

FREEDOM PRESS

Welcome back Patriots!

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Photo By: Allyra Castillo

Read more in "What Everyone Was Wearing
During Holiday Spirit Week"!

NEWS

What Everybody Was Wearing During Holiday Spirit Week

By: Abdias Sanchez

From December 18th - December 22nd, it was holiday spirit week and everyone was dressing up to show their spirit. On Monday, everybody was wearing holiday pajamas. Many people were showing their spirit. A lot of people wore holiday pajamas and it felt very festive! On Tuesday, everybody was wearing green and red. A lot of people were wearing Christmas colors and a lot of people looked like elves.

On Wednesday, everybody was wearing bows, ribbons, and patterns. There was one person dressed like a christmas present. On Thursday, everybody was wearing white and blue. It looked like the 4th of July. On Friday everybody was wearing their ugliest sweater. The school felt so festive and spirited. It was a great way to say goodbye to the semester and hello to winter break!



Photos by: Allyra Castillo

NEWS

FAFSA Workshops Emerges at Freedom High School

By: Jashaliz Rosado



Photo of: Mrs. Dotson

Photo by: Raymond Arbaje

At Freedom High School new opportunities for college are always coming up. One opportunity that has come recently is the FAFSA Workshop. The FAFSA workshops are held by Mrs. Dotson and are an opportunity for seniors to earn over 7 grand of money for college with the workshops available. Anyone interested in the workshops or wants to register should talk to Mrs. Dotson for guidance or go to <https://tinyurl.com/FreedomFAFSA>.

As seniors are planning for college it may be hard or scary but these workshops allow you to plan and get things in order. These workshops can help cover tuition, supplies, housing and transportation. If you are starting college in Fall 2024, workshops open in January, you can register at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. If you are starting college in the summer, you must fill out the 2023-24 FAFSA application (open now) and the 2024-2025 application (opens January 1st). The January workshops will be held on the 16th, 23rd, and 30th in the media center.

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To apply for a workshop you must have your laptop and charger, the phone number and email of both the student and one parent, the social security number of the student and one parent, and tax information for 2022. You must also create an FSA ID before completing a Fafsa workshop. The FAFSA ID works as the electronic signature for Fafsa, Both the students and the parent have to make one. You can make an ID at <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>.

Mrs. Dotson is excited to help seniors with their applications and encourages them to give the workshops a try. While the workshops are for seniors, underclassmen are encouraged to focus on their grades, do their best on tests, and participate in extracurricular activities.

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“A Tribute to One Loved by All, Korbin”

By: Torry Gonzalez

Korbin Blake was just 17 years old when tragedy struck, and he passed away Saturday, December 2, 2023. Korbin was and still is loved by all his friends and family and will never be forgotten.

I met Korbin the summer before going into my Sophomore year. I met Korbin on a very hot day at my apartment complex's pool. He was there with his girlfriend, and they got in the pool and played with my little brother. I remember when I went to take my little brother back to the apartment Korbin made small talk with me and said he remembered me from freshman year gym class. That was the beginning of my and Korbin's friendship. Another memory I have with Korbin is World History. Whenever I wore my hair in a bun he would mess with it as if it was a joystick; he was also such a good person and would make everyone laugh. Korbin was the type to help me out when I asked for it and he wasn't doing anything.

Jazzy, one of Korbin's friends, says that she has two favorite memories with him. The first one being the 2021-2022 school year when we're freshmen and she just moved to our school. She says “It was our freshman year and I was new, a couple friends including Korbin and her decided to go to Wawa, but I didn't know how to get there and the friends including Korbin were already there. So Korbin and another friend walked back to school from Wawa so I could find my way to Wawa. He came up to me with a tank top on and was sweating and I asked him why he had only a tank top on? Korbin said “because you had me running.”

She says her second memory took place this year during PSAT testing and they had the same testing room. After they finished testing and were able to move around they found a water bottle behind the computer and started to flip it. She says it always landed for him but it never landed for her so they made a joke that the water bottle was in love with him. After they said that he

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flipped the bottle and it landed for him but when she flipped it it didn't land for her. She went on to say she really misses him a lot.

Another friend of Korbin's, Alex, says that even though he and Korbin weren't that close, Korbin was a kind, loyal, respectable, humble, and funny human being. Korbin was everything a person could want in a friend.

Nola had Korbin in her robotics class last year. She says her favorite memories of him are when he would try to joke around with the teacher or make her laugh. She also says she remembers his tricycle that he made and somehow got it to work.

