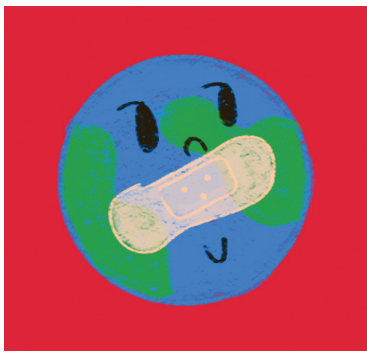


Student Reporter



Alexis Choi
Grade 9
South High School

Global Warming: We've Heard About It, Now Let's Do Something



It isn't too late yet! Humans can slow global warming and climate change with collective efforts and cooperation. [Source: Author, Alexis Choi]

The earth has grown hotter by 0.32 degrees Fahrenheit every decade since 1981. The average ocean temperature has increased, causing sea levels to rise. Glaciers are withdrawing nearly everywhere in the world, and snow is melting earlier than usual. But what does this really mean?

Sadly, a majority of the world doesn't recognize the extremity of global warming and climate change because they can't feel the immediate effects. What does it matter if ice caps are melting and arctic animals are dying if every-

one believes the environment is still nice and safe? However, global warming is a real increasing danger that must be given immediate attention. 2020 was the warmest year on record, and the planet has been heating up at unbelievable rates in past decades, with an increase of about 1.4 degrees since 1880. This rise in global temperatures is different from the day-to-day changes in weather that cause us to wear shorts or grab a thicker jacket; it has unimaginable effects on the world and its inhabitants.

Mountain glaciers and icebergs melt, causing oceans to rise and eventually flood coastal cities. Was visiting Miami, Seattle, and San Diego on your bucket list? If so, book tickets now. Most of these cities are expected to be fully submerged by the end of the century. New Orleans is even anticipated to be underwater by 2040—less than twenty years from today.

Warmer oceans also cause more aggressive weather disturbances, including hurricanes, wildfires, and tsunamis, that will inevitably

wreak havoc on civilizations. Climate change also affects agriculture and will eventually decrease the stability of nations' food supplies. If things continue as they are, the world will run out of fresh water, food, and the lifespans of hundreds of species will decrease.

"Okay, whatever," some might say. "It's too late now, anyway." This is truly the scariest question: is it really too late?

The short answer is no. Although humanity is certainly behind, if people pour all their effort into restoring the Earth starting now, global warming can be slowed and contained before it reaches truly disastrous levels.

So what can be done? First, completely turn off all electrical appliances when not in use to save electricity. This means actually powering off your laptop instead of just shutting the lid. Next is the thing that seems obvious until you step under the glorious, steaming water: take short showers. Average showerheads use 2.5 gallons of water every minute. Cutting your

shower time down by three minutes will save a whopping 7.5 gallons of water. Lastly, bike, walk, or ride public transportation instead of cars, and shop at local stores. When grocery shopping, don't shy away from the "ugly" fruits and vegetables—the misshapen apple, the smaller avocados, that slightly bruised banana. They may be imperfect but they are still undoubtedly edible! If no one buys them, they will meet their ends in the ever-growing landfills.

These steps are only the bare minimum. Be aware that they will not suffice to overcome global warming and secure the world's future. This global crisis is a final warning from the Earth itself. Depending on people's choices, 2022 may become the year that humans take responsibility for their actions, or it may become the year most regretted in future centuries. This isn't someone else's job—it's the world you live in! If humans give up on the planet, it will give up on us in return, and not even the laziest person would benefit from that.

Student Reporter



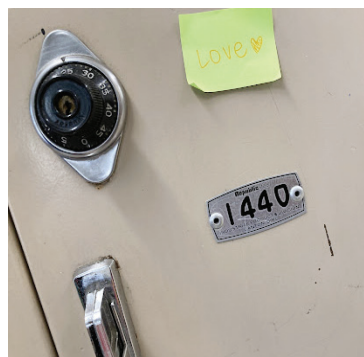
Angel Song
Grade 7
Walter Reed Middle School

Kindness Failure

Kindness is an act that we, for sure, all need in our lives. To support this idea, schools have been creating projects to help people understand kindness. However, some schools may have gotten a little carried away in the projects they have been holding to promote kindness, one being Walter Reed Middle School (WRMS).

