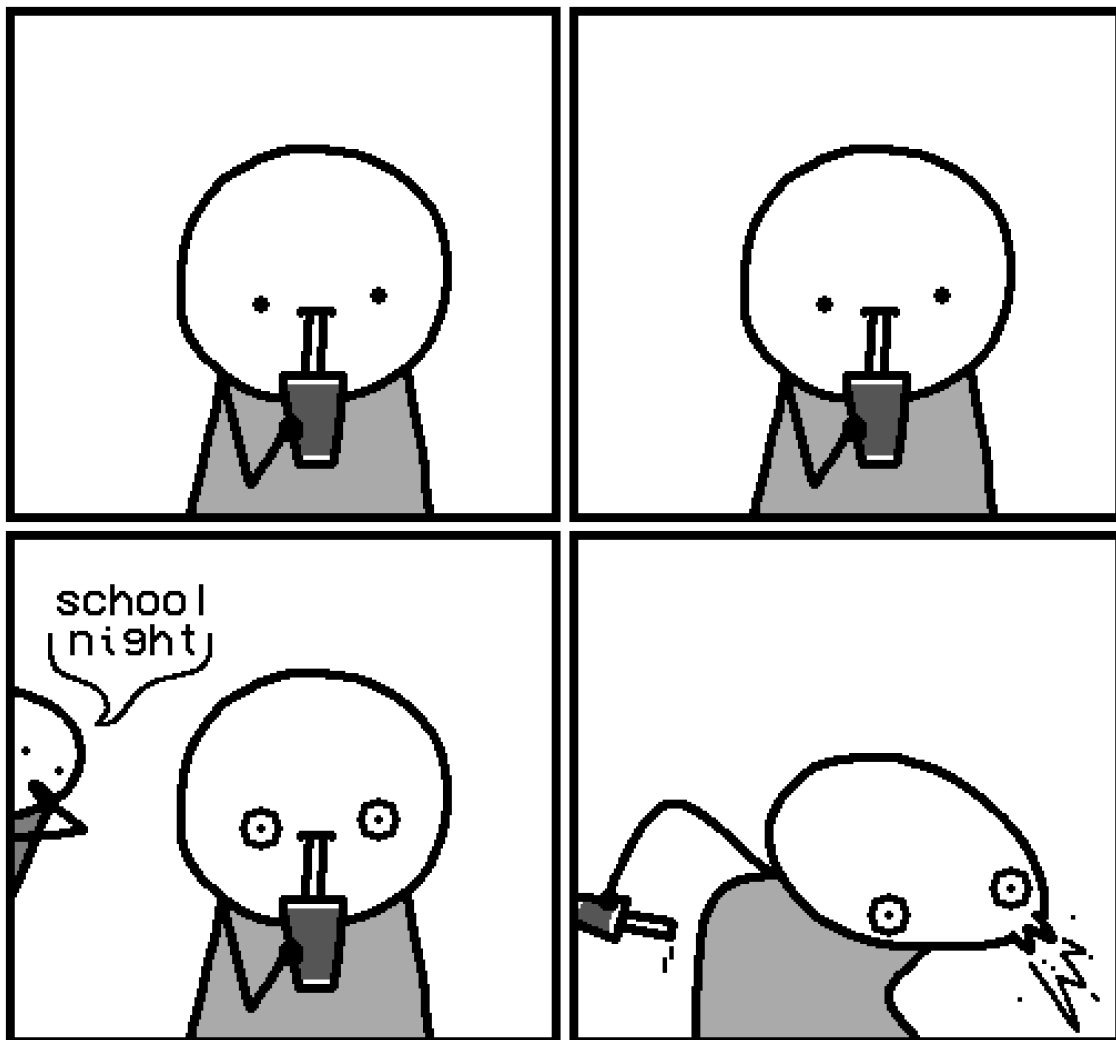
Hello! Here are some fun stats with you. We asked 173 people about their favorite fast-food restaurant, and guess what? The most loved food chain was In n' Out, with a whopping 27.2% of the votes! Following closely behind are Chick-fil-A at 15.6% and McDonald's at 12.1%. Thanks for participating!

HOW DO 6TH GRADE STUDENTS LIKE FOOTHILL?

By Kayliann Zung and Rhea Lokesh

With school just starting out and many new 6th graders arriving, their opinions of Foothill Middle School defer from the fun and friendly environment and the amount of homework given. Some students like it because it's new and different. Others, not so much. Sophie Zhao from 6th grade says that Foothill is a nice place to learn and make friends. Most interviewed students say that homework is a lot but bearable. Anya Nijjar asks, "How do you manage your homework?". Many like the transition to Middle school, such as Arkadeep Banerjee, who comes from a different country. On the other hand, another student hates the amount of homework and the constant stress. Above all, the teachers and staff of Foothill hope students enjoy it here and feel safe.

