



## Newtown Shooting Elicits Mixed Reactions About Gun Control Across US

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News Editor

It was what President Barack Obama called “the worst day of [his] presidency.” On Dec. 14, 2012, twenty-six victims were killed in the Sandy Hook massacre. Twenty children and six adults died that day when a heavily armed man invaded the Newtown, Conn. elementary school and went on a murderous rampage.

In the aftermath of this tragedy, a renewed call for gun control swept across the nation. Proponents of this measure have been pushing for tighter laws since this massacre, which was the fourth mass shooting in the U.S. in 2012. According to CNN, 52 percent of Americans favor major restrictions on guns.

However, the National Rifle Association (NRA), a prominent gun rights organization, responded

one week after the Connecticut shooting, calling for armed guards at schools; according to CNN, they believe that more guns will provide true security.

The NRA also announced that it will fund a team to design a

President Wayne LaPierre said in a CNN interview.

After the NRA’s proposal, 200 teachers were given free gun training at an indoor sports arena in Utah, an event organized by the Utah Shooting Sports Council in

cut, I’m fully prepared to respond with my firearm,” Utah teacher Kasey Hansen told Reuters.

However, others are more hesitant to carry weapons into classrooms, since teachers could be overpowered for their guns, misfire or cause an accidental shooting.

“I do not believe teachers should be given guns,” English teacher Nancy Padilla said. “I didn’t sign up to be a policewoman. We have precautions and security in place; if anyone gets to that point, they will get in whether they have a gun or not.”

In order to curb gun violence, Obama has supported more restrictive gun control laws. He urged Congress to vote on measures banning the sale of assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines and requiring background checks before any firearm sale, according to the Washington Post. White House aides also said that a working group led by Vice President Joe Biden will probably come up with mental-health initiatives as well.

“With proper procedures in place, such occurrences can be prevented,” junior Sean Cho said. “This stems from a systemic ignorance of the mental health of youth. Because of this, we see that most of the problems that arise could be treated by instituting better policies for detecting mental disorders and better screenings for those who buy guns.”

The Los Angeles Unified School District has already begun taking precautions in wake of the Connecticut shootings. When campuses reopened after winter break, the Los Angeles Police Department, the sheriff’s department and other law enforcement agencies added random daily patrols to more than 600 elementary and middle school campuses, according to CBS.

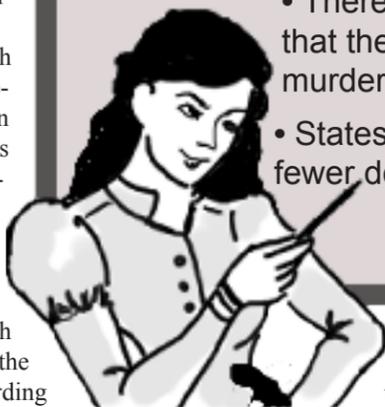
“I advocate armed guards patrolling around schools, not in them,” freshman Anthony Guerra said.

The police presence around campuses will continue for an indefinite amount of time, according to ABC. Officers will also patrol any private schools that request extra security.

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### Facts About Guns Within the U.S.

- Of the 11 deadliest shootings in the U.S., five have happened from 2007 onward.
- Gun ownership in the U.S. is declining overall.
- There is substantial evidence to indicate that there is a correlation between guns and murders.
- States with stricter gun control laws have fewer deaths from gun-related violence.



SOURCE: Washington Post  
MOOR graphic by SHARON XU

program to place armed security personnel on school campuses across the country.

“The only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun,” NRA Executive Vice

response to the Newtown shooting. Teachers were taught how to handle firearms by gun activists who say that armed educators stand a chance of thwarting deadly shooting rampages in their schools.

“If we should ever face a shooter like the one in Connecti-

## Capturing a Snow-Globe Moment at Winter Ball

JENNY LEE  
Staff Writer

This past December was an eventful month packed with several changes. Amid the holiday season, it was the first time current AHS students had finals in December because the semester ended before winter break. Aside from the two-week vacation, one of the recurring traditions of AHS is its annual Winter Ball.

Hosted by Girls’ League, the 2012 Winter Ball was held on Dec. 20 from 7 to 11 p.m., at the Quiet Cannon in Montebello. Dark teal, silver and ivory colors complement this year’s “A Snow Globe Moment” theme.

“A Snow Globe Moment” is a play on the phrase, “a Kodak Moment,” since Girls’ League wanted a “capturing memories” theme. This year, the Winter Ball



A SNOW-GLOBE MOMENT The 2012 Winter Ball court is presented as they await the announcement of the King Jason Lee-Raza and Queen Valerie Russo.

PHOTO courtesy of SHIRLEY LI

served a buffet packed with pasta, nachos and ice cream sundaes.

“The Winter Ball theme was unique and original. The place was elegant and had a

good view. Girls’ League actually spelled out Winter Ball with Christmas lights and you could see it from the window,” junior Emily To said. “The food was pretty good

and it was interesting how the chefs cooked the pasta right in front of you.”

However, the most significant difference from the previous Winter Ball was the dance contract requirement, a new implementation for all dances beginning this year. These mandatory dance contracts have been shown to affect students who wish to attend dances; ticket sales dropped, though they did improve the last few days before the dance.

“I was glad that I was able to achieve a much lower price from the previous years and ensure a buffet at Winter Ball,” Director of Girls and Girls’ League President Kimberly Phan said. “Although I wish ticket sales were a lot higher, I was happy with the end result since everyone enjoyed it.”

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