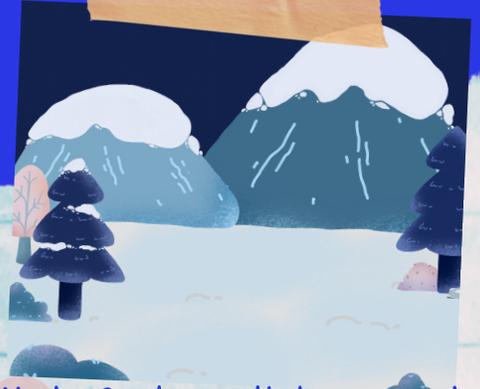


WJHS MEDIA CENTER NEWSLETTER



Spreading the Joy!

Since the beginning of this year, you all have embraced the Media Center with loving and supportive arms. We are truly grateful for each and every one of you! Our hope is that you have a pleasant final three weeks of December so you can enjoy your break with friends and family. Here's to all the great things yet to come in the new year!

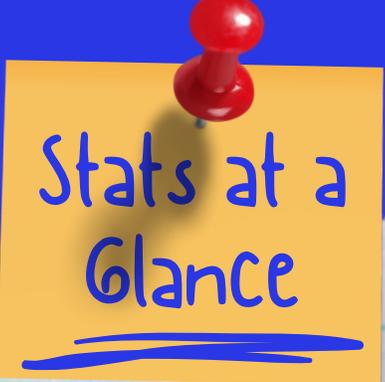
Activities in the Media Center

Come join us for a game of Connections this month. Every week students will be given a sheet of paper with 16 book covers on it. They will be asked to make connections in groups of four different categories. Every week there will be a new riddle or trivia. One winner will be announced every Monday.

Media Center Mascots

Have you seen our two new additions in the library? Please welcome dog and panther. Help us name our mascots! Submit your name suggestions here. We will announce their names on Monday, December 11th. Thanks to Dr. B for donating the dog and panther!





Stats at a Glance



Media Center Stats

That book joy is still going strong today. Here are the stats from last year (Nov 2022) to this year (Nov 2023):

November 2022

Books Checked Out:

384

Top 5 Books Circulated Books (November 2022):

1. Okay For Now
2. Babysitters Club, #8
3. Guts
4. Diary of a Wimpy Kid, #9
5. Ultimate Weird But True!

November 2023

Books Checked Out:

552

Top 5 Books Circulated Books (November 2023):

1. Guts
2. Speak For Me
3. Diary of a Wimpy Kid, #18
4. Wings of Fire, #2
5. Naruto, #10

NEW

Books added since August 2023:

299

NEW



Reminders



Chromebook Charging Station

We now have three chargers available for students to charge their Chromebooks first thing in the morning at the Smart Service counter. They can come to the Media Center, plug in their Chromebook and return when they need it. This helps us keep our loaners available for those that have their Chromebooks in for repair.

First Chapter Friday

Thank you to everyone for allowing us to come your classrooms! Click here to sign up your classroom. Here is a link to a working copy of our FCF calendar. It might be helpful for planning purposes.

Teacher Current Reads

Thank you all to those who submitted their current reads so far! We love seeing students stop and look at all the different books that we are reading. Let's continue adding books to our #CUSD201READS Together wall. Please list the books you are currently reading here.

Nuestras (Our) casa es su casa

If you need a change of scenery, you are more than welcome to bring your class or just yourself. Please check the calendar to sign up.





Hanukkah

December 7th - 15th



The history

It all started in 167 B.C. when King Antiochus in present day Israel put in place a law that bans the practice of the Judaism faith and instead wants everyone to worship Greek Gods. When they refused, the king sent in troops to destroy the Temple of Jerusalem which was an important place to practice the Jewish faith. Judah the Maccabee led the rebellion against the king which historians believed they fought for 3 years to get back their independence. In 164 B.C. the Maccabees (the name of the rebellion) defeated the king. When the Maccabees went back to the temple, they discovered one jar of oil that was just enough to light the temple's candles for only one day. According to the Talmud (one of Judaism's holy texts), a miracle occurred and the candle burned for eight days which is enough time for the Maccabees to retrieve more oil for the sacred candles. It didn't end there, it took many more years to establish peace which occurred in the year 142 B.C. which ended in the Jewish people making their own independent region.