CGGC 1: Haha You Thought It Was JOSH



Cameron Grabowski

GHOUL OR DROOL?

By May Neaz

While some people do not know what to wear for Halloween, most do. Oddly, one of the most common costumes that people voted for this year was a blow-up dinosaur. A famous sports player or celebrity was prized with second place. Last but not least on the podium, in third place, is Deadpool, probably because of the new movie that just came out. Some costumes inspired by movies include Barbie, Gru, Optimus Prime, and many others. One thing that people can be sure of this year is a lot of group costumes. Popular group costumes are Mario and Luigi, Mean Girls, Alvin and the Chipmunks, M&Ms, and Deadpool and Wolverine.



Let's move on to candy. The most popular candy is Sour Patch Kids. Reese's peanut butter cups win second place by 3.3%. In third place is Kit Kat. Some other popular candies this year are Trolli Sour Gummies, Hershey's, Twix, and Skittles.

Halloween is a very popular holiday because of the candy, dressing up, and the fun that comes with it. This article has some good ideas. Even if you were not planning on dressing up, this article might change your mind.

But wait, there's more! Halloween is not just about costumes and candy. It's also about spooky decorations, like jack-o'-lanterns, fake (or real) cobwebs, and eerie ghosts hanging from trees. Some people even create haunted houses in their yards for trick-or-treaters to visit. And remember the fun Halloween games and activities, such as apple bobbing, pumpkin carving contests, and scary movie marathons. And there's something more to celebrate! Students in MDUSD get the day after Halloween off! This is a great opportunity to spend the day with friends, sleep in, or treat the candy hangover.

So, In conclusion, Halloween offers something for everyone, whether you're a fan of the spooky season or simply enjoy the excuse to have some fun. With creative costumes, tasty treats, and festive decorations, there are countless ways to celebrate this thrilling holiday. Or, if you don't like Halloween, then you can enjoy the day off afterward!

Northgate Water Polo

Carson Honey & Sofia Cherkashina

Northgate Water Polo is one of the many Fall sports Northgate offers. It is an intense sport that involves swimming, kicking, pushing, and more. A little background on the sport: Water polo was first played in 1870 in London and then added to the Summer Olympics 30 years later. Water Polo consists of 6 field players and one goalie. Depending on age, they play for 4 quarters for 6:00-8:00 minutes. Now that you know all about it, let's jump into our games against Clayton Valley!

FOOTHILL CLUBS

By Reese Marie Remeika and Avery Thomas

Have you ever considered joining a club? Maybe you're in one right now. Maybe you even started one! Our school clubs are great communities and a chance for students to socialize, learn, and explore their interests. Take a look at a few Foothill clubs! Many of the clubs are still open to new members, so if anything catches your eye, make sure to talk to the club leader for more information.

Griffin Times

Griffin Times, our school's infamous Newspaper team, is a great place to start if you'd like to perhaps be a journalist, a comic illustrator, an editor, etc., when you become an adult, or just if you have a general interest in the club itself! Student and teacher run by Ms. Davis and Eve Ravid; the Griffin Times is a great community for aspiring columnists. The Times hopes to achieve its goals of entertaining students and making a happy environment for those who wish to know more about the process of creating an article. They meet from 3:25 to 3:10 on Tuesdays after school and each work together or individually on their assigned jobs. The Newspaper is still open to anyone interested in joining the club, especially to all the young writers here at Foothill!

Griffins Against Hate

Another iconic club known to Foothill Middle School is Griffins Against Hate, or GAH, which is a club set on having a space to talk about and

Crochet Club

Meet Crochet Club, whose goals are just having fun and learning to crochet! Meeting in the library on Fridays Crochet is a fun way to connect and learn a new skill. Who doesn't want to walk home with a new blanket? Or hat? Or stuffed animals? Founded by Carson Honey, Crochet has been a fun, supportive place for people to hang out after school and is enjoyed by many. They always look for new members and would be thrilled to have you!

Lego Robotics

Lego Robotics, started by teacher Mr. Jackson and mostly student-ran, Lego Robotics is here for your every engineering -and lego- need! Meeting every Thursday at 2:45 the club works in group Lego-building projects and competes in challenges around Walnut Creek. The club allows you to practice engineering in a fun and unique way! It's been around for a few years and is a fan favorite in the Foothill community. If you have questions about the club or are

ECK

ECK, or Environmentally Concerned Kids, is always looking for new members! ECK has been around for over a decade now, and we're so glad to have it! Ran by Mr. Jackson and its president, Chloe Carry, vice president, Owen Howard, our Activity Supervisor, Emily, and recorded by secretary, Reese Remeika, the club focuses on making Earth a better, more inhabitable place to live on by taking small steps towards the future. They meet every Monday from 2:45 to 4, where they work on projects like restoring the garden, helping to clean the school, and the occasional field trips and marches, where they sometimes present speeches. If you hope to change our planet, ECK welcomes you with open arms, so head down to Mr. Jackson's Science room after school on Monday!

