

The Highlander



Yearbook Newspaper May 2023-Volume 1

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Highlander: Yearbook magazine! This will be a place for stories that happened after our yearbook deadline passed, but were still happening on campus. We hope you enjoy!



8th Grade Panoramic Picture, April 19, 2023

MOST LIKELY TO...

By Juan Huezo

What is ***Most Likely to***, you ask? To sum up Its when you nominate somebody or a group of people on something you think they are most likely to do when they grow up. Yearbooks have been asking this questions to their student bodies' for decades! It's Ms. Gallego's first year doing yearbook so she forgot to have us ask in time to get it into the book....so we're doing it now! Without further ado I present to you John Muir Middle School's Most Likely To winners.

Most likely to succeed goes to

David Hadi

Most likely to win an Oscar goes to

Gwyneth Glover

Most likely to be a meme goes to

Dean Bartkiewicz

Most likely to be class clown goes to

Derek moss

Most likely to be Olympian or a Professional Athlete (MLB, NBA, WNBA, NFL,NHL, APSL, NWSL) goes to

Evelyn Juden

Most likely to get a 9+ on a bean run goes to

King Aberman

Most likely to be the next teacher at Muir goes to

Trevor Baldwin

Most likely to be next Beyonce goes to

Gabriella Gooding

Most likely to be elected US President goes to

Avvo Ilangesyan

Most likely to be "BFFs" (Best Friends Forever) goes to

Jonathan Ong and Isaiah Kim



IS 8TH GRADE BETTER THAN 6TH & 7TH?

By Lina Mouradian

Is 8th grade better than 6th and 7th? As everyone knows, 8th grade is the last year of middle school. As such, those in that grade are the leaders of the campus, and the eldest of the grades (aside from the teachers and staff.) But what if the best part of their middle school life was in 6th or 7th grade?

First off, what's so special about 6th grade? For starters, 6th graders were previously in elementary school, which is a big change, since middle school is like taking the training wheels off a bike. Something that 6th graders have that other grades do not are WEB meetings. During these meetings, WEB leaders host fun activities for the 6th graders to do! Also, there's a whole spot reserved for

people in this grade only, the Osgood Pavilion. What a steal! And, a big part of being a 6th grader is... the mile run times. 6th graders have a more lenient time to get a better score on the mile run. Personally, that's unfair, but it's not like it's getting changed anytime soon.

Moving onto the 7th graders, what's so special about *this* grade? In all honesty, 7th grade is treated like— —the middle child, obviously since it's the middle grade in middle school. (Wow, that's a lot of middle's.) For 7th graders, they have a special opportunity now opened to them, being in ASB (Associative Student Body). They organize a lot of the activities that can be participated in by any grade level, like spirit week, after school parties, movies, you name it. Anyway, 7th grade, in its entirety, is a big transition from 6th grade. Students mature more than ever—turning 13! 7th graders are officially turning teens this year. Which means... more responsibilities!! That can be both

a blessing, and a curse.

Finally, what's so special about 8th grade? The biggest part of being an 8th grader is leaving a good impression on other students. You're expected to be fully aware of what is right and wrong, what's good or not good to do, and how to act like a real leader. We practice public speaking, AKA the 8th grade speech competition. We do much more exciting science labs, hands on projects, and lots... and I mean lots more homework. There's Grad Night, where students qualified for Promotion get to go on a trip to Universal Studios, & end of the year parties, you name it. And of course, promotion! Promotion is the biggest time of 8th grade where you officially promote from middle school, and go onto high school. People may be sad, happy, a mix of the two, and maybe a bit in denial that time has flown by so fast.