Overall, Korbin is missed by many and is also loved by many. We all know Korbin is in a better place and hope he is able to rest in peace.

FEATURES

National English Honors Society

By: Samantha Villanueva

Freedom High School's National English Honor Society gives students the chance to expand and exercise their knowledge of the English language in a fun and intriguing way. The club is sponsored by Ms. Thompson, the AP Literature and Film teacher, and with the help of the officers, Carolina Lewis, the President, Sarah Read, the Vice President, Maliyah Thate, the Secretary, Jadyne Goldberg, the Treasurer, Sabrina Medfu, the Media Director, and Ngan Tran the Club Representative, all help keep the club perform to its full potential.

The President of NEHS, Carolina Lewis was motivated to become president due to always being intrigued by the complexity of the English language and has been able to appreciate the importance of strong reading, writing, and communication skills when learning it as a second language. Her goal for the club is to "provide an environment where those who share a common interest can build off each other but also where people can grow their love for the English language while developing new skills."

If a student is interested in joining the National English Honor Society, the requirements to join the club are having at least two semesters of English at a high school or college level and must have at least a 3.0 GPA. Though it is not a requirement, aspiring members should be prepared to come with an open mind and be ready to challenge themselves, but also remember that it's all for fun.

Some activities NEHS has hosted in their meetings have been a spelling bee and a white elephant during Christmas. Future activities the club plans on hosting are a poetry slam during their January meeting and an essay workshop in February. The club recently held a book drive where the books will be donated to "A Gift for Teaching."

FEATURES

Action for Animals Club at Freedom High School

By: Livia Vitzel Bahis

Action for Animals is a club at Freedom High School started by the Student Body President, Sarah Read. She was inspired by her passion for veterinary science. Sarah said, "I decided to start the Actions 4 Animals Club because I wanted to create a space for people to be able to help animals in our community."

Since animals don't have a voice to communicate, this club provides them with the voice to make a difference. This club can show you the importance of helping animals. Normally, the meetings will have fun activities, such as painting birdhouses, making posters to inform people about the club and what they do, decorating boxes for drives, making toys to donate, and many more ways to help the animals. Anyone who likes to help animals should go to the meeting and consider joining the club too. The meetings are every other Wednesday after school at 2:30 in room 540.

One goal of this club is to allow people to be connected to animals and make a difference by bringing support and care to animals around our local community. Samuel, the Vice President, said "This club is to be able to help the animals in our local community and have people to help them and be involved."

The officers and members are excited to see their club grow and make a difference in the local community. Their Instagram is @Fhs.a4a. This club is a great opportunity for students at Freedom High School to learn more about animals and help them. New members are always welcome to join anytime.

FEATURES

Art Honor Society Comes Back to Freedom

By: Gabriela Umanchuk



Photo by: Benjamin Cardenas

Freedom High School is known for its performing arts achievements and involvements. One of those types of arts is visual arts. Besides being a way to express yourself and expend time as a hobby. It is something that someone with that passion would like to become better and better day by day. The Art Honor Society is a place where people with the passion for visual arts can come and express themselves but also learn new skills and ways to improve.

After 3 years of being forgotten the Art Honor Society comes back for the 2023-2024 school year. Generally the Society has meetings every other Wednesday, the exact date is published on its Instagram; @anhs2324 or in the Society's Discord. Usually the meetings last for about an hour. Usually, it begins with a little presentation of the officers, speaking about any new information, rules, or any other important information for the current date. Afterwards, there is always some kind of activity to do. For example, sketching, painting, tie-dye, and multiple more activities to come.

Any student who would like to learn about art history, art skills, or even just to have a place where you can feel comfortable showing your projects, asking for advice, or need a place where they can work peacefully then this is the place for you. On the Society's Discord account you can share whatever project you want to show off or gain critics on can be posted here and both the officers and other members would give their perspectives of the project and what things could be done to improve it or just simply give their opinion on the certain project.

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Since the Society just came back this year, the officers are currently still looking for members and see the Society grow with passionate art students. If you are interested in joining the Society there is still a chance. The next meeting will be posted on the Instagram account soon and any other information will also be posted there as soon as it's known. The meeting will be after school in room 534. Hope to see a lot of new faces and new styles!

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GenWOW at Freedom High School Invites All To Join

By: Elizabeth Robbins

Here at Freedom High School, we have many interesting and exciting clubs. One of these is GenWOW. GenWOW is a fun club that focuses on gender equality. GenWOW helps to form future leaders by inspiring young teens through mentorship and education. It helps young people make a difference in the world.

