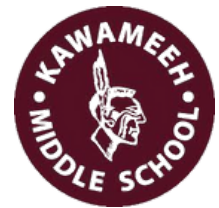


# Kawameeh Middle School SMOKE SIGNALS

WINTER 2024



Issue 101  
STUDENT  
NEWSPAPER



Photographer: Madison Piccott

## Food Across America

By: Ugonnaya Emenyeonu

On January 24th, during all lunch periods, students at KMS enjoyed a delectable array of foods representing various places across the U.S. On this particular day, Phoenix Chimichangas took center stage.

Phoenix Chimichangas hold significant popularity in Arizona, being recognized as the state's national food. For those unfamiliar with this culinary delight, a Chimichanga is a deep-fried burrito filled with a savory combination of beans, cheese, meat, and rice. Unlike the practice of placing sauces like guacamole inside the chimichanga, it is customary to serve them on the side.

The meal received positive reviews from many students at KMS who relished the flavors. Embracing diverse cultures and trying new things is essential, and experiences like these contribute to a richer understanding of different traditions. Hopefully, the school will continue to organize similar events in the future, allowing students to broaden their culinary horizons!



# KMS vs BMS Staff Volleyball Matchup!

After many devastating losses over the last few meet-ups, Kawameeh Staff was finally able to overcome and defeat Burnet Staff in the highly anticipated 2024 volleyball game! The KMS gym was packed with onlookers and cheers echoed throughout the halls! Special thanks to the PTA for organizing this event and to all of the participants/players who led KMS to victory! #onetribe



INTERESTED IN JOINING SMOKE SIGNALS?  
EMAIL: NKELLY@TWPUNIONSCHOOLS.ORG



## DRONE CLUB: BY SERENA ENNIS

DRONE CLUB IS A CLUB IN KMS RUN BY MR. PETRAS WHERE KIDS FLY AND LEARN ABOUT DRONES. KIDS EARN BELTS TO RECEIVE HIGHER RANKING AND PRIVILEGES IN THE DRONE CLUB. THE ADVISORS ARE MR. PETRAS AND MR. LARRY IN ROOM 208.



I INTERVIEWED MR. PETRAS TO FIND OUT ALL ABOUT THE DRONE CLUB.

ME: HI MR. PETRAS.

MR. PETRAS: HI SERENA

ME: SO I WAS GOING TO ASK, WHAT IS DRONE CLUB?

MR. PETRAS: THE DRONE CLUB IS A RELATIVELY NEW CLUB HERE AT KAWAMEEH WHERE STUDENTS GET TO LEARN THE RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR DRONE FLYING AS WELL AS DEVELOPING THE SKILL OF HOW TO FLY A DRONE.

ME: INTERESTING. WHAT DO YOU DO IN DRONE CLUB?

MR. PETRAS: STUDENTS ARE INTRODUCED TO THE RULES AND PROCEDURES OF HOW TO FLY A DRONE. THEY EARN DIFFERENT BELTS WHEN THEY PRACTICE DRONE FLYING AND THE BETTER BELT THEY RECEIVE, THE MORE THEY WILL BE ABLE TO DO IN DRONE CLUB. (IF THEY GET A BLACK BELT, THEY MIGHT GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO FLY \$1,000 DRONES!)



(DRONE CLUB PRESIDENT'S PILOT LICENSE)

ME: WHEN IS THE DRONE CLUB USUALLY RUN? LIKE THE DAYS.

MR. PETRAS: TUESDAYS AFTER SCHOOL IN ROOM 208.

ME: WHAT EVENTS HAPPEN IN DRONE CLUB?

MR. PETRAS: WE HAVE DIFFERENT EVENTS IN THE GYM WHERE WE HAVE DRONE RACES AND DRONE OBSTACLE COURSES.

ME: ARE THERE ANY FIELD TRIPS FOR DRONE CLUB?

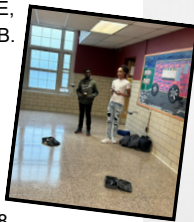
MR. PETRAS: IF WE CAN COORDINATE WITH THE BURNET DRONE CLUB WE CAN GO THERE TO FLY OUR DRONES.

ME: AND WHAT DOES DRONE CLUB TEACH?

MR. PETRAS: HOW TO FLY A DRONE, HOW TO TAKE PICTURES WITH IT, HOW TO TAKE CARE OF A DRONE, AND MORE SPECIFICALLY THAT THERE ARE RULES FOR DRONES.

ME: WELL, THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

MR. PETRAS: NO PROBLEM.



I ALSO INTERVIEWED THE PRESIDENT AND VP OF THE DRONE CLUB TO FIND OUT SOME MORE PERSPECTIVE OF LEADING THE DRONE CLUB..

ME: HELLO

THEM: HEY

ME: WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH AS LEADERS OF THE DRONE CLUB?

THEM: TO INSPIRE OTHERS TO CONTINUE USING DRONES AND MAYBE BECOME SKILLED WITH IT OR TAKE IT AS A PROFESSION.

ME: WHAT DO YOU DO AS LEADERS OF THE DRONE CLUB?

THEM: AS LEADERS OF THE DRONE CLUB THEY TRY TO RECRUIT PEOPLE TO JOIN AND BETTER THEIR SKILLS OF THE DRONE CLUB.

ME: HOW DID YOU BECOME LEADERS OF THE DRONE CLUB?

THEM: WE GOT SOME BELTS LAST YEAR AND RETURNED WHEN ALL OF THE PREVIOUS 8TH GRADERS WENT TO BECOME THE LEADERS.



## STUDENT COUNCIL EVENTS & FUNDRAISERS

The Student Council has been hosting many events and spirit weeks to prepare for the dance on March 27th. We've recently had our February Spirit Week which consists of many different and unique Spirit Week outfits! We've also had our January spirit week to get us in the winter spirit! Now that March is coming up, we're hosting another spirit week with many opportunities for anyone who wants to dress up! There's also an opportunity to win a McDonald's Combo Card with your friend for dressing the best for the theme (best Nintendo duo) on that day! Stay tuned for information on the theme for the McDonald's Combo Card, and more information on the 8th Grade dance coming up!

**Adaeze Oleka**

**KMS Student Council President**



## Inside the Teepee PTA News

The KMS PTA is always looking for your help so we can reach our budget goal for this school year. Events such as the 6th & 7th Grade Ice Cream Socials, KMS Staff Holiday Luncheon, & other great events are sponsored by the PTA. We also support our school's P.A.C. by purchasing playbill advertisements. Our largest expense each year goes to our own 8th Graders, by providing graduation portfolios for each student, making a donation to the yearbook committee, and purchasing the prestigious Kawameeh Chief Awards.

<https://kawameeh.memberhub.com/store>



## TEACHER SPOTLIGHT MRS. WHITFORD BY: LEAH CARDINALE

### **Why did you decide to work at Kawameeh?**

I decided to work at Kawameeh because I was drawn to the great environment and the opportunity to teach honors math, which I find incredibly rewarding. The school has a reputation for being a fun place to work, and I was excited to be a part of that.

### **What was your experience in Union as a student?**

My experience in Union as a student was wonderful and inspiring. I made many friendships that have lasted a lifetime. The teachers were caring and dedicated, and they really made a positive impact on my life.

### **What makes a 'good day' at school for you?**

A 'good day' at school for me is when I see my students actively engaged and learning. It's also great when I can connect with my coworkers, who have become friends, and enjoy a good cup of coffee to start the day.

### **What is something that students would be surprised to find out about you?**

I worked for multiple semesters as an adjunct professor at Kean University!