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New Guidelines 'PrEP'are for Battle Against HIV

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With an average of about 50,000 new infections annually in the U.S., Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) remains one of the top infections on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Notifiable Infectious Conditions list. However, in recent years, the CDC has invented new methods to reduce the infection risk by up to 90 percent, according to CBS News.

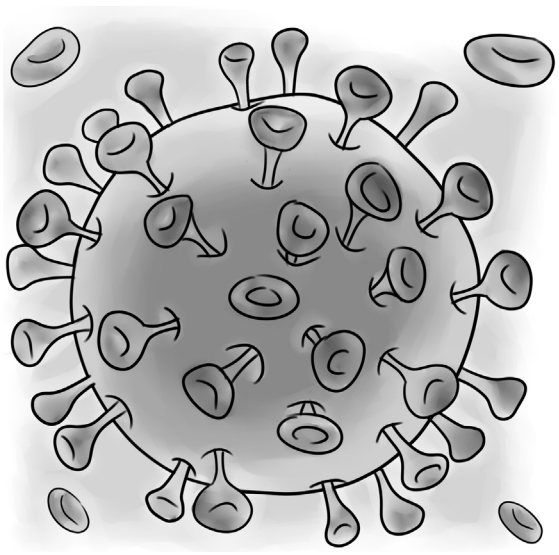
In 2014, the CDC released a new set of guidelines regarding pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), a HIV prevention approach for individuals who are at the highest risk of catching the disease. In order not to catch the disease, people who are HIV-negative, or whom who have already been exposed to HIV but have not yet produced HIV antibodies to the virus, need to take a pill called Truvada daily with the use of other proven prevention methods, as mentioned by CBS News.

Truvada was approved by the Food and Drug Administration to prevent the infection in 2012. However, other anti-HIV drugs are also being tested for PrEP to see how effective they are in preventing the infection so people have a wider array of options to choose from, according to the San Francisco Aids Foundation.

"While a vaccine or cure may one day end the HIV epidemic, PrEP is a powerful tool that has the potential to alter the course of the U.S. HIV epidemic today," Director of CDC's National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and Tuberculosis Prevention Jonathan Mermin said, as reported by CBS News.

The latest statistics collected by the CDC show that in 2010, people between the ages of 13 and 24 made up 26 percent of all new HIV infections in the United States. Although the infection rate is high and still increasing, the CDC still recommends caution when prescribing it to adolescents.

Over 50 percent of young patients in the nation, however, do not know they are infected by the virus. The CDC's data shows that there were about 62,400 youth living with HIV nationally, and 32,000 were living with undiagnosed infections by the end of 2012.



"Sexual education is very important because there is no cure for HIV or AIDS yet and so the best replacement is to prevent ourselves from being infected," junior David Huang said. "When President Ronald Reagan did not support sexual education, millions of people died and the average lifespan of the patient was [elven months]. "

California is one of 33 states that require students to be informed about HIV/AIDS, according to National Conference of State Legislatures. Implemented in 2003, the California Comprehensive Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Education Act requires that HIV/AIDS education be taught once in both middle school and in high school, including instruction on the nature of HIV/AIDS, methods of transmission, strategies to reduce the risk of infection and social and public health issues related to HIV/AIDS. However, according to the California Department of Education, comprehensive sexual health education which also includes education on pregnancy, family planning and sexually transmitted diseases, is not mandatory to be part of the curriculum.

At AHS, although Health as a course was dropped out of the curriculum, related health instruction is still taught for eight to nine weeks as part of 9th grade P.E. classes, which is mandatory for all freshmen to take. Coaches Luis Brambila and Louie A. Torres have taught the course designed by L.A. County Office of Instruction last year and this year respectively, covering topics such as what type of virus HIV is, how it is transmitted and how the virus attacks the human body. They also use transparencies and videos to instruct students about HIV prevention and sex safety.

"It's difficult to know whether [the curriculum] really sets in for the kids. Cultural differences cause some kids to be exposed to [information on sex safety and HIV] while others aren't. The important thing is that the kids take what they can from [the classes.] It's their responsibility in how sexually active they are as growing individuals," Brambila said.

MOOR graphic by SAMMIE CHEN

Junior Council Presents Prom 2015: 'Enchanted to Meet You'

JADE LIEU
Staff Writer

On March 20, Junior Council fully released AHS' Prom 2015 information. The theme this year will be "Enchanted to Meet You," inspired by Taylor Swift's song "Enchanted," with the coordinated colors lavender and ivory. It will be held at the Los Angeles River Center and Gardens on April 24. The dance will start at 7 p.m. and end at 12 a.m.

"I'm excited about Prom. [I'm] excited for the memories to come and just to be able to spend time with my friends for the last time [in high school]," senior Bryan Chen said.