The week of January 24 to 28 is the WRMS Kindness Week, a week which is filled with many kind events, such as compliment readings on the daily morning announcements, kindness messages on every students' lockers, and such. However, students are starting to feel that the planning for this whole week has been going a little overboard.

Over the past few months, after



A locker with a kindness note stuck onto it at Walter Reed Middle School during Kindness Week. [Source: Author, Angel Song]

school started in August, WRMS Assistant Student Body (ASB) [Student Council] has been holding events similar to Kindness Week, such as the Great Kindness Challenge at the start of the school year. The event consists of a "challenge" relating to kindness, and students had the opportunity to participate. Nothing

else so far in the 2021-2022 school year was as big as the Kindness Week though. This week, there were many events. To name a few, there were daily compliment cards directed to any person on campus that would be read on the morning announcements, kind post-it messages around the whole school, and big kindness posters that seem to have materialized out of nowhere. They promote kindness and optimism, but some think that this may be going a little overboard. Jessica Tsai, a student at WRMS, states that "there's been too much of the Kindness Week events going on, so now the whole thing feels kind of depressing." Many students have been feeling, interestingly, depressed, indifferent, and confused about the Kindness Week events. The side effects are clearly visible, with students feeling indifferent, and

even downcast by many kindness events occurring simultaneously.

So, is there a solution to this problem? Certainly. The cause of this problem is because the school has been attempting to do way too many things at once, which may be overwhelming for the students who see kindness-related materials everywhere. Solving this problem isn't that hard because all the ASB has to do is minimize the amount of the events that they are displaying. It may be better to start one day with posters, take a break from the Kindness Week, and return back to it once everyone seems to have forgotten about it. From what we have been seeing on campus, people are overwhelmed, and in this case, adding on to this already-depressing schedule would not be the best decision.

Student Reporter



Christina Park,
Grade 8
Rosemont Middle School

How the Omicron Surge is Affecting Schools and Students

Now that winter break is over, all schools are reopening to welcome their students back to the second semester. Now, Rosemont Middle School in California has gotten new sets of rules from the Glendale Unified School District to enhance the health of its students. However, it is not only the schools' rules that are being affected, but also the mental health of students.

Before coming back to school, all students had to test for COVID because the school wanted to make sure only the kids who tested negative, set foot on campus. Therefore, they opened testing sights at the closest high school, Crescenta Valley, and even had some at Glendale High School. Parents were able to drive up to the school and get the PCR test or walk in and get the rapid test. Students with negative tests were able to come back to school safely.

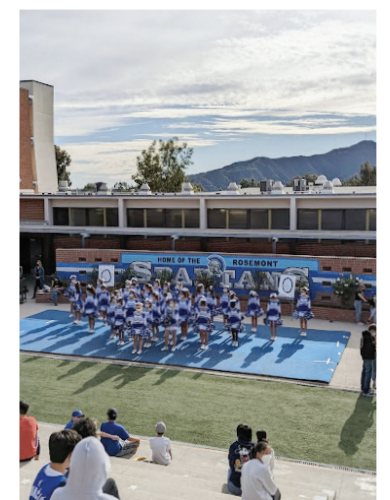
The new guidelines that the

Glendale Unified School District, GUSD, gave all the district schools were that students must wear a mask inside and outside unless they were actively eating. Before, the students were allowed to take their masks off outside so that they could breathe. Because of this change, classes are being heavily affected. For example, physical education teachers had to change all their plans since many students would have trouble running and doing sports with masks on. In the first semester, students had running days, where they had to run five laps around the fields, but with masks on this is almost impossible. Therefore, they have changed it to "walking" days where scholars only have to walk two laps in thirty minutes.

The sudden surge of the omicron variant is not just affecting campus rules and faculty, but the mental and physical health of students. Now that it is easier to

get COVID, many students are scared to talk to their friends and are even having trouble eating at school. Plus, their parents are forcing them to wear masks that are stronger, such as KN95 or KF94. Also, there are many students that can no longer hang out with their friends after school since they could risk getting the virus. Finally, for the students that have COVID, they have to struggle through coming to school online through Zoom classes that teachers open during their period. It is much harder to pay attention and follow along with the lesson since the teacher is not talking to them specifically.

