

## School Security Paramount to Safety After Sandy Hook Shooting

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At AHS, security is the number one priority for staff members. According to Assistant Principal of Student Services Chris Takeshita, school officials are always re-evaluating procedures and working with district and law enforcement to continue to improve AHS' campus security. For instance, a recent district directive was given to teachers for all classroom doors to be locked throughout the school day.

"The recent horrible events that occurred in Connecticut were just part of the reason for [the new district directive]," Takeshita said. "Studies and experience show that the harder we make it for someone to get into a classroom, the likelihood is that they will leave that

room and go somewhere else."

Teachers and students have mixed feelings about the implementation of this new policy. Most feel it is troublesome to continually open and close doors for students who leave or enter classrooms, but they also said that it is better to be proactive about security in case of an emergency.

"Security-wise, I understand we have to take all the precautions we can to secure the campus, but as a classroom teacher, it can be very inconvenient when I have to stop my lecture to open the door for students," math teacher Aya Kamimura said. "But we can't trade security for convenience because student safety comes first."

However, there are some concerns about how easily non-stu-

dents are able to enter campus without visitor's passes. Towards the end of first semester, some alumni came back to visit former teachers by entering campus posing as current students.

"I saw alumni without the visitor's passes stickers on campus during finals week, and they visited my classrooms," senior Jay Chang said.

While the alumni have not caused any problems yet, this may be an issue that administration should address in order to prevent any future incidents that may occur, if any.

In response, Principal Brad Walsh said that he will make sure that all administration and supervisors know of this concern and keep them on their toes.

"I have no knowledge of

[alumni visiting campus without passes], but if that's the case, teachers can't harbor students," Walsh said. "The alumni are supposed to get guest passes so we can account for everybody who's supposed to be here in case anything happens. If they try to blend in, they can be subject to arrest. Visitors can come, but they have to do it the right way."

Currently, AHS requires all visitors to check in at the welcome center to gain access onto the campus. Teachers can also fill out forms for requests, such as having former students visit their classes.

"I think it is a concern considering the fact that [alumni] blend in very well," senior Colleen Chau said. "It's nice to see them visit, but during school hours is not exactly an appropriate time for that."



### Rockin' Around the Holiday Committee

SYLVIA WINSTON  
Staff Writer

AHS proudly holds around 75 clubs on its campus; one such club is the Holiday Committee.

The committee is involved in various activities, including canned food drives, holiday grams and the annual Eui Lim Memorial Scholarship. The committee's main goal is to raise money and send it to a local charity bank.

However, over the past weeks, questions have arisen regarding the club's name change.

"Christmas Committee" is not the right name because we celebrate more than Christmas," co-adviser Lori Naylor said.

Naylor and former Assistant Principal of Activities Jeremy Infranca discussed some rules on how to name clubs, and both agreed it should be changed.

The committee has clarified that its name is still subject to change in coming years. Regardless, others disagree with the decision to break tradition.

"I don't like how our club changed our name because 'Christmas Committee' was known throughout the school," sophomore club member Candice Romero said. "Our [current] name has no history or value."

Regardless, the committee remains dedicated to serving others in need.

"The name [of the club] matters, but not as much as the students learning how to give back to the community with a grateful heart," Holiday Committee adviser Shi Ming Zhang-Liu said.

MOOR graphic by SHARON XU

## Sleigh Ride Through a Music Wonderland

JENNIFER THAI  
Staff Writer

AHS hosted its annual Winter Concert on Dec. 6, held in the auditorium. The concert featured Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) programs on campus, including Choir, Guitar, Jazz Band, Marching Band, Symphonic Band and Tri-City Orchestra.

The directors began their preparation for the Winter Concert once the new school year started in order to help the students perform to the best of their abilities.

"The beginning of the year is always a little tricky because we are starting from the very basics," Choir Director Samuel Chen said. "Since we started [school] earlier this year, I felt like we had a good amount of time to prepare for the concert. I'm very proud of how the students performed

and I heard a lot of positive feedback about the concert."

This year, the Winter Concert was performed in a pops-style. A pops-style concert is when each group performs various pieces that are spread throughout the evening, as opposed to having each group perform their pieces all at once and exiting the stage.

Pops-style was introduced as a way to ensure that there was an audience for each group that was performing at the time. Prior concerts have indicated that parents in the audience would leave right after their children's part in the concert ended, resulting in an influx or decline in the size of the audience before or after certain groups.

"We consider these comprehensive programs in music and other creative arts to be essential components of a balanced, high-quality learning process," parent Tammy Principe said.

It has been noted that pops-



MUSIC OF THE NIGHT Choir, Tri-City Orchestra and Jazz Band were some of the performing groups in the annual Winter Concert.

MOOR photos by YIBEI LIU

style will not be used for the Spring Concert. Instead, the performance will most likely be split into two separate nights, another style that has been used in previous years; this style allows the groups to create a more complete performance for their audience.

"I think the campus has grown

to appreciate the program more and more," senior and four-year member of Band and Orchestra Emily Adsit said. "[However], I think that students that aren't involved in VAPA should attend future concerts. Even if you personally aren't performing, you get to see your peers excel."

## Words of Poets Brought to Life in Poetry Out Loud

OLIVIA CHEUNG  
Editor in Chief

Poetry is defined as a literary work that emphasizes the expression of feelings and ideas through the use of a distinct style and rhythm. To many students at AHS, the essence of poetry is captured at the annual Poetry Out Loud competition that serves as an outlet for students who wish to express themselves through the spoken word.

"I participated because I absolutely admire how words in poetry have such an impact on one's character and perspective," sophomore Siciley Munoz said. "Poetry allows us to ex-

press words in a way [that] we can all connect to other's inner fears, emotions and thoughts."

Poetry Out Loud is a national competition that begins in a classroom setting and eventually progresses to the national stage. First, there are class competitions; the winners from these class competitions advance into their respective high school's competition. The top high school winners then compete in the district and gradually move up to county, state and nationals.

Winners of the state competition are awarded \$200 and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. to compete in nationals. The first-place national win-

ner will receive a \$20,000 award and their high school will receive \$500 to purchase poetry books.

AHS' high school competition took place on Dec. 7 in the Little Theater. Eight out of the 19 participants advanced to the district competition that took place on Dec. 12, also located in the Little Theater.

The eight participants included Andrew Benavides, Andy Chan, Gabriel Covarrubias, Tina Le, Ricky Perez, Emma Ruvalcaba, Brianna Sandoval and Esther Xitumul. Sophomore Brianna Sandoval won both the AHS competition and the district competition; she is scheduled to participate in the Los Angeles Coun-

ty competition on February 6.

"I am really honored to have won both the high school and the district competitions. I am not going to lie, it was pretty tough and I feel so lucky to be going on to the county competition," Sandoval said.

Currently, AHS students interested in poetry have been encouraged to consider participating in the Alhambra Moors Poet Society (AMPS).

"It always inspires me to see a student connect with a certain poem and read more about the particular author afterwards," AMPS adviser Joshua Moreno said. "Finding that connection is why [...] Poetry Out Loud is so powerful."



THE POET'S POSE Poetry Out Loud finalist Brianna Sandoval prepares to recite her poem.

MOOR photo by JOYCE TSUI

## IN OTHER

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