How it is celebrated today:

It's the celebration of the festival of lights! Hanukkah starts on the 25th day of Kislev, the 9th month of the Hebrew calendar also called the Jewish Calendar. Because this calendar follows the moon cycle, the holiday starts on a different date each year on the calendar used the most, which is based on the sun cycles. Usually, Hanukkah starts in late November to mid-December. This year in 2023, Hanukkah starts on December 7th and ends on the 15th. In celebration, a candle burns for eight nights. Jewish people who celebrate Hanukkah light a candle holder called a menorah. The menorah holds 9 candles which represent each night along with a candle called the shamash that is used to light the other candles. Each night, one candle is lit and special prayers or blessings are performed. After each ceremony, they may give gifts, play with the dreidel by spinning it and landing it on top right away which could earn them chocolate gelt or they can feast together on potato pancakes (latkes) and deep fried jelly donuts (sufganiyot)



Christmas

December 24th–25th, 2023 or
January 5th–6th 2024



The history:

The word Christmas comes from the Old English term Cristes maesse, meaning "Christ's mass." The word refers to Christian worship service that is held on December 25th to honor the birth of Jesus. Although Christians believe that Jesus was born in a town named Bethlehem, the day and year he was born is not certain. The stories of Jesus's birth were written down several decades after the event, as Christianity developed no specific dates were given.

In the 300s C.E., Christians split themselves 2 ways; The Eastern Church from Constantinople, and the Western Church from Rome. They chose different days to celebrate Jesus's birth. Eastern celebrated January 6th that is named Epiphany. Western chose December 25th. As time went on, Eastern and Western churches began celebrating each other's festivals. The modern Christian festival lasted for 12 days, from Christmas to Epiphany. In the Western church, Christians celebrate Epiphany as the day that the three Wise Men, or Magi, visited the baby Jesus. In the East, Epiphany mainly celebrates Jesus's baptism.

How it is celebrated now:

Many countries have different traditions in celebrating Christmas. The most common amongst them is giving presents from a popular figure named Santa Claus. The most well loved part of the holiday is decorating a tree with strings of lights and ornaments. The Christmas tree is thought to be the combination of two German traditions. The "paradise tree" was a fir tree that was a part of the religious feast day of Adam and Eve, which was celebrated on December 24. In the same room was a wooden "Christmas pyramid." This triangle had shelves that held Christmas figures and was decorated with evergreens, candles, and a star. The spirit of giving to those in need became popular that started with the British Monarchy along with giving out Christmas cards. In Spain and Italy they get presents on January 5th. Spanish children leave out their shoes, which are believed to be filled with gifts by one of the Wise Men. Famous treats include mince pies and Christmas cake in Britain, a sponge cake called a Christmas log in France, fried tortillas covered with syrup and cinnamon sugar in Mexico called buñuelos.



Kwanzaa
December 26th, 2023 -
January 1st, 2024



The history:

In the 1950s-1960s, The civil rights movement's goal was to end the mistreatment of African American people because of their race. In 1954, the Supreme Court ruled that the segregation of schools between black and white students was illegal. When Dr. King made his infamous "I Have a Dream" speech that sparked more rights for African Americans in 1965. In the same year, a white police officer in Los Angeles California pulled over 2 African American men. This action caused frustration about the police mistreatment of African Americans and a crowd formed with protests and riots and it slowly grew throughout the city. 34 people died and over a 1,000 people were injured. It was named the Watts rebellion. In 1966, educator and activist Maulana Karenga wanted to rebuild the neighborhood that was affected by the riots and create pride in the community. Part of the plan to encourage pride was the creation of Kwanzaa to empower African Americans to rediscover and honor their African heritage. Kwanzaa means "first fruits" in Swahili which is a language spoken in Africa. It refers to joy and unity many have in celebrating a harvest season. This holiday encourages 7 principles; unity, self determination (helping yourself succeed), collective work and responsibility (teamwork), cooperative economics (sharing), purpose, creativity, and faith.

How it's celebrated now:

Kwanzaa is not an African holiday but it has inherited a lot of African cultural practices. Symbols of African heritages are decorated in houses that include woven mats on tables (called mkeka) and a unity cup (called kikombe cha umoja) is placed on the mkeka which help represent sharing and faith that correlates with the 7 principles of Kwanzaa. A big part in the celebration is lighting a candle each night. An adult pours a little water from the unity cup onto the ground to remember the family's ancestors. The cup is passed to each family member, who sips while everyone chants harambee (Swahili for "let's pull together") 7 times. The Kinara that holds the 7 candles represent each principle with each color. The black candle which is lit first in the middle represents unity, the red candles on the left represent the past, and the green candles on the right represent the future. Meals are made and include peanut soup or shrimp gumbo, desserts like fried bananas, sweet potato pie, and coconut sweets. The actual celebration is on December 31. Family and friends gather in bright African-style clothing and have a large feast, called karamu. They play music all day while singing and dancing.