

Recruitment Fair Showcases School Courses, Clubs



CALLING ALL RECRUITS During AHS' first Recruitment Fair on Jan. 20, students from various classes and clubs gather at the gym to inform underclassmen of the many courses at AHS.

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Counselors and teachers are available to speak about their classes to students, but this year at AHS, students were officially given the chance to speak to other students about their experiences in certain classes. On Jan. 20, students from periods one to six took shifts at various tables in the big gym.

"I liked that we could ask students who were taking the class questions about the workload and if we should take the class," junior Belinda Cai said.

Signs and poster boards labelled each

table for a certain subject or class; representatives from those classes stood at the tables with flyers or words of advice for prospective classmates.

"As a senior I really wish I had this recruitment fair when I was a freshmen because I feel like it would have really encouraged me to join clubs that I never did. While it was more on the disorganized side this year, I'm sure next year it'll be much better and they'll fix the problems," senior Alina Williams said.

While AHS has held various club fairs advertising the clubs offered at the school, this year's Recruitment Fair was the first fair in which academic

courses and physical education electives were represented alongside various clubs, such as Future Business Leaders of America, Academic Decathlon and BioMedical Independent Study.

"I think the recruitment fair really gave us a different perspective on classes and clubs through the eyes of the students whom are people I can relate too. Not only that I feel so much more informed about clubs and classes I had no idea about," sophomore Katlyn Chiu said.

Since this was the first Recruitment Fair AHS held, several suggestions were made to improve the event next year.

"I think it should be held in a less stuffy

place because there was a lot of people and I was sweating. Also I think there should be two fairs instead: one for clubs only at the beginning of the school year and one for classes only toward the end of the year," sophomore Lynn Zhang said.

Several student representatives also spoke on behalf of Advanced Placement (AP) and Honors classes that the school offers, in order to help others gauge their potential and ability to take certain AP classes.

"[I liked] learning about some of the classes I didn't even know [we] had at Alhambra; I liked [getting] brief [descriptions] of what each class was going to be like," freshman Bibianna Godinez said.

MOOR photos by SHANNON KHA and AAQIL KHAN

Alhambra HS Explores Past on National History Day

ELLEN LEI
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On Jan. 13, National History Day (NHD) was held at AHS's library from fourth period to the end of fifth period.

"The history day fair allowed me to enjoy and learn more about what had happened in a fun way," sophomore Sarah Tang said.

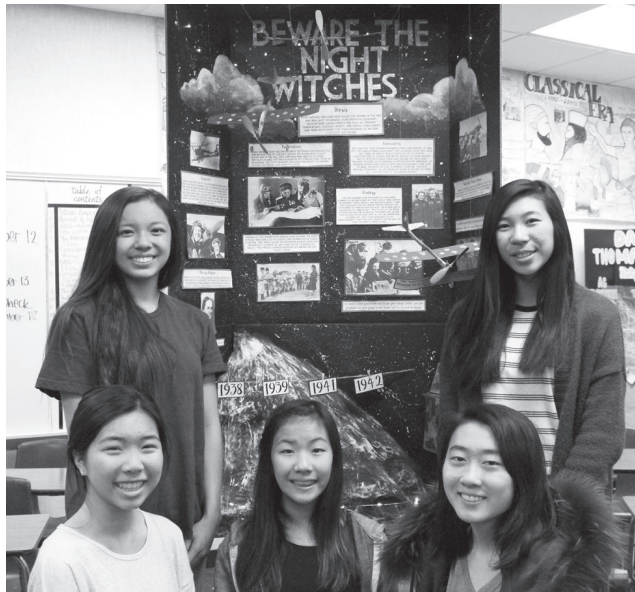
Each year there are different themes for NHD. The theme for 2016 is Exploration, Encounter and Exchange in History.

"I loved walking around and viewing the other exhibits. It was interesting to see how other groups interpreted the theme," sophomore Queenie Lam said.

Ballots from students and teachers who voted were counted to select three groups as finalists to enter the NHD-CA State Finals at William Jessup University from May 6-7.

