

Wesley Faulds

## Trump Takes Office

The latest updates

On January 20, 2025, Donald Trump was inaugurated for his second term as the 47<sup>th</sup> president at the White House, the Vice President J. D. Vance becoming sworn in afterward. During the swearing-in ceremony, the three richest men on earth were behind Trump—Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos and Mark Zuckerberg. Other rich and famous celebrities attended the event, including Sergey Brin, co-founder of Alphabet, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, and Fox News Chairman Rupert Murdoch.

After the inauguration, he enacted many executive orders using his newly obtained power as president. On his first day back in office, “The president issued pardons late Monday for about 1,500 people convicted or criminally charged in the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol as Congress convened to certify Biden’s 2020 victory over Trump,” states AP News. On that same day, he also signed a separate executive order putting an end to the federal cases against Trump supporters.

At his inauguration, Trump made a speech declaring what he was going to do with his new political rank. A key moment from his speech is: “From this day forward, our country will flourish and be respected again all over the world. We will be the envy of every nation, and we will not allow ourselves to be taken advantage of any longer. During every single day of the Trump administration, I will, very simply, put America first.”



Above: President Donald Trump signs an executive order as he attends an indoor Presidential Inauguration parade event at Capital One Arena, Monday, January 20, 2025, in Washington D.C.



Above: Dangerous icy conditions can lead to injuries large and small. A lot of the time, parents do not encourage their kids to wear apparel for the cold conditions. Kids can get cold, which is bad for their health and can limit their recess time.

## Playground Sections Close

Icy Pavement Cause Temporary Closer of Playground Sections

On Tuesday and Wednesday of last week, rain from the days before froze on the asphalt of the playground, large and potentially dangerous ice puddles. On Monday, January 20, temperatures dropped down to °32 at night, cold enough to freeze the puddles already on the low points of the playground (LocalConditions.com). Even though the recess teachers did their best by blocking the area with cones, students still ran across the slippery puddles.

I interviewed Nathaniel Faulds, one of the students who played in the frozen puddles and sustained an injury. When I asked him if he should have played on the ice puddles, he answered, “I hurt myself very badly when I did the full splits on the icy concrete and I had to go to the nurse and miss fun Friday. I regret going onto the closed part of the field and I advise no one to do the same.”

After injuring himself while playing on the icy ground, the results kept him from fun Friday, which 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade participate in at the end of the week on Fridays. The danger of the slippery pavement will always be there no matter how careful you are, so try to minimize sliding on puddles or hurting yourself while using cold or icy equipment.

Because of the cold spell Kirkland is currently facing, keeping warm outside is very important in this weather. Some things you can do to avoid frostbite are wearing thick clothing, stay active, avoid cold metal polls and structures, and watch out for slippery footing. As most people know from watching TV, licking cold surfaces, specifically metal, sticks your tongue onto the surface. If this ever happens to you, notify an adult. Stay safe!

## Jet and Helicopter Collide

The latest updates

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On Friday, a jet and helicopter collided over Washington D.C.’s Potomac River, resulting in over 60 suspected deaths and two large aircraft damaged beyond repair.

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## Valentines Day Box Competitions

The latest updates

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Two weeks from Valentines Day, many classrooms have competitions for the most elaborate and creative Valentine’s box.

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## Boom Breaks Sound Barrier in Test Flight

The latest updates

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On Tuesday, the company Boom Supersonic made history when its jet broke the sound barrier. It’s the first private jet to go faster than the speed of sound!

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# Valentines Day Box Competitions in High Gear

## Valentines Day Spark Creativity in Eagles

Now that February is approaching, people are beginning to feel the happiness of the Valentines Day season. The development of Valentines Day started in 18<sup>th</sup> century England, where people exchanged flowers, sweets, and greeting cards to express their love. When the holiday ended up spreading to the New World (America), in the early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, handmade cards were replaced by mass-produced cards with sweet messages. Some cards were shark-themed with text like “Have a sharky good valentines” or “I wish you more sweets than even *I* can eat”. Hallmark Cards was a big contributor to the mass-production of cards, opening in 1913.