There are many procedures and tasks that Junior Council has to go through in preparation for prom. The most imperative task will be the paperwork for every single aspect of prom, as well as the financial management, according to Junior Council President Amy Than. On the day prior to prom, Junior Council will be finishing off ticket sales at $130 or $120 with an ASB card. Council members will be preparing the centerpieces and decorations.

JUNIOR COUNCIL *Top row: Justin Imaa, Gary Jia, Simeon Lam, Vivian Tran. Bottom row: Toni Shyy, Amy Than, Pauline On, Ivy Kwok.*
MOOR photo by SHANNON KHA

On the day of, Junior Council will focus on last minute check-ups on the court, DJ and vendors. According to Than, they will refrain from selling tickets on the day of Prom to focus more on the details of the dance.

"The venue itself is just gorgeous. Being an exclusive wedding venue, it's really a 'see-it-to-believe-it' type of thing. I'm sure guests will be very amazed by its appearance as well as the gift that is given to guests every year. All I can say about the gift is that [it] is super cute and one-of-a-kind," Than said.

AHS 2015 Spring Musical 'Cinderella' Charms Audience

REBECCA ZENG
Staff Writer

On April 9, students, parents and other audience members sat in the auditorium among the sound of murmurs, until darkness and silence spread throughout the building. Presented by AHS Thespians, various band and orchestra members and the Visual and Performing Arts department, the spring musical "Cinderella" was performed on April 9-11 and will also be performed on April 16-17.

Contributors to the event included director Jennifer Nitschke, conductor and music teacher Mark Trulson, vocal teacher Samuel Chen and dance teacher Sarah Fong. In addition, benefactors, sponsors, friends and patrons were recognized in the program given.

"A lot of hard work goes into the putting on a good show, and 'Cinderella' has come together in a great way," Nitschke said.

The cast also enjoyed being a part of the production.

"My favorite part was the ballroom scene; it's just very graceful and elegant. During that part, it feels like you're actually in the story of Cinderella," senior ensemble member Bryant Chau said.

This musical was adapted from Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella story and followed the classic Cinderella plot. The musical included songs such as "There is Music in You."

"[Overall], I thought it was great; I especially liked the singing and musical parts. I also enjoyed the cast's enthusiasm," parent Armando Cordero said.

ASB Spreads Moor Spirit During Spring Rally

SHELLEY LIN
Staff Writer

On April 3, ASB hosted the annual Spring Rally during lunch at the Quad. The Spring Rally presented this season's sports: boys' volleyball, swim, diving, badminton, boys' tennis, track and field, softball and baseball.

"[This Spring Rally], we [wanted] to highlight [student athletes'] accomplishments and also celebrate senior athletes' hard work," ASB president Kristie Sham said.

This year, the All Female and All Male dance teams performed at the event, as well as senior Areli Arellano, who performed a song.

"[In the future], I hope to open up the pool of performers. In order to add diversity, I hope to have other VAPA groups showcase their talents," Director of Pep Rebecca Lopez said.

In hopes for a more successful rally in the future, Lopez plans to schedule these events on convenient days, instead of hosting them after long breaks from school. Also, she and her assistant, Amanda Morales, anticipate more creative decorations and different ways of showing school spirit without being repetitive compared to previous years' rallies.

"[For] the next rally, ASB would like to improve on publicity, [in order] to bring out students. It is always a struggle to reach out but it is a task that is always on our mind to execute," junior council president Amy Than said.

FHA-HEROes: Leaders in and out of the House

ELTON HO
Copy Editor

At AHS, members of the Future Homemakers Of America-Home Economics Related Occupations (FHA-HERO) club sharpen their career and leadership skills as they explore a variety of home economics-related topics throughout the year, including fashion and cooking.

Adviser and Vocational Education Department Head Julie Eyre assists club members with their topic of interest. On Feb. 22, members displayed what they learned at a regional FHA-HERO competition at John Muir High School, competing in categories such as Apparel Construction and Child Development. Seniors Jennifer Arista, Xenna Gallegos and Justine Perales along with juniors Leslie La and president Celeste Olmos all placed among the top five in their event, allowing them to progress to the state-level competition on April 25.

"For me, when it comes down to it, I am really shy, but with this club, I [learned] better public speaking. I broke out of my shell and as president, I can talk to students without being embarrassed," Olmos said. "It is helpful; I want to be a doctor and doctors can't be scared to talk to patients!"

FHA-HERO members look forward to attending a Disney Youth Education Series leadership development program in June. To fundraise for the admission cost, the club hosted the Power 106 basketball game on March 19, in which AHS students played against members of the Power 106 radio station.

MOOR graphics by LESLIE HWANG