Clubs like GenWOW bring students together and help them prepare for the future. GenWOW teaches leadership to students which is important for their future success. Having leaders in our school and in the world helps provide order and people for others to look up to. This means that leaders have an influence on those around them, so it is important that they are taught to have a good moral compass that leads them to make good decisions.

Guidance from clubs like GenWOW helps create good leaders. Good leaders are people who are able to make rational decisions that are the best for everybody. Having more of them in the world can help make the world a better place. Without leaders, people would have no direction and it would be hard for any growth to happen. With good leaders the world is able to prosper and grow in the right direction. People are brought together and there is more unity between them.

One of the main focuses of GenWOW is gender equality. It is important that everyone is treated with kindness and respect no matter what their gender is. At GenWOW meetings, they go deeper into the subject, and have more in depth discussions. This gives you a chance to express your opinions and thoughts in a safe space. This is a great opportunity for any student.

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Many clubs provide a great chance to meet new people, GenWOW is one of these. You can meet lots of new people and make new friends. This is a way to put yourself out there and try something new. If you are interested in joining GenWOW, you can learn more about them from their instagram @fhsgen-wow.

FEATURES

Film club at Freedom High School

By: Ana Traspuesto

Freedom High School has various types of clubs for every interest and one of those clubs is the film club! Mr. Villacis was inspired to make this club because he wanted “to teach the new generation the importance of video technology and multimedia.” Mr. Villacis is a former news anchor and multimedia reporter with Univision and Telemundo; he also has a marketing agency! Maria Olivera is the president of this club and Giovanni Gutierrez is the vice-president.

If anyone is passionate about filming, video editing, and acting, then joining the film club would be a great option. The club typically meets the last week of every month in room 527. For any more information about the meetings, you can check PTV for updates on when they will meet or if the meeting is canceled. Even if you don't know anything about film, Mr. Villacis still encourages you to join the club if you're interested. Normally in a meeting, students will learn more about movie techniques, video editing, lighting, and most importantly, the officers of this club want students to have fun.

For any more information, the film club's Instagram is @fhs.filmclub and Mr. Villacis's email is xavier.villacis@ocps.net. Lastly, this club is an amazing opportunity for students who want to learn more about film!

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Spring Baseball is Up and Running With the New Year!

By: Rodrigo Suarez



Photo by: Renato Puopolo

This new year will bring exciting events to our school, one of them being the spring season hosting a few sports; Tennis, Lacrosse, Softball, and Baseball.

This new season will bring new expectations and challenges for this young freedom baseball team. After several seasons carrying the baton of the team, Coach Gray has decided to immediately resign from his position after the end of the 22-23 season, leading to the obligation to bring a new head coach capable of taking this team to the playoffs.

This season is expected to be a transition one, due to new coaches, a new wave of players, and new uniforms. The transition will not be a very common one, since the “Patriots” will go from having a total of 12 seniors ball players last year, to just having a very few for this season, with now the junior players being in charge of carrying most of the team’s load. Therefore, the new coaches have made sure to reinforce the team with players coming in from other schools, with pitchers and catchers being the most benefited positions.

The pre-season practices for the start of the season kicked off last week, with the focus of getting back on that rhythm and pace again after the winter holidays. The first game will be on Tuesday February 13, when the Patriots host the Colonial High School team; the game is scheduled to start at 4:00pm.

Stay tuned to the “Freedom Press” throughout the season for the latest news and coverage about the baseball team, as well as with the different sports played by our school during the spring season.

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Freedom High School Boys Soccer Season

By: Leonardo Cozzo



Photo by: Julian Girona

The 2023-2024 Freedom High School soccer season has been a success. The varsity boys team is on a 3 wins, 5 draws, and 5 losses record, and the three wins being against Jones, Colonial, and University High School! Our Freedom soccer boys have tied 1-1 against local rival Cypress Creek, and tied 3-3 against the number three team in the state, Lake Nona. According to Max-Preps, we are ranked at 56 (out of 92) in the state. The varsity Freedom soccer team currently has 3 more games, and one of them being against our local rivals, Cypress Creek. The team is led by the captain Fabian Alvarez, and the coach Juan Baquero. Our school's soccer team has always been amazing at soccer. They have not had a season where they won less than 3 games since the 2009-2010 season!

