

'I'll Be There for You' at Alhambra High School's Buddy Dinner

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Staff Writer

Every year Alhambra High School has a dance for the single people who just want to have fun. For the people who want to eat a nice dinner with friends Buddy Dinner is a dance hosted by Boys' Federation for the people and by the people who want to go to a casual dance with friends with no strings attached according to Boys' Federation President Moon Li.

"I think Buddy Dinner is one of the more casual dances you can go with friends and I'm really proud of all the members of this club for putting up their best effort in and creating something amazing. I feel very nostalgic thinking back to my freshman year and planning my first Buddy Dinner and hopefully Buddy Dinner will continue to be

a success in the future as well," Li said. This year's Buddy Dinner was hosted "There For You," inspired by the hit sitcom "Friends." Buddy Dinner also included a



SHAKE IT OFF Students gather as they dance to Taylor Swift's popular track "Shake It Off" during AHS' annual Buddy Dinner on Jan. 15.

at the Arcadia Community Center from 7 P.M. to 11 P.M. with the theme "I'll be complimentary buffet serving food from salad to chicken alfredo to tiramisu cake.

The location was filled with rustic brick decorations and high ceilings. Walking in there were shimmering lights from the dinner table center pieces which people fought over for at the end of the dance. Many people danced throughout the night as the music played and the night continued. The last dance was also memorable as while some couples were dancing one group of people made a slow dance circle including all the single people of the night.

"As my first year going to Buddy Dinner, I believe that the best part of Buddy Dinner is being able to enjoy a night with your friends! Boys' Federation is a very beautiful family and everyone is super friendly and welcoming. I'm excited to plan and go to Buddy Dinner again next year and the many years to come!" freshman member Julie Luu said.

MOOR photo by SHANNON KHA

One, Two, Three, A New Character Welcomed in the Streets of Sesame

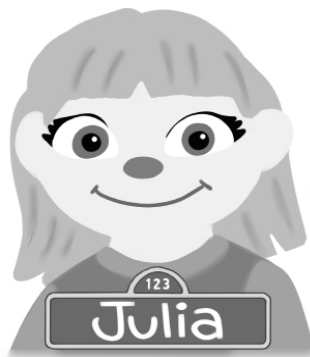
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The world of Sesame Street has gotten a bit more crowded as Cookie Monster and Elmo welcome a new character: Julia, a muppet with autism. While Julia has not yet appeared on TV, she is the main character of a digital story book entitled "We're Amazing, 1, 2, 3." Julia's launch is a part of Sesame Street Workshop's new nationwide initiative, Sesame Street and Autism: See Amazing In All Children. It serves to help children develop awareness and empathy.

"I think exposing children at a young age to the fact that different [conditions] exist, whether it be mental or physical

is important. It make them more aware of the world and makes them more accepting. And for those who have such [conditions], it's nice for popular shows, like Sesame Street, to show that they are not alone and that they are indeed very normal," junior Rebecca Chu said.

Aimed at an audience of families with children between the ages of two and five, the proposal includes a free downloadable app that include videos, digital story cards and story book materials, according to People Magazine. The app also includes real life stories of



those who have experience with autism.

On the other hand, according to the Los Angeles Times, some believe that Julia is not an accurate representation of most kids with autism given that autism has many variations and Sesame Street cannot express every single trait through one character. Furthermore, they argue that the character should have been portrayed as a male given that five times more boys are diagnosed with autism than girls. However, Sesame Street claims that the purpose of making Julia a girl was to show that girls also have autism.

"I believe that putting a character with autism into a show that is very popular and mainly seen by children allows for children with autism to be seen [to be like] every other kid on the playground, making it easier for them to make friends in the future and not [to be] seen as a different person [from] everyone else," Moor Friends president Adolfo Osuna said.

According to the National Public Radio, for the past year, Sesame Street has been working alongside with Autism Speaks and Autism Self Advocacy to help reduce the negative reactions associated with the disorder. Julia's online story book also aims to educate children about autism and become more accepting of it.

MOOR graphic by SAMMIE CHEN

Private School in Atlanta for LGBT Students

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In support of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community, one private school in Atlanta, Georgia will be established to attract LGBT youth and teachers. According to Yahoo Parenting, its founder, Christian Zsilavetz, who is a transgender man himself, wants to provide an alternative for LGBT students who feel bullied or unaccepted in traditional schools for being "different."

"It's great that there's a school that fully supports the LGBT

community. It's amazing that it would help so many students with learning in a safe environment," Vice President of Gay Straight Alliance Molly Flores said.

Pride School Atlanta is expected to open in September 2016 and it is a K-12 institution. The school will charge an annual tuition of \$13,000, although according to Yahoo, Zsilavetz says financial assistance will be provided to those who need it.

As stated by gay rights group Geor-



gia Equality, nearly 9 in 10 LGBT students reported experiencing harassment in 2015, and 3 in 10 reported missing a class for feeling insecure. Putting these students into LGBT schools would be an effective way of improving their performance and placing them on the path to success, as suggested by the Georgia School Boards Association.

"The safety and the well-being of the LGBT communities are not as frequently talked about as racism or sexism, and personally I would like to see a legislation being passed by the government in efforts to protect the LGBT people," teacher Jurgio Valinhas said.

However, some believe the establishment of LGBT schools might not be a good solution to the current issue. "The bully who needs educating... may not change their ways simply because you remove an LGBT from a difficult situation." British journalist Cliff Joannou said, according to the Guardian.

MOOR graphic by SAMMIE CHEN

AHS To Offer Free Concurrent Enrollment Classes

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East Los Angeles College (ELAC) will be offering free concurrent enrollment classes to all Alhambra Unified School District (AUSD) high school students.

"I think that they're being helpful because if we take the classes now, then we'll have an upper hand when we get to college and we will be more prepared for college classes in the future," freshman Miranda To said.

Concurrent enrollment allows students to earn college credits during high school. "I think we're being given a good opportunity to take college classes during high school for free," junior Brendon Ocampo said.

According to the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships, concurrent enrollment classes give high school students exposure to academic challenges in college and allow them to earn college credits for free.

"They're really fun and you actually learn a lot! I learned many new things and had the opportunity to collaborate with other students! I also got to experience a college midterm for the first time," junior Alexandria Vasquez said.

Classes that are being offered at Alhambra High School include Intro-

duction to Science, Engineering and Technology, Oral Communication, Microcomputer Software Survey in the Office and General Psychology. They are free for any AUSD high school student regardless of the school they attend.

"I would recommend other students to take ELAC classes because it is very beneficial and the classes allow them to learn new skills. There are so many classes that can help you become familiarized with a field to see if you like it and is what you're interested in," sophomore Lynn Zhang said.

Registration for the ELAC classes is currently ongoing and ends on January 27. To sign up for any of the ELAC courses, the career center has application forms to fill out. ELAC classes will start on February 9, after school from about 3:15 P.M. to 6 P.M., depending on the course taken.

"Taking college classes as high school students will allow them to gain an advantage. They can earn college credits in a familiar setting and at a cheaper cost. Generally college textbooks cost around \$100 to \$200 but when taking concurrent classes, students can borrow books from AHS's bookroom. Students will also be able to get a taste of what college classes will be like and make them seem not as scary in the future," Career and Technical Education advisor Janice Liu said.