Robotics

The only non-student-run club, Robotics, was formed by Ms. Elliot to teach students about coding. Robotics mainly focuses

inform others about bullying and standing up for yourself. GAH is a safe space to talk about bullying or if you want to learn how to stick up for yourself and others. GAH was just formed this year by Zoe Aguilar and Savanna Evans with the help of Ms. Zagon. The club meets on the first and third Fridays of the month and is open to new students, so check it out!

considering joining, visit Mr. Jackson in his Science Room.

on coding Linkbots, a robot students can program. This is the perfect club for anyone interested in a career in coding. This club meets from 2:30 to 4:00 and has been around since 2015. Ask Ms. Elliot about joining this club!

Overall, there are many different clubs to choose from, all with unique perks, and this isn't even all! There's something for everyone here at Foothill. If something catches your attention, don't hesitate! Talk to the founder(s) or teacher running it and see if you can join. We promise no matter what you choose, you'll have tons of fun!

TRIVIA: HALLOWEEN EDITION

By Ari Dixit (Reviewed by Matthew and Andrew)

Do you like to solve puzzles, answer riddles, and respond to queries? If so, this article is for you!! There will be 4 Trivia questions you can answer, ranging from Easy to Extreme difficulty. Every edition of Trivia will have a different theme (For example, U.S History). You can check your answers' validity in the next Trivia issue. Without further ado, start solving!!

Easy:

What is the most popular Halloween decoration of 2024?

Moderate:

What is the most popular Halloween costume for Children in 2024?

Hard:

What US State has the most decorated homes for Halloween?

Challenging:

What Celtic Holiday does Halloween trace its origins from?

MDUSD FALL BREAK

By May Neaz

Halloween? That's old news. This year's new tradition in the district is that everyone in MDUSD has a fall break. This break starts on October 7 and ends on October 11. It's a good opportunity to get away with family or just have a staycation.

Some ways to spend fall break could be camping, glamping, or going to Disneyland. This is a perfect midway between summer break and the holiday season. This break is also good because it is hopefully cooler than the summer and not that cold. Also, not a lot of other districts have this break, so places might have fewer people.

I interviewed some people to determine whether fall break was a good idea. Here's what they said.

Tobin: yes

May: Why?

Tobin: It's relaxing and fun because you don't have homework, and you don't have to worry about school or homework. You can hang out with your friends and family.

Willa: yes

May: Why?

Willa: You get a lot of time off and can spend it with friends and family.

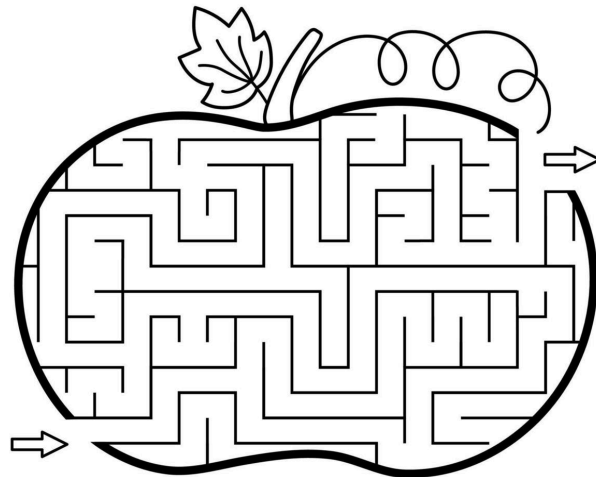
Danny: yes

May: why?

Danny: you can get a break from all the homework and don't have to think about school.

I also asked Erin Mcferrin, the president of the MDUSD school governing board. She supports the idea of fall break and teaches high school in the Acalanes Union High School district. She says, "I have noticed that kids tend to feel very stressed, especially seniors writing college applications." Her husband teaches in Pittsburgh, and their district added the fall break a year before the MDUSD did. She says students, teachers, and staff all enjoy this week off.

Overall, everyone enjoys the fall break and likes the days off. But even though many people like to go places over the break, you don't have to. You can just stay at home and relax!

