

## PEGA Tackles E-Waste

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Shortened life spans and increased quantities of electronic items have resulted in rapid growth among obsolete electronics, also known as e-waste. Everyday electronics, such as computers and mobile phones, can be reused, refurbished or recycled; however, many of these are improperly disposed of and contribute to the nation's waste.

To help combat this problem, Planetary Enforced Green Awareness (PEGA) is an environmental club at AHS that also manages the on-campus e-waste system. Currently, the club has not yet officially hosted an e-waste drive, due to miscellaneous issues with the companies PEGA wants to work with.

Nevertheless, PEGA has previously received money from eWaste Center Inc., an outside e-waste company that collected and recycled electronic devices that the school no longer used. All profits made from such e-waste drives will go entirely to AHS.

In addition, PEGA has also coordinated a Power Down Day, where teachers are encouraged to unplug electronics that are not necessary for teaching.

"Our mission statement is to help [...] the school to become more energy efficient, green-smart and to change everyone's perspective on their daily activities," PEGA President Asia Chi said.

GRAPHIC courtesy of Figone Consulting Information Technology

## Space Shuttle Endeavour Finds a Permanent Home

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The space shuttle Endeavour was transported in October to the California Science Center as a permanent addition to the science center's brand new air and space exhibit after being chosen from 20 other proposals as the location of display.

"[The Endeavour exhibit] is informative and fun," senior Andrew Sirichuporn said. "[The shuttle] seems like it belongs there."

Endeavour is just one of five different space shuttles that have been used since 1981 to accomplish a wide variety of transports and vital tasks in space.

"The space program and the space shuttles have made important achievements," physics teacher Ernie Chen said. "The program has been one of the greater examples of American minds at work and of what can happen when the public is supportive of something."

Formally ended on Aug. 31, 2011, the entire space shuttle program will be replaced by more specialized spacecrafts designed for specific missions and assignments. NASA has awarded contracts to various companies to help develop and manufacture a new generation of launch systems that will soon take astronauts into space.

MOOR graphic by SHARON XU

## CCSS Designed to Enhance Students' Critical Thinking

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"Many publishers are scrambling to create materials for the common core and several are simply putting stickers on already published material and making claims that their materials are aligned to the CCSS," Flaten said. "Thus, we must be astute consumers and evaluators of products. That is why one of the single most important things districts can do is analyze the information available and provide good professional development."

Despite this, supporters of CCSS maintain that the new standards will be beneficial to students.

"This work will take our state's already world-class standards to a new level, emphasizing a deep understanding of English-Language Arts and mathematics to ensure our students complete high school,

ready to thrive in college and careers," California State Superintendent of Public

Instruction Tom Torlakson said, according to the California Department of Education website. CCSS is designed to teach students how to connect lessons from the classroom to applications in the real world to prepare them for college and careers.

"CCSS go into more detail about the topics that [students] learn," math teacher Tuan Pham said. "[They] force students to think more and not just remember facts. If implemented correctly, these standards will be more effective [than our current standards] and not just teach students to be mechanical."

As of now, teachers have already begun attending common core training to help them transition to CCSS by the time the 2014-2015 school year comes around.

"Every system has critics, but I think that with the resources they have, [students] will do [better]," Assistant Principal Phuong Nguyen said.

### In a Nutshell

- Common core has been adopted in 45 states and three territories; Alaska, Texas, Virginia, Minnesota and Nebraska have not adopted CCSS.
- California Standards were adopted on Aug. 2, 2010.
- Full implementation of the CCSS is expected in 2014-2015 school year.
- The last time California adopted new standards for English-Language Arts and Mathematics was in 1997.

