

HSAS COMMON SENSE: CURRENT EVENTS RELEASE

WRITTEN AND REVIEWED BY SYEDA AHMED, SAJA AMRATI, EVANGELINA BENAKIS, MAYA BRENER, DANIEL BRINDLE-KHYM, THEODORE CACY, DAVID CASWELL, ALEXANDER CHRISTIAN, OPHELIA CLARK-WADE, CAMILLE DILLON-EIRICH, ERISA FETAJ, RILEY FOX, JESSE FRASER-GREYTAJ, KAELA GLASER, AVA KARAGANIS, SEBASTIAN KOPP, MOLLIE KURITZKY, TAHSAN LATIF, JOYCE LEE, DAHLIA LIEF, JACK MCCURRY, VERONICA MOLLOD, ZARA RASUL, ADAM RIPP, ARI SCHAER, ELENA SMITH, AMENA STEENHUIS, ELYN TORRES, LATIFA TOURE, AND JESSI ZHENG

Global Events: Permanent Israel-Hamas Ceasefire Deal Begins

Camille Dillon-Eirich and Elyn Torres, Grade 9, Staff Writers

- On January 15th, 2025, then-President Biden announced the beginning of a ceasefire and hostage deal between the Hamas and Israeli governments, after 15 months of devastating conflict.
- Former President Biden's administration raced to get a ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas before the end of their term, successfully implementing it on January 19th.
- It will now be implemented under President Donald Trump and remains fragile, especially with Trump's direct threats towards Hamas.
- The ceasefire has released thirteen hostages so far, with 12 living hostages to be released in the coming weeks. 33 hostages will be released in the first phase of the deal, although Israel announced on January 27th that Hamas has informed them that eight of the hostages set to be released are already dead.

American Events: Donald Trump Seeks to Impose Tariffs

Syeda Ahmed and Saja Amrati, Grade 9, Staff Writers

- President Donald Trump has imposed a 25% tariff on imported goods from Canada and Mexico and an additional 10% tariff on goods from China. These countries account for nearly 40% of the U.S.'s imports.
- Soon after President Trump's declaration, the implementation of the tariffs on Canadian and Mexican goods was paused for 30 days as tense negotiations began.
- Trump argues that through implementing these tariffs, the amount of fentanyl reaching the U.S. will significantly decrease, leading to a decline in the several thousand deaths caused in the states each year due to fentanyl overdose.
- If the tariffs are successfully established, they will cost the average American household over \$1200 a year: a stark contrast to Trump's promise to lower the cost of everyday goods.

Miscellaneous Events:

Xander Christian and Riley Fox, Grade 11, Staff Writers

- On February 2nd, 2025, the much anticipated Grammys took place, hosted by Trevor Noah and featuring performances from artists such as Chappell Roan, Lady Gaga and Bruno Mars, Doechii, Benson Boone, Billie Eilish, the Weeknd, Charli XCX, and more, raising seven million dollars for those impacted by the California wildfires.
- After a 7.6 magnitude earthquake took place in the Caribbean Sea on February 8th, 2025, a tsunami warning was addressed to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and it has since been cancelled.
- A crowd of over 40,000 waited for Punxsutawney Phil on February 2nd, with the Groundhog seeing and indicating six more weeks of winter.

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