ASB President, Sammy Arias, explains, "The new Omicron surge made it feel like everything went back a step. My parents ordered kn95 masks and told my sister and me to be more careful. The abrupt change made the whole attitude around the virus a lot more serious at school. One of my



Third CFE (Competition for Enjoyment) was held outside with limited students to help prevent the spread of Omicron. [Source: Rosemont Middle School Social Media]

teachers was out for a week, which made my class behind in the curriculum. Hopefully, the surge dies down so we can get back to learning."

All in all, everyone is finding ways to cope with the new variant and the "new" normal.

Assistant Editors Column

A Visit to the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures



Claudia Shin
Grade 10
Granada Hills Charter
High School

As a lover of films, I immediately bought tickets when I found out the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures was finally opening in La Brea. For months I witnessed the museum be slowly built right next to the LA County Museum of Art. In late 2021, the Academy Museum opened to visitors and featured exhibits on everything from the anime films of Hayao Miyazaki to iconic Hollywood backdrops, costumes, and more.

The first exhibit I visited in the museum was the “Stories of Cinema,” a three-story exhibition featuring films from around the world, showcasing their costumes, makeup, hair, and behind-the-scenes moments. My favorite part of the whole museum was the costume and makeup component. This part of the exhibit

displayed iconic Hollywood costumes such as the black suit from Edward Scissorhands (1990), the flower dress from Midsommar (2019), and Dorothy’s dress and ruby slippers from The Wizard of Oz (1939). Also featured in this exhibit were wigs, prosthetic cheekbones, fake teeth, and makeup from the sets of movies like Singin’ In the Rain (1952) and Elizabeth Taylor’s Cleopatra (1963). Being able to stand not even a foot away from these objects that had such a monumental impact on pop culture was one of my favorite parts of the museum.

Not only did the Academy Museum showcase these looks from the most famous scenes in movie history, they also took the visitor behind the scenes – walking through the process of writing, set

design, animation, casting, music, and more. One of the current featured exhibits at the museum is on Hayao Miyazaki, a producer, animator, director, and screenwriter at Studio Ghibli. Hayao Miyazaki is the mastermind behind award-winning animations like Spirited Away (2001) and Howl’s Moving Castle (2004). The museum does not allow photos to be taken inside the exhibit, but I think being present in the moment brings the whole experience to the next level. The exhibit plays music from Miyazaki’s films while showcasing his creative process and the scenes that they result in.

For lovers of films and casual viewers alike, the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures is a fantastic place to visit to geek out about movies and pop culture. The



The ruby slippers worn by Judy Garland in The Wizard of Oz can be seen at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, where many props and costumes are now housed. (1939). [Source: Author, Claudia Shin]

stunning architecture, views, and exhibits on display at the museum make the overall experience a must-do if in the Los Angeles area.

Student Reporter

How Deep Does Skincare Go?



Harmonia Kim
Grade 11
New Covenant Academy

Do you follow consistent routines throughout your day? What about a skincare routine? Do you follow it day and night? If so, have you thought about how your skincare has influenced you? The skincare you do day and night can influence you more than the skin. Other than treating specific areas and keeping up with good hygiene, skincare has a deeper impact that can reach your mind and soul.

A flaw in one’s appearance can negatively impact their self-confidence and self-image. When they are negatively impacted, they try to hide from others in fear that someone will notice or point out their flaws. A common example of this is acne. Those who experience acne most often have poor self-esteem and tend to deal with depression and anxiety. That’s when skincare starts to step in. When one takes care of their skin, a new door to a healthier body and mind is opened.

Doing skincare allows people to take care of themselves, therefore letting them know that they are important. Furthermore, it allows them to spend time pampering themselves and enjoy when they are being taken care of. In other words, skincare can be a way to practice mindfulness, a type of meditation in which one focuses on being intensely aware of what they’re sensing and feeling in the moment, without interpretation or judgment. Continuously practicing



Having products to target your specific needs helps you keep a consistent skincare routine. [Source: Author, Harmonia Kim]

these acts of mindfulness can definitely heal one’s mental health, thus leading to a healthier life.

Having a routine to follow day and night, just like skincare, encourages a healthier lifestyle. It is common for those who don’t follow a consistent daily routine to suffer from stress, poor sleep, poor eating, poor physical condition, and ineffective use of time. On the other hand, when one follows a consistent routine, they experi-

ence better stress and sleep levels, leading to enhanced health.