Because of the kind and generous feeling the holiday produces, many schools across the U.S. celebrate with assemblies, parties and other festivities.

Many classes at Peter Kirk have adopted Valentine’s box decoration, where students can adorn cardboard boxes with vibrant colors; on Valentine’s Day, students go around passing out treats and cards to each of the boxes. Children go to great lengths to create masterpieces, crafting amazing designs that resemble a popcorn machine, monster, football field or gymnastics gym.

Other Valentines traditions around the world include Dia dos Namorados (Brazilian lovers’ day). This tradition takes place on June 12 in Brazil. The term “Dia dos Namorados” is also used in other Portuguese-speaking countries to refer to Valentine’s Day.

Another holiday around the world related to Valentine’s Day is White Day. This Japanese gift-giving holiday is celebrated on March 14, one month after Valentine’s Day. It began in Japan in 1978.

People give white chocolate, tea sets, white strawberries, cotton candy, jewelry, designer bags, and cosmetics. The observance of the holiday spread to other South-Asian countries like South Korea, Taiwan, and China.



Above: Many of the art supplies used to make the boxes and other Valentines decorations include paper, beads, stings, buttons, cardboard and many other materials you could find at numerous department stores.



Above: The pandas Bao Li and Qing Bau need so much bamboo to survive that the national zoo has to bring in 200 pounds of the stuff in trucks multiple times a week.

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# Giant Pandas Return to National Zoo

Giant pandas are back at the Smithsonian’s National Zoo located in Washington D.C. after 15 months! Three-year-olds Bao Li (pronounced BOW-lee) and Qing Bao (pronounced ching-BOW) made their appearance to an ecstatic crowd on January 24, 2025, after a mandatory 3-month quarantine before being introduced to the public.

According to Dogo News, “The two pandas have distinct personalities. Bao Li, the male, is playful, curious, and loves to be around people. Qing Bao, the female, is cautious and easily scared by new sounds.”

The pandas are apart of a new breeding program aiming to increase population of giant pandas and protect their habitat in the wild. Though pandas are endangered, there population is still low at 1,864 giant pandas left.

After the pandas were revealed to the public, the Zoo is currently hosting a two-week celebration from January 29 to February 9, 2025. Named the “District of Panda Party,” the event features live music, dance parties, panda trivia, and even a yoga session with the pandas.

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# Repairing The Damage

## California’s Come-back Story

Multiple fires started in California January 7, 2025. No one person is responsible for the blazes; the already abnormally hot summer decreased the moister in the lower atmosphere, creating prime conditions for fires to start and rage. Several fires burned in L.A., including the Eaton and Palisades fires.

After the fires raged across Southern California, inflicting more than \$31 billion in property value, they are now fully contained. The official, and much anticipated, designation that the fires were contained, was addressed to the public 5 p.m. local time on Friday (New York Post).

Before and after the fires were marked “controlled”, citizens of rural and urban California made an effort to clean up the mess and rebuild the life they once had. Organizations like the Red Cross and the Restoration Industry Association are already helping the clean-up effort. You can help by donating through [gofundme.com](https://gofundme.com), volunteering in California, or raising money for those in need using a bake sale or resource drive.



Above: Parts of southern California have been completely demolished by the fires, leaving barren landscapes. People join in efforts to clean up damage from the fires.



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Large Jet Breaks Sound Barrier



Above: Boom Supersonic’s jet has three engines, one on top and two on the sides of the fuselage. Its wings are swept back to make it stable at high speeds.

America’s answer to Concorde, Boom Supersonic, broke the sound barrier on its January 28 test flight. Boom, the company that looks to have built the next supersonic airliner, reached the speed of sound (761 miles per hour at sea level) for its first time with a test flight above Mojave, California. The company has plans of constructing a plane called the Overture, which would go Mach 1.7 (1,122 mph) and run on 100% sustainable aviation fuel. The Overture’s

order book stands at 130 aircraft, including orders and pre-orders from American Airlines, United Airlines and Japan Airlines.

