



A New Door Opens For Open House

BARRY CHEUNG
Staff Writer

Open House is an annual school event that showcases the achievements of students. AHS hosted their 2014 Open House on Feb. 13, but in comparison to the previous years, this year's Open House revealed some of the opportunities that the school has for the prospective students.

"This year's Open House was great. While I was working, I got many comments about how this year's was better than the previous one due to the many features added to this year's Open House," ASB staff assistant Dominic Guan said.

To begin Open House, an all-you-can-eat Spaghetti Dinner hosted by the Mighty Moor Marching Band started at 5:00 and lasted until 8:00 P.M. A Spaghetti Dinner also took place during last year's Open House, but there were new additions this year, such as Jazz Band's performance during the dinner. In addition, to accompany the dining experience, the Ceramics and Drawing and Painting classes had an arts display exhibited in the cafeteria.

"This year's Open House [was] far more organized than last year's. I like how they took advantage of Third Street this year and gave each club and sport their own table," Girls' Tennis representative Tiffany Chan said.

Afterward, most of the other events began simultaneously at 6:15 and ended at 7:45 P.M. The Club Fair and Athletics Fair was hosted on Third Street; the Honor Roll Recognition was hosted in the Library; the dance performances took place in the auditorium, while ComedySportz, Speech and Debate and AMPS performed in the Little Theatre. The Club Fair and Athletics Fair allowed clubs and sports to showcase their achievements and inform parents more about available school activities.

The auditorium was not used last year, but this year a numerous amount of seats were taken as each dance team was about to perform. The Honor Roll was another new addition to this year's Open House. Tables were set up with many "Congratulations" papers on them, and ASB's Assistant of Public Relations Tevin Voong took pictures of the honor roll students.

"[Open House] seemed more involved this

year because of the Club Fair, Athletics Fairs and the performances. It showcased what we have to offer for the [students] instead of just academics," Girls' Volleyball representative Iris Zhou said.

The AP information session was the last to occur, between 7:00 to 8:00 P.M. The session informed students about what is recommended for an AP class, the dedication required and to give extra info about specific classes. There are different types of commitments for the AP courses. AP Physics has a two-year commitment, while the other AP classes require only year. According to the counselors' assembly, these courses require approximately two hours of work every day of the week. The prospective students for the AP classes asked multiple questions during the session about their uncertainties and whether or not they should continue with signing up for the class.

"Open House was great! People seemed to have fun with all the clubs and [...] the performances were awesome," sophomore Simon Voong said.

MOOR photos by YIBEI LIU AND SHANNON KHA

California Residents Urged to Conserve Water During Severe Drought

DIANA LI
News Editor
BRIANA THAI
Staff Writer

On Jan. 17, Governor Jerry Brown officially declared a drought state of emergency and urged California residents to take part in the water conservation effort. The California drought has lasted for three years, with the driest year being 2013, and some speculate that it will only worsen over the approaching year.

"We can't make it rain, but we can be much better prepared for the terrible consequences that California's drought now threatens, including dramatically less water for our farms and communities and increased fires in both urban and rural areas," Brown said in a press release, as stated in the NPR.

According to Reuters, the California Farm Water Coalition estimates that the drought could take approximately \$5 billion out of farming and other related industries.

"It is definitely a serious problem, but California has been dealing with droughts for a long time," freshman Stella Lin said. "We could try to put limits on water usage, or find out a way to transport water more efficiently."

According to Voice of America, crops are not growing as fast as they usually do in this unusually dry weather. Normally, wheat sprouts in five to seven days, but one wheat field in Los Angeles did not sprout for over two weeks.

"Water has been seen as a zero-sum game: agriculture against urban, north against south. We're going to have to figure out how to play a different game," President Barack Obama said, according to The New York Times.

The drought that California is currently experiencing is the most severe one to take place in 500 years. The water shortage has citizens trying to deal with problems in winter that usually arise in July.

"[T]he drought will finally make people notice that there is a problem with our water usage. To prevent another drought happening simply [involves changing] the way we use water. We've all heard of short showers and using a bucket to wash your car, but what about fixing water pipes or limiting water usage? [...] Everyone should be helping out and save water together," ERAS President Gwen Nguyen said.



OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW As ASB reaches out to involve more parents and students, the traditional Open House has expanded to spotlight various clubs and organizations on campus, while teachers interact with parents during appointments.

Mandatory Dance Competition Conflicts With Prom

JACQUELYN LOI
Staff Writer

Every year, Prom is one of the most highly anticipated high school dances. However, this creates a dilemma for AHS' dance members, who are required to compete at the 47th annual Miss Dance Drill Team USA, which will be held on April 5, the same day as Prom.

"Our main purpose of going to Miss Drill is competing and hopefully winning first or highpoint to get a banner back to Alhambra. What is also important is because Miss Drill was a competition created by [our last adviser's

mother] Ms. Crawford [...], so competing and winning would honor the Alhambra and Miss Drill connection," All Male captain Raymond Tran said.

Every year, Miss Dance Drill Team USA hosts the USA Nationals & Pageant. The winners go on to represent the United States at Miss Dance Drill Team International. This competition will be the last one of the dance teams' season.

"I honestly am really disappointed, [...] but [...] I would rather be competing at Miss Drill with my All Male brothers. I'm still going to miss not going to Prom, but this incident made me realize what I truly hold more important to me. As a four-year member and

captain, it's my responsibility to show [...] All Male the importance of Miss Drill," Tran said.

Despite this conflict, Prom cannot be rescheduled to accommodate the dance teams.

"[Junior Council] would definitely change the date of Prom if we could but sadly, we can't. [...] We were not able to choose what day Prom would take place," Junior Council member Felice Gonzales said.

While the dance teams may not be able to dance at their Prom, they will dance to represent AHS at the Miss Dance Drill Team USA Nationals & Pageant.

In Other News

El Salvador fisherman spends more than a year adrift in the Pacific Ocean

United States facing national clown shortage

Romania debates giving human rights to dolphins

Dutch study shows that walking backwards helps improve thinking