"I feel excited to go onto the next competition, especially because this is an oppor-

tunity for us to learn from other schools and display our own creation on an ever larger



A SOPHOMORE WIN First place winners from counter-clockwise: Kimberly Pham, Katherine Gong, Sarah Tang, Amanda Yuan, and Queenie Lam

scale," sophomore Amanda Yuan said. The first place winners with the ex-

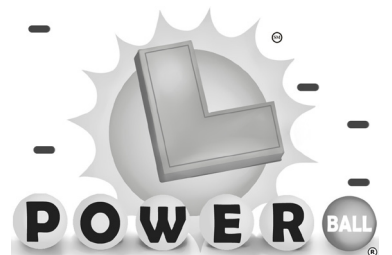
hibit "Beware of the Night Witches" were sophomores Katherine Gong, Queenie Lam, Kimberly Pham, Sarah Tang and Amanda Yuan. The second place winners with the exhibit "Coffee the Great" were sophomores Gyllie Gutierrez, Hannah Huapaya, Qiwen Li, Lynn Zhang and Jason Zhu. The third place winners, with the exhibit "What Hath God Wrought?" were sophomores Sydney Chang, Vicki Huang, Jasmyne Mena, Sophia Tan and Jessika Wang.

"I think the National History Day competition was a great opportunity for students to showcase their various talents in a rigorous academic setting. They got the chance to be experts on a topic of their choosing and work collaboratively to put together an effective presentation or display that can convey the significance of their topic to their peers and teachers," social science department head Javier Gutierrez said.

MOOR photo by SHANNON KHA

Powerball Ticket Sales Contribute to Education

JASON ZHU
Staff Writer



On Jan. 13, the biggest Powerball jackpot, at \$1.59 billion according to ABC7, was officially divided in three after winning tickets were recorded in California, Florida and Tennessee.

Much of the Powerball ticket sales went toward each state's education budget according to the Powerball's home site. In fact California State Lottery spokesman Alex Traverson stated that about 40 cents of every dollar sold in Powerball tickets goes to education. This means that about \$148.8 million went to the state's education budget in the 2014-15 fiscal year, according to the Los Angeles Times.

"I am pleasantly surprised about where the money is going because I never knew what the money was used for," sophomore Jack Nguyen said. "As a student, I find it really uplifting to hear that the money is helping our education."

The money accounts for 1 percent of our state's education money, considering that the overall spending for California public schools was about \$76.6 billion, according to the California Department of Education.

Last year's lottery earnings totalled about \$1.39 billion. The majority of this money went to K-12 education, and the rest was contributed to community colleges and universities, according to the Powerball home site.

MOOR graphic by SAMMIE CHEN

Studies Show Unplugging Devices Prevents Health Issues

YI-FENG HO
Staff Writer

How often do people use technology in their life? From education to entertainment, electronics have become a type of aid for completing tasks. Although it can facilitate tasks people may have, constantly using technology may result in undesirable health and social effects for its users. However, by unplugging or limiting their time on technology, people can be healthier and socially active.

"People [will] rely on technology and won't use their own mind or technology. They'll search the problem up online if they

don't know the answer, instead of thinking about it," sophomore Min Yi Huang said.

According to BioMed Central Psychiatry, an open access publisher, heavy technology users may receive sleep disturbance or mental health issues, such as symptoms of depression. The presence of a cell phone can keep people from accomplishing complex tasks, such as driving, while simple tasks are almost unaffected, according to a research done by Social Psychology, a science journal. During a study by psychologist Larry Rosen, most of the participants check their cell phone without external notices, showing how distracting technology can be.

Not only can technology affect a user's

health, but it can also affect their social lives. A possible consequence of abusing technology is that people get harder to approach. Melissa Ortega, a child psychologist at New York's Child Mind Institute, says that the high school students she has met with use technology as an avoidance strategy, thus lowering their chance of actually talking to others. This may result in the user's inability to express himself or herself.

"You can become a recluse and not know how to act around other people [when you overuse technology]. Basically [you'll] become socially awkward," junior Jesse McFadden said.

MOOR graphic by SAMMIE CHEN