Until then, Boom has set its focus on testing with the XB-1. Powered by three General Electric J85 engines, it is designed maintain a speed of Mach 2.2, with over 1,000 nautical miles (1,900 km;1,200 mi) of total range. The XB-1 began taxi tests, the most cautious and basic of all tests, in December 2022. It flew for the first time in March 2024, and since has completed 12 test flights. Flown by Boom Chief Test Pilot Tristan Brandenburg, the XB-1 reached an altitude of 35,000 feet accelerating to a staggering Mach 1.122 (750 mph) (boomsupersonic.com).

There are many things that make the test plane go as fast as it does. One of those reasons is that the jet is composed mostly of carbon fiber. This lightweight substance is used in kayaks, cars, bicycle frames, and fishing rods. The material is known for its strength, durability and thermal resistance, which is important at high speeds in the air. The friction between the wind and the outside of the plane creates heat up to 250 Fahrenheit. As supersonic technology continues to advance, who knows what’s in store for us next!

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Green Team Continues to Work

The latest updates

The Green Team at Peter Kirk Elementary has been helping the environment for many years. During lunches, they help other students sort their trash, recycling and compost so nothing goes to waste. They have also organized campus clean-ups in an effort to make the landscape surrounding Peter Kirk healthier and litter-free.

Green Team also holds other events to help the planet. They organize trash drives and create posters helping people learn about sorting trash and restoring the environment. You can help green team members by listening to their directions and sorting your trash.



You yourself can also help around campus and in the building with reducing resource consumption. You can recycle plastic cups and lids, turn off the water after washing your hands, and help other kids sort their trash in the lunchroom.



Above Left: What remains of the plane after the collision is pictured here. As you can see, the crash with the helicopter and then the impact with the water damaged the aircraft beyond repair.



Above Right: The destroyed helicopter is shown here. It fell into the water a way away from the jet because of the angle they were flying.

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Jet and Helicopter Collide Midair

On January 30, American Airlines Flight 5342 and a US Army Black Hawk Helicopter collided over the Potomac River near Washington D.C. at night. There were no survivors of the crash, and the wreck was titled the deadliest since 2001. The jet had 60 passengers and four crew members, while the black hawk helicopter had been carrying three soldiers. Officials said everyone on the aircraft perished. Remains of more than 50 victims have been recovered; the black boxes of both aircraft have been recovered, currently being inspected by the U.S. Department of Commerce, the agency which investigates plane crashes. There are two black boxes in an aircraft: One records the sound in the cabin, while the other stores flight data. The boxes are indestructible, making them one of the only solid forms of evidence the agencies can take into account after a crash. (Black boxes are typically orange, not black.)

The plane, American Eagle Flight 5342, had taken off from Wichita, Kansas, and was approaching for landing when the collision occurred. Top figure skaters from the United States and Russia were on board the jet, attracting even more attention to the

crash than would have otherwise been adored.

On February 2, the families of countless victims gathered for a memorial ceremony. Ten charter buses with a police escort transported the family members to the banks of the Potomac River near, Reagan National Airport just outside of Washington D.C., the Associated Press reported.

Recovered data shows American Airlines plane experienced an “increase in pitch just prior to collision, suggesting that it wasn’t the air traffic controller’s fault for the collision, but a mechanical malfunction in the airplane. “At 8:47:58, the crew had a verbal reaction, and FDR (flight data recorder) data showed the airplane beginning to increase its pitch,” NTSB investigator Brice Banning said. “Sounds if impact were audible about some second later, following the end of the recording.” As data continues to come in about the collision, we will continue including information on this topic in further editions of the Eagle Inquisitor.

## Jokes:

A lot of people cry when they cut an onion. The trick is not to form an emotional bond.

## Riddles:

*SEE O DOUBLE YOU*

## Tongue-Twisters:

Two tried and true tridents. (x3)

## Crossword: Fruits

