

The 360

three weeks in 60 seconds

215 The number of carnations sold for Valentine's Day. The red, pink and white carnations were sold for \$2 each and were delivered to individual homerooms for the Valentine's Day spirit day.

3200 The estimated amount of dollars given to 11 Westview teachers and counselors for classroom and instructional supplies. This grant was PTSA-organized, and various committee members reviewed the staff members' applications and then selected the recipients who were awarded in early February.

79 The number of posters for Black History Month posted around the school campus. Jennifer Nwagbo (11) is the Cultural Commissioner and helped to print and put up these posters in hopes to spread awareness.

2 The number of dollars that College Board raised the overall price for each AP exam, which ranged from \$90 to \$92. Online registration is now available on the College Board website, although registering by credit card will place a \$4 processing fee.

1 The place obtained by Westview's Competition Cheer at the U.S. Spirit Leaders King of the Bleachers Competition held at Long Beach State University on Feb. 22. Westview's cheerleaders competed against five other schools in this national competition and will compete at the USA Nationals in March.

25 The number of people who performed in the orchestra pit during the Bye Bye Birdie musical. Ms. Webb was the conductor. The orchestra members had to keep up with the cast members, whether it was speeding up or slowing down.

Compiled by Andrew Baek and Katelyn Hennes

Airbands choreography amazes audience

Anna Buckley
STAFF WRITER

Willy Wonka, Augustus Gloop, Veruca Salt and Violet Beauregarde lifted Charlie Bucket into the air as the Oompa Loompas all pointed to him. The crowd erupted in applause as the performers unfroze from their final poses and rushed into a large circle in the center of the gym. They chanted, "'09! '09!"

The seniors performance marked the end of the 2009 Airbands class competition. After a quick discussion between the judges, the winners were announced.

The freshman took fourth, the juniors placed third, the sophomores earned second and the seniors won first place.

Plenty of planning, practicing and hard work helped the seniors win first place.

The seniors began the busy planning process for class competition and got right to work.

"It was all a blur, but a great blur," senior class co-president Ellre Ancheta (12) said.

But one thing that was not a blur for the seniors was the dedication.

"There was definitely a lot of support," Ancheta said. "It's our last year. It seemed like everyone wanted one last go. Our commissioners, Candie Fujisaki (12) and Lauren Truong (12), are wonderful, very organized and kept our class on track."

The first thing that the devoted seniors did for their class competition was come up with a theme.

"Theme picking was interesting," Ancheta said. "I guess you can say [our theme] was a product of extreme brainstorming."

The result of this brainstorming was *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*.

From there, the seniors began planning the roles that would be used in the sketch and who would portray the characters.

"The lead roles went mainly to the people who have participated in Airbands since freshman year," Ancheta said.

Then the dancing began, all choreographed by Ariel Stark, Michelle Senne, Vincent Lam, Nathan Omega and Corbin Santos (12).

After three years of experience, the seniors were able to get through the whole process



Tim Chu

Connor O'Brien (12), Cameron Sczempka (12) and Hayden Boal (12), (left to right), perform with the senior class during the annual Airbands class competition. The Class of 2009's performance earned them a first-place victory for the second straight year.

without too many issues. The weather was the one thing that caused a threat while the seniors were practicing.

"[There weren't] any big deal problems except dancing in the pouring rain," Ancheta said. "But that's just dedication, not a problem."

When Friday the 13th finally came, the performers were ready to show the school their hard work.

The freshmen went first. Their theme was a high school love story.

"A girl and guy break up, and the guy has fainted," freshman co-president Lauren Wang (9) said. "He sees his whole life with her flash before his eyes."

Next up were the sophomores, whose

theme was Superman. The students came out in brightly colored costumes and they battled while Superman saved Lois.

Following them were the juniors, who chose *Avatar, The Last Airbender* as their theme. The class was divided into earth, water, fire and air.