## ASB Recycling Program Facilitates Campus Improvement

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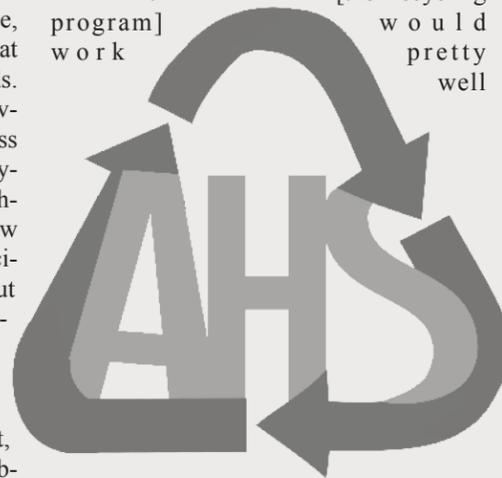
Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. On average, there is at most 80 percent of waste that can be recycled on high school grounds. With the help of a black bin located in every classroom, environmental awareness will be promoted by collecting and recycling the empty bottles scattered throughout AHS. The bins are a part of the new recycling program created by the Associated Student Body (ASB) to bring about student and teacher participation in environmental causes.

"[Students should contribute] because they attend the school. [I]n order to improve their learning environment, they need to put in the effort and contribute to make a change," Director of Campus Environment Cindy Ta said.

The recycling program only accepts empty cans and bottles, which are collected during fourth period every Friday

by Abelardo Bourbois' freshmen leadership class.

"I think [the recycling program] would work pretty well



in conjunction [with the Environmental Resource Awareness Club] and the teachers that already recycle," sophomore Eddie Chang said.

Most of the profits earned through the

program will go to the ASB account, which funds school activities and sports competitions. Because Speech and Debate adviser Kevin Tong was historically the first teacher to set the precedent of recycling at AHS, the remaining 40 percent of the proceeds will go to the Speech and Debate organization on campus.

"Everybody should be more cognizant of recycling, to save the world for future generations. Everything from bottles [to] cardboard should be recycled," Tong said.

The recycling program will benefit AHS, simultaneously improving the condition of the environment and school grounds.

"Ultimately, our goal is not for the profit, but to help the environment. However, by recycling the cans and bottles, we are able to gain a bonus in [accumulating] more money for the school," Ta said.

MOOR graphic by ARELI ARELLANO

## PSAT Delay Impedes Students' Schedules

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Numerous students displayed mixed feelings on Oct. 17 after discovering the postponement of the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) scheduled to take place that same day. The PSAT was instead moved to Saturday, Oct. 20 at 7 a.m.

School Site Council originally planned for the PSAT to be taken after school on a minimum day to allow for more students to participate, as opposed to a weekend or a regular weekday. However, on the day of the test, school administrators learned that test scores would not be valid if the PSAT was taken in the afternoon.

"We found out last minute that the tests need[ed] to be taken in the morning," Assistant Principal of Guidance Phuong Nguyen said.

This clashed with some students' schedules due to weekend tournaments or family obligations to attend. Aside from the Saturday date, no other days were available for testing, forcing students to make a decision between taking the PSAT and attending prearranged engagements.

Out of the 371 students who were signed

“We found out last minute that the tests need[ed] to be taken in the morning.”

-Phuong Nguyen

up, 37 could not attend. Of those 37 students, eight of them were unable to attend due to a Speech and Debate tournament. The postponement did not affect the test scores, which will be given at the same time as usual.

"I felt that the school was irresponsible and messed up a lot of our schedules. It feels like [the administrators] treat[ed] it like a joke," sophomore Julie Yu said.

In spite of these setbacks, this year's PSAT sold out and was attended by more students this year than last year.

"I liked [taking the test more] on Saturday because I was tired after school and didn't want to take an additional three-hour test," junior Marlene Tsui said.

A check serving as a refund will be given to the parents of students who could not attend Saturday's test.

Students and administrators alike were dismayed by the untimely delay.

"I was disappointed that [many] students couldn't take the PSAT," Nguyen said.

Additionally, juniors who could not attend the PSAT will still have the opportunity to enter the National Merit Scholarship through alternate routes; a notice will be distributed to those students for further instruction.

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