The JV team is led by the captains Cooper Tintle and Alejandro Rios and the coach Michael Briscoe, have been on a great season as well. They are on a 3 wins, 2 draws, and 1 loss record, including the 0-0 tie against local rivals Cypress Creek and 0-0 tie against Lake Nona, being the only game the Lake Nona JV team did not win (13-0-1)! The Freedom High JV soccer team currently has 2 games left, one of them being against our local rivals Cypress Creek.

According to some JV players, each player has a different pre-game schedule.

Some players go home, eat, and drive to the game, and some players stay in the school waiting to go to the field or in away game cases, waiting for the bus to arrive. When it is time to go to the field, the players warm up and get ready for the game!

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Now that the soccer season is coming to an end, the soccer players have even more motivation to do better. Next season expectations are really high with all the potential our team has!

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Trilogy - A Timeless Masterpiece by The Weeknd

By: Alexander Camacho

Abel Makkonen Tesfaye, also known as The Weeknd, was born on February 16, 1990, in Toronto, Canada. His parents are both Ethiopian Amhara immigrants. His parents separated when he was young, leaving Abel being raised by his mother and grandmother. Abel dropped out of high school at 17, choosing to pursue his passion for music. Abel's upbringing in Toronto and his challenges shaped the themes of his early music, particularly the mixtapes in Trilogy, where he often got into topics such as love, drugs, and the difficulties of relationships.

Trilogy By The Weeknd is a compilation album of The Weeknd's three 2011 mixtapes, House of Balloons, Thursday, and Echoes of Silence, while including three exclusive tracks 'Twenty-Eight', 'Valerie', and 'Till Dawn (Here Comes the Sun)' totaling 30 songs from each of the mixtapes. They were all released separately in 2011, and the remastered version known as the album Trilogy was released on November 13, 2012, through XO and Republic Records.

House of Balloons is the debut mixtape by Canadian singer The Weeknd. It was released on March 21, 2011, by the artist's record label XO. This mixtape has elements of soul, trip-hop, indie rock, and electronic music. Lyrically, the mixtape explores The Weeknd's drug use and experiences with love and heartbreak. The mixtape's name is derived from the house where Abel and his friends lived after dropping out of high school, which they filled with balloons to make it less depressing. Popular songs include 'House of Balloons / Glass Table Girls' where the vocals have so much raw emotion in them. The sound effects add so much depth to the song and 'The Morning' has a blend of R&B and hip-hop while talking about the struggles people have in their life.

The next chapter in Trilogy is Thursday, the second mixtape by Canadian singer The Weeknd. It was released on August 18, 2011, by XO. This mixtape-

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-dives into his life of praying and love and has deep aspects of love and relationships. A popular song in this album is 'The Zone' featuring Drake at this point The Weeknd grew in popularity with two Canadian artists collaborating to make a piece of art. With Drake's established fanbase and The Weeknd's vocals, this song was a big hit and solidified The Weeknd as a singer.

Echoes of Silence is the third mixtape by Canadian singer The Weeknd, released by XO on December 21, 2011. Popular songs in this mixtape are 'Echoes of Silence' which dives into topics of lost love and despair. And 'D.D.' which is The Weeknd's take on Michael Jackson's 'Dirty Diana.' This Album is easily 10 stars and is for any person who's into R&B with raw vocals and if you're into non-mainstream The Weeknd Songs.

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“...And Justice For All”

By: Fernando Molina

Metallica’s “...And Justice for All” is the band’s fourth studio album it shows their evolution as a band and maintains the band’s signature heavy metal sound and intensity. The album opens up with the track, “Blackened” and it’s a great track as it sets up the rest of the album.

The title track, “...And Justice for All” is an amazing composition, blending complex guitar work and powerful lyrics that go into societal issues. The album’s standout track “One” is a menacing ballad with seamless transitions from collected acoustic melodies to explosive, thrashing crescendos. The song’s lyrics go into the horrors of war as it is inspired by the 1939 book “Johnny Got His Gun” about a soldier who wakes up and finds that he has been imprisoned in his own body as he loses his arms, legs, and face.

While the album is praised for its musical complexity, it also noted that they chose some unique production choices, with the bass being less prominent than in their previous albums. Even with minor critiques, James Hetfield’s vocals, Kirk Hammett’s skillful guitar solos, Lars Ulrich’s precise drumming, and Jason Newstead is also there. They all play a key role in the storytelling and sound of the album.

“...And Justice for All” marks place Metallica’s position as they keep changing the heavy metal genre. The complicated compositions, the thematic depth, and how they navigate through societal issues make it a key album to the band’s legacy, as the band has definitely left a mark on the world of metal music.