You can incorporate a healthy skincare routine into your daily life through simple steps. First of all, target the purpose of your skincare. Dry skin? Dull skin tone? Acne? Acne scars? Or, do you just want to have a basic skincare routine? Anything works. You do not need a specific reason or problem to do this.

Figure out what type of skin you have, and dive into the research of what skincare products will work the best for you. Once you have a standard routine, you can invest a portion of your time in the morning and night and stay committed to it. Soon, you will notice how following a skincare routine allows you to have an intimate time that teaches you how important caring for yourself is. The increased self-love and care will help you become a healthier person with a happy mind and body.

Student Reporter

A Visit to Pikes Peak, the Highest Summit in the Rocky Mountains



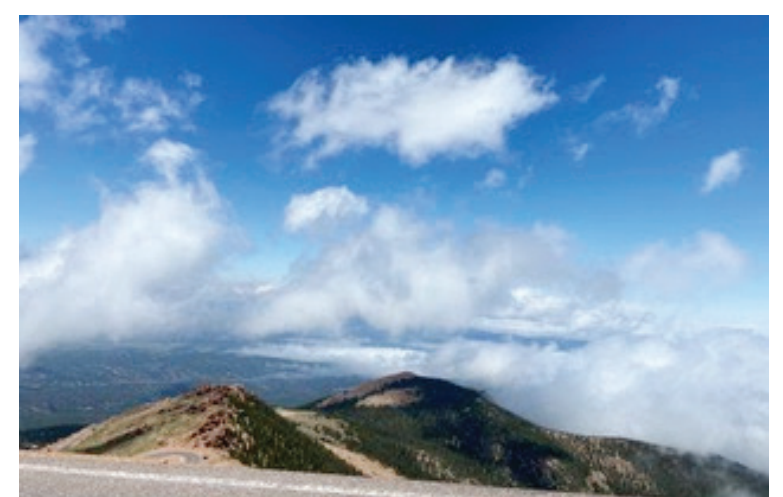
Gina Kim
Grade 11
Oxford Academy

As a state located entirely within the Rocky Mountains, Colorado offers a diverse landscape of deserts, snow-capped mountains, and vibrant mountainsides. The amazing clear weather and preservation of natural land among populated areas are some of the enjoyable qualities of The Centennial State. Among the breathtaking sightseeing destinations that Colorado has to offer, one of them is highly recognizable even across the nation. Clocking in at 14,115 feet, Pikes Peak offers an exciting 19-mile journey, unlike any others.

I had the opportunity to visit Pikes Peak over winter break and enjoyed the adrenaline that the drive sparked. Death drops on either side of winding roads and the passage from the view of leafy trees to boulders and barked pine trees amplified that I was, in fact, rising to an incredibly high altitude. The entire drive was about an hour and a

half to two hours, but it felt much shorter because the views were so outstanding. At every turn, the scenery looked different, and I became immersed in the expanse of land that was stretching out further and further by the minute. My family and I stopped along the way to enjoy the view and take pictures next to the rivers. As we rose higher, I even began to see snow. An entire wall along the road was packed high with ice at one point. Further along the drive, the roads became more dangerous, as there was no longer any land on either side for cars to feel safe. The narrow two-way lanes and a lack of road barriers on at least one side at all times felt ridiculous at first. However, with the proper caution and focus from the driver, there was no problem getting to the peak.

At the very end of the drive, we arrived at a large parking area on a flattened out section of the summit. A short walk presented



Roads alongside the summit show an unobstructed view of the mountain below [Source: Author, Gina Kim]

the travelers with a 360° view of everything below. The furious wind made the weather, which was around 30 degrees Fahrenheit, feel much colder, and I could barely hear my own voice when I spoke because of the unrestricted power of the wind. Clouds rested and floated along the hills below where I stood, and the thin air felt obvious as maneuvering around large piles of rocks stripped my

breath away. It was freezing, and I only lasted about 15 minutes before returning to the car. The sudden change in altitude also gave me nausea, but the scenery was breathtaking and had me coming back every five minutes. The drive down was bittersweet, but just as pleasurable. Both my family and I felt refreshed after our trip, and the experience of the drive was memorable, to say the least.