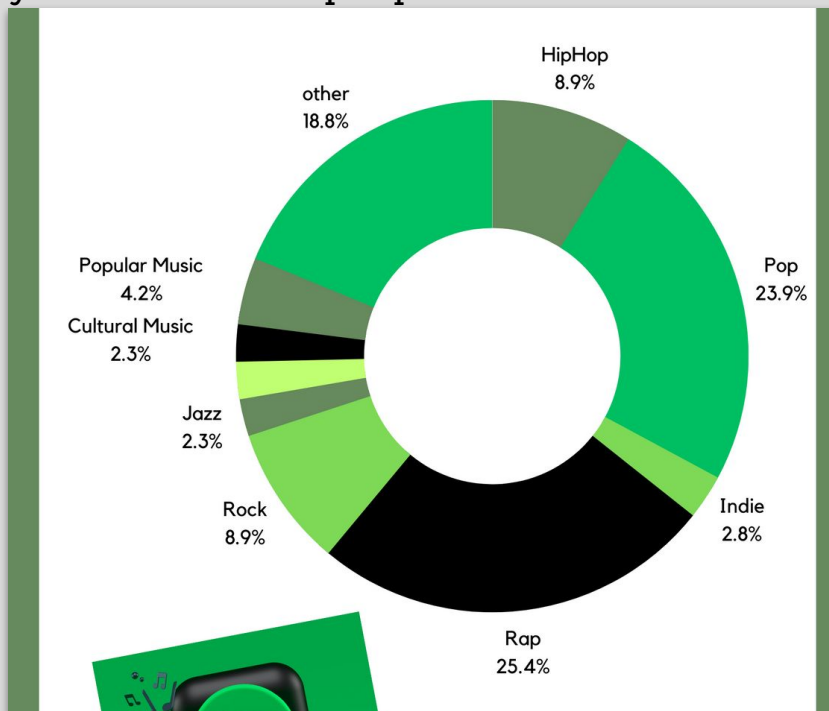
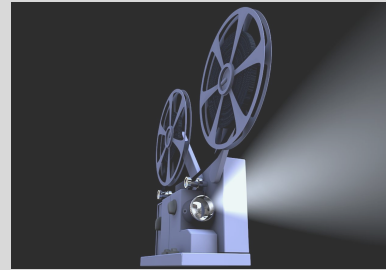
Now, let me ask you again: Is 8th grade better than 6th and 7th?

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE MUSIC GENRE?

By Kristen Mayorga

I went out at lunch/nutrition to have people vote on their favorite music genre. Music genres are defined as musical techniques, and unique cultural contexts. Here's what I found.

Rap and Pop are the most voted music genres to people in this school. Everyone likes Pop and Rap because there are specific artists they like that are a part of the genre that they chose. Some people chose other genres.



MOVIE MAGIC

By: Alex Papazian

Starting in 1895, Movies are a a big part of society. It gives people something interesting to talk about and watch.

Anyways, we conducted a poll out of our students, asking what movie is the best? Stick around to see the results!

At first place... we have *Zootopia*! It's no surprise that this action filled-comedy movie won it's spot at first. At second place we have the first *Scream*! This classic horror movie is favorited by many people from it's thrilling and harrowing scenes. This movie gives the chills you desire. The movie who occupies third place is *Avengers: End Game*! Being one of the highest grossing movies, it surprised me that it did not score higher!

To wrap up the story... I would like to thank every single John Muir Middle School student for helping me by voting and making this possible. Movies will continue to be a big part of society and history. And one more question... What is your favorite movie?

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

By: Emil Gabrielyan and
Allen Zargaryan

The Armenian Genocide started on April 24, 1915 and it lasted from 1915-1917. It took place primarily in Izmir, Sivas, Mus, and Der ez-Zor and throughout the Ottoman Empire. World War I was going on at this time too, so the world was distracted. The genocide began when Talaat Pasha, one of the leaders of the Ottoman Empire, ordered thousands of Armenians to march from Kharput to the Syrian Desert. Along the way many died due to lack of water & food. The survivors of the march were then executed.

The Ottoman Empire attacked Armenians because they wanted to get rid of people of different ethnicities within their country that

they saw as a threat. This tragedy caused a total of 600,000 to 1.5 million deaths for Armenians and the Ottoman Empire took 267,000 acres of land. The Armenians went to other countries to escape the genocide, for example they went to Iraq, Georgia, Greece etc. Overall the genocide lasted about 2 years and many people lost their families, homes and the country lost a lot of land. To this day the Modern country of Turkey will not recognize that the Armenian Genocide took place. On April 24th each year, Armenians all over the world protest, to get the Turkish Government to acknowledge this atrocity.



WHY THE DISTRICT SHOULD END THE BAN ON BASEBALL CAPS

By: Jake Mastrolia

I think most everyone in the school agrees is that we should be able to wear baseball hats on campus. The question we need to ask is why can't we?