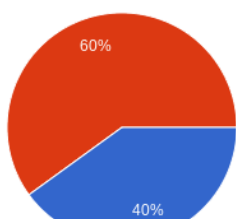


“WOULD YOU RATHER” RESULTS

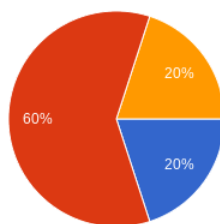
By Tobin Lustig and Willa Joly

Do you have strong opinions about your favorite singer? It turns out a lot of people do! This article will compare Taylor Swift, Sabrina Carpenter, LeBron James, and Stephen Curry.

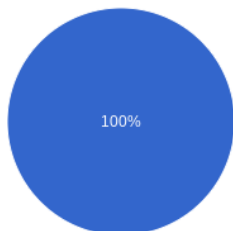
We asked a lot of people for the best results. Sometimes, most agree, and sometimes, it's split down the middle! When comparing Taylor Swift and Sabrina Carpenter, 60% of people said Taylor Swift and 40% said Sabrina Carpenter. Take a look at some other results!



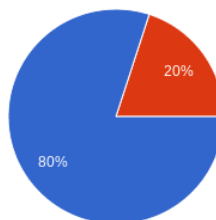
● Michael Jackson
● Justin Bieber



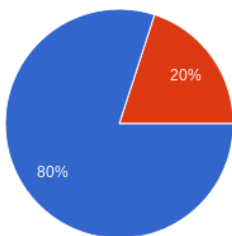
● Drake
● Kendrick
● I don't like any



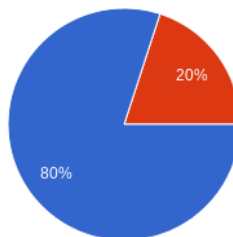
● Brock Purdy
● Patrick Mahomes



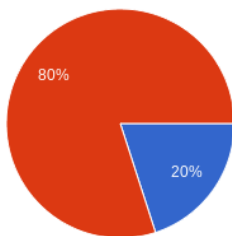
● Messi
● Ronaldo



● Curry
● James



● Gordon Ramsay
● Guy Fieri



● Lady Gaga
● Ariana Grande

As you can see, there are many opinions and only a couple of agreements.

Overall, most of the numbers are pretty close. If you have time, try to make one of these on some paper and ask your family, friends, or anyone else!

YAE TRIP 2024-2025

By Erica Davis

YAE!! Is the Youth Ambassador Exchange, and the two exclamation marks represent the cities of Siofok, Hungary, and Noceto, Italy. Eighth-grade students travel for 10 days each fall to experience life as a teenager living with a family in another country. Students who live in Walnut Creek begin the application process as seventh graders in the spring semester. If you want to learn more about YAE!!, talk to Mrs. Davis or any Foothill students participating this year: Lena Katz, Frankie Davis, Sienna Reed, Shayana Lebowitz, and Rayne Worden.



NEW PLACES

By Zelena Katz



Going to Hungary was amazing. My 100% favorite thing about being in Hungary was connecting with my Hungarian sister, Zisofi. We went to Szigliget (an old ruined castle with an elevation of 239 meters). From the top, it felt like I could see all of Hungary. We also went to Budapest for two days, and we were there. Budapest felt like San Francisco but with fewer people. We went and saw the bronze shoes one day. They are a Holocaust tribute. Jews who were taken away were eventually brought to this part of the river and ordered to take off their shoes and valuables; they would then line up and be shot. They would fall into the river. These were very powerful and sad. I assume that starting last year, yellow ribbons were placed on them for all the hostages. Also, we went to Fisherman's Bastion in Budapest, where you could see many of Budapest. It is so beautiful in Hungary! Meeting the mayor was also very neat. I loved Hungary and didn't want to go back!

NOCETO ITALY

By Frankie Davis

Thinking back on my experience traveling to Noceto, Italy, I would say the most challenging part was interacting with people who didn't speak English well. When I first arrived, my host person asked me if I was angry, and I was confused and thought that maybe I looked unhappy, but then he said I was hangry and hungry. My person generally spoke very good English, as did his mom, but the dad spoke almost none. I'd say the hardest experience was going to the school as my person was very good at speaking English, considering he'd never been to an English-speaking country. Many kids didn't speak English at school, and getting to know some of them was hard. I also played rugby with them, and one day, my host didn't have a class for 4 hours because of something, so he sat down with some other people from class. They talked in Italian the whole time, which was the greatest test of my patience ever, and the entire time, he kept asking, "Are you bored, Frankie?" And I tried to respond as nicely as possible with "No." Even though I was dying of boredom, the best part was meeting new people and bonding with everyone in my group, including all the Americans and Italians. Before the trip, I knew some Americans a bit, but I learned much more about them. This trip was an experience I'll never forget, and I believe it made me more aware of the world around me.