For the finale the seniors performed. Before their performance, Ancheta said they expected to perform with style.

After their performance, Ancheta said she thought they had performed well.

Junior co-president James Vipatapat (11) said he thought his class performed well also.

"I'm quite surprised we placed as we did, but I know that the sophomores and se-

niors worked really hard on their performance. But I'm still proud of our class nonetheless."

After the performance, sophomore co-president Sumeeta Ghai (10) said she was proud of the sophomore class.

Freshman co-presidents Nicole Rosario (9) and Wang also said they were very happy with their classes' performance.

"We are excited for next year," Wang said. "Even though we got last place, it propels us to do better next year."

For the seniors who don't have a "next year," it was a rewarding experience.

"Overall it was a great addition to my senior experience, my first and last high school Airband competition," Ancheta said.

Teachers look to work around shrinking budgets

PAPER CUTS, from page 1

are being tapped."

Degenfelder said that the drive to reduce copy costs has been relatively successful. In her department, she said that teachers are utilizing new LCD projectors and overheads to show lectures that students can copy on their own papers.

LearningPoint has also been an important tool, allowing students to print things like lecture notes and homework assignments on their own paper.

"Five years ago when I started here, I was copying random stuff like calendars," Degenfelder said. "Now [teachers] just put tons of [assignments] on LearningPoint."

Overall, though, the cost for copies remains high. Degenfelder said that the school allocates \$80 per teacher per year for copy needs. The humanities department augments this with \$150 for each teacher from its annual budget, but the gap between supply and demand remains. This

extra \$150 creates an expense for the department itself.

To deal with this cost, Degenfelder said the department prioritizes supplies that must be bought for all teachers versus those that can be bought individually.

"The two things we made sure we had this year were paper and scantrons," she said. "And if we run out of staples, we run out of staples."

For other departments, however, the priority supplies are more expensive. Science teacher John Rankin said that while his department has also moved to reduce paper and copy use, the high cost of science supplies requires an even greater reduction to less-critical paper costs.

"We still need paper, there's no doubt about that," he said. "But for other departments, it's more crucial to have a large [copy] budget because that's what they do. They don't need to buy the lab stuff that we do."

As for parent donations, Rankin said that science classes have required a great deal. According to Rankin, the total cost to teach four

class of AP Biology is \$3,500, and this must come from the \$15,000 total budget the science department is granted. All students taking an AP-level science course, or other classes needing extra supplies, such as zoology, were encouraged to donate.

"[Donations are] the only way we're going to be able to teach science classes," he said. "A number of the teachers agree that we're just going to have lab fees really soon in order to take a science class, especially if the budget's going to be even worse next year."

But Rankin also said that techniques similar to those of the humanities department have been used. He said that a great deal of science teachers have put their curriculums on LearningPoint and are using paperless lecture methods.

"[Our paper demands] have gone way down compared to what I used to use," Rankin said. "When I taught at [Mt. Carmel], I would do thousands and thousands and thousands of copies for students because you had to be able to hand [the assignment] to them."

For the school as a whole, however, Rankin said that these adjustments can only go so far.

"We keep cutting the budget and being more frugal," he said. "But pretty soon if you don't get enough parent donations to make up for loss of money, you don't do some activities. And at the AP level, you can't get away with that. You either teach the class or you don't offer the class."

Degenfelder said that the administrators are still searching for a way to handle the needs of all classes and departments. She said that if the budget is reduced further next year, the consequences are unknown.

"The big question is, what can we do differently [to cut spending]; what can we think of that we haven't done before," she said. "I don't know if we've come up with any answers. [The leadership cadre] wants to make sure everybody has what they need. But it's just not going to be that way. Everyone's not going to be able to get what they need, and it'll be interesting to see how we cope with that."

Counselors bring CRFs to website

Eileen Shi
STAFF WRITER

On Monday, Westview's counseling team plans to unveil a new addition to Family Connection: an online system for course request forms. This will be the first year that Westview will process course requests online.