I did some research and I found out they were banned because they are seen as a distraction to the "learning environment."

At JMMS you're allowed to wear bucket hats & wide brimmed hats outside for sun protection, so why not baseball caps?

At first baseball caps were banned in the 1980's because drug gangs starting wearing them, almost like a way to identify each other. So why can't we wear them at John Muir?

I interviewed three teachers to see what they think. Their answers might surprise you! The first victim, I mean teacher, Ms. Gallego said, "Yes, I don't think it affects kids learning and it allows them to express themselves. Also the amount of time it takes to enforce the rule affects learning and teaching."

The second teacher, Ms. Vournas said, "As much as I love baseball and the Dodgers, I say to keep the ban just because we need to be able to recognize people. Baseball caps hide peoples faces,



which in certain situations can be dangerous."

The last but not least, Mr. Koontz said, "I think baseball caps should not be banned. It is like wearing a watch or a shirt with a team logo. Hats do not cover a student's ears, so there is no issue with concealing air-pods. Hats have lost the gang affiliation they once had. They are a fun form of style and self expression, no different than a pair of shoes." Two out of the three teachers say yes, and I think I can speak for the students and say they want to wear hats.

Unfortunately, the District & School Board are the ones who would have to end the ban & that seems unlikely at this point. Maybe if everyone puts enough pressure on the board they will give it a try.

THE BEST CAFETERIA FOOD?

By Lauren Mallari

Even though it has super, super long lines, so many students race to the cafeteria each and every day to get their lunch. I asked some people what their favorite food was, and the top two items ended up being the cheese burger and the spicy chicken sandwich. Sorry vegetarians! The spicy chicken sandwich won by a landslide. Having never tried it myself, I decided to see what all of this buildup was about.

Before I sampled this popular sandwich I popped into the cafeteria to see where the magic happens. I talked to Brenda and asked her some questions. I discovered that the spicy chicken sandwich is more popular than the regular chicken sandwich. The spicy chicken sandwich takes 15 minutes to make, and that they are pre-made. In her own words, Brenda told me that they, “warm it up and then bun it.” I knew I had to try one for myself.

At lunch, I got my 1st ever Spicy Chicken Sandwich and sat down and took a bite. It wasn't spicy, and mostly plain because it was just bread and a patty. It was soft to eat, despite the crispy appearance. I thought it was okay; it had good flavor. And then the fire struck. It had a spicy aftertaste, that's all . This is just my opinion, but I don't really understand why it is the best food at the cafeteria. It's good...though I don't know if it'd be my favorite thing to get. It's not fancy and may have a nicer taste if you add sauce. It has crumbs, but not the huge amount you'd get when you eat chips, more like if you eat a chicken nugget. I'm pretty sure you can get it everyday in the Canteen.

All in all, this was a really good experience. Getting to see what people like the best, actually learning how the spicy chicken sandwich is made, and eating the food that I'd heard so much about. I've got to say, the spicy chicken sandwich was pretty good, and I encourage you to try it and see what you think!



FOOD FOR LIFE

By: Damian Sarhadian

We all have a favorite food. Whether it's a breakfast burrito to kickstart your day, or a delicious donut to cease your craving, everyone has a certain treat. We asked our John Muir Mustangs what food they would eat for the rest of their life if they had to choose. The results might shock you.

Taking the number one spot is... a tie! John Muir students love both tender, flavorful steak, and juicy, melty burgers. I guess I have to break this tie... so I'm going to go with my all time favorite, steak! Sorry burgers, but you are second place. Coming in at number 3 is a fan favorite food, tacos! It's no surprise that this one two punch of

crunchy and savory was too good not to end up on the podium.

Concluding our delicious debate, I would like to thank all of the Muir students who participated in this poll. They were the reason that we could make this scrumptious section of the JMMS magazine happen. So, whatever your favorite food is, I hope that you enjoyed this article. Lastly, keep on enjoying food!



CHOIR

COMPETITION

By Adrian Papa



Our Imaginations Choir had a competition on April 22, 2023. There were 14 other schools that competed with John Muir, including Luther, South Pasadena, and Walter Reed. There were also 11 high schools, but John Muir only competed against the 3 other middle schools. This was a *Concert Choir Competition*, where the choirs stood and sang; no dance moves.

All of the schools had to audition in order to get into the competition. It was the only competition where money could be awarded to John Muir's VMA program. The higher a school ranked, the more money they were awarded. Imaginations came in 4th & won \$4,500 for their program! This event was hosted by the Verdugo Hills Chorus. John Muir was required to sing 2 songs, any style, and they both had to be a cappella, no instrument accompaniment. Professional judges, who look at all the elements that make a great vocal group without using instruments, judged the competition.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF JOHN MUIR

By Caleb Castillo

If you haven't heard of the Boys and Girls Club, it's an afterschool program, "provid[ing] a safe place to play, grow and learn while empowering youth to excel in school, become good citizens and lead healthy, productive lives." There are 4,300 clubs in the USA alone and have been helping millions for more than 150 years. They are located in their own sites as well as in schools, including John Muir Middle School.

Boys and Girls Club wouldn't be the same without the staff that works there. One of the amazing staff on our campus is Brooke. She is the boss of everyone. She runs the place, and no one dares to mess with her. She is very nice unless you do something bad. She has the monthly Town Hall meetings. Brooke also makes the members do Trash Sweeps. Although greatly disliked by the members of Boys and Girls Club, it left the campus looking cleaner and better than before. "She is very chill." Says 7th Grader Caleb Moss. Brooke has a great sense of humor and jokes

around with the members often. She has recently taken a job for the city & we all miss her!

Keonte is another staff member. Keonte runs the 6th grade room and is seen with much respect by them. Keonte runs Triple Play, Flag Football, and the brand new Soccer Program. Keonte will sometimes play basketball with the members, and models his game after The Professor Live. Here are some of the opinions on Keonte. According to Kirin D'Sa, Keonte is a "good person."

Kaitlyn is the most experienced Boys and Girls staff member. She has the important job of letting people out the gate to make sure they go home with their parents.. Kaitlyn also runs Fine Arts and Torch Club. Kaitlyn spends her time with mostly 7th and 8th graders and plays music for the kids doing homework or just on their phones. Kaitlyn is beloved for all the hard work she does.

Here are what some club members had to say about Kaitlyn. "She is very sweet and maintains order." says 8th grader Victoria Castillo.

All in all, Boys and Girls Club is fun for the members and something the members look forward to every day.



Club members from left to right Sinaya Yohannes, Nora Carrier and King Aberman



SPORTS

By: Arin Navasartian

Welcome everyone to the 1st annual John Muir Sports Center! This is John Muir's very own sport covering site of operations. We are going to cover so much sports, it would be flooding with sports. We really like sports.

On campus, we have multiple sports; Handball, Basketball, Soccer, Football, Four Square, and so much more. Many people play these campus sports and everyone can agree that they are very fun. Juan Carlos Huezo agreed it is fun, Casey Peters agreed it is fun, and even Derek Moss agreed it is fun.

Now lots of people also have a favorite sports player, other than themselves. Juan Huezo told us he liked Tom Brady. Damian Sarhadian told us his favorite sports player is Paul George. Now, unsurprisingly, other people have mentioned Messi, Mike Tyson, Michael Jordan, and Magic Johnson. And accompanied by their favorite sports players are their favorite sports. Many said their favorite sports are the common and boring answers of Basketball, Soccer, and Football, but the few Ileana Lozano said she liked Hockey, and Lina Mouradian said her favorite sport was Swimming.

With all the campus sports, there are also many sports that the school itself holds. There have been 2 main sporting events that the school has held, the Counselor Cup and the Muir Bowl. The Muir Bowl was a football

game between the teachers and the 8th graders. This game was played on December 23 of 2023, and although it was a fun match to watch, the teachers sadly won. The 2nd sports match the school had held was the Counselor Cup. The Counselor Cup was a soccer match between the teachers and the students. Now this time, this game was held on February 10th of 2023 and this time, it was a tie! The rematch was on 5/5 & the students won 6 - 0!

To recap John Muir's 1st annual John Muir Sports Center, where we are centered around sportsSports Good!



Bye, Bye to the 8th Graders...
Good luck in High School!