Counselors anticipate that the change will be received well and will give class time orientations for students and night orientations for parents.

If the system runs smoothly, the online forms will completely replace the previous paper forms for class requests.

"[Online course requests] are something the counselors have always wanted to do," Area Administrator Todd Cassen said. "This year, it's a reality. I think it definitely has strong benefits for both students and the administration."

In comparison with the previous system of printed request forms, Guidance Technician Kathy Bloomfield said that the online system will be more economical and convenient.

"There is a cost-effective piece to switching to online, with all the paper that we wouldn't have to print and distribute," Bloomfield said. "The cost of the old system adds up, in addition to demanding a lot of time from the administrative staff. All in all, the online system is quicker and cheaper."

Online, counselors can easily track who has or hasn't turned in forms and e-mail such students reminders.

In the past, students would occasionally not designate enough classes to fill the schedule, leaving the counselors to do the guesswork. The advantage with the online system is that it prevents students from submitting forms unless they have been completed correctly, preventing secretarial problems.

Bloomfield said this system was ultimately designed with the students in mind, providing an ease of use and access. Students will no longer have to hang on to an extra paper form and can fill out the online form at home, where their parents can give advice with more ease.

Throughout the past few months, the entire counseling team gradually developed the program and smoothed out any potential glitches. Through trial and error, the counseling team ensured that once the program was ready for student and parent use in the spring, there would be minimum difficulties.

In addition, Bloomfield and counselor Christine Querques have worked extensively on data entry. Querques was mainly responsible for inputting course descriptions for every class Westview offers. Bloomfield, in addition to providing her expertise with Family Connection, uploaded additional resources such as flowcharts that detail suggested curriculum paths for students to follow.

"The counselors are always thinking ahead," Cassen said. "The way Family Connection is used to get information out to students on a regular basis is matched nowhere else. Online forms are an extension to Family Connection and, personally, I can't wait to see it go."

The online system will be open for use March 13-31.

"The whole thing just made sense," Cassen said. "The technology is there, so let's use it."



Tim Chu

Team captain Sadao Darby (12) aims his rifle in Westview custom-built range. Darby, one of the four on the Marksmanship Team to attend the championship, practices countless times to hone his skill.

ROTC aims for rifle tourney

Andrew Baek
STAFF WRITER

Connor Oberick (10) held his breath and steadied his aim as he prepared to shoot. The target gradually aligned with the crosshairs in his scope, and his finger squeezed the trigger. Reload and repeat.

In order to hone his shooting skills, Oberick goes through this process countless times in Westview's custom-built rifle range in the ROTC room.

Oberick, Sadao Darby (12), Michael Cheney (12), and Brian Taylor (12) were selected from ROTC's Marksmanship Team to participate in the Western Regional Rifle Championship, scheduled for yesterday and today. This meet serves as an All-Navy JROTC qualifying event for the National Championships, the highest level of competition for JROTC next month.

As the only members of PUSD to qualify for the regional, the four cadets of the Marksmanship Team are making every effort to prepare for the rifle championship, which is scheduled to occur on Feb. 26-28.

Commander Rick Jordan said mental training plays a significant portion to the overall preparation.

"Just like in any competitive sport, a proper mental attitude is necessary to be a top performer," Jordan said. "A good marksman keeps a log of his scores and recent tendencies along with a checklist of proper sight alignment, while a proper marksmanship program stresses control, discipline, concentration, and precision."

Although there have been slight changes to the regional championship, Jordan said he considers the entire event a great learning experience.

"The event is a 60-shot competition per day for two days, which is a lot more than any other event we've been at, but it makes the trip more worthwhile," he said.

"[In addition] the competition here is out of sight. The Midwest and Southern teams are really, really good."

Yet Jordan said he believes in his cadets to exceed his and their own expectations at the rifle championship, while simultaneously upholding the central principles of marksmanship.

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