

An Annual Tradition of Individual Recognition

JENNY LEE
Staff Writer

Each year, the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) recognizes those who have played a significant role in students' education by awarding them the Founders Day Award.

The founders of the PTA were Alice Birney, Phoebe Hearst and Selena Butler; the award was created in order to share their legacy as founders.

The recipients have to be a PTA member and are selected based on how they enrich the school community and their PTA achievements.

The AUSD is comprised of 13 elementary schools and three high schools, each with the opportunity to create its own PTA program. On Feb. 8, all of AUSD's PTAs came together to honor the recipient from their respective school. From AHS, the PTA chose to honor Jose Sanchez, Jocelyn Castro, Jessica Castillo and Hung Luu.

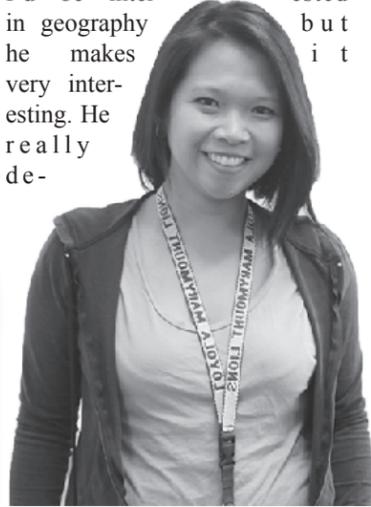
Sanchez is a history teacher,

MOOR College Preparatory teacher and adviser of the MOOR College Club. He creates a college-going atmosphere by sponsoring college week and workshops.

This past summer, he was one of the two chosen teachers from California to



"This is [my] first year here, but I knew he would be a really good teacher," freshman Aaron Chhor of Sanchez's AP Human Geography class said. "I never thought I'd be interested in geography but he makes it very interesting. He really de-



tor and Associated Student Body adviser. Castro has been working to transform the school's culture. Under her coordination, WASC gave AHS a six-year accreditation with a three-year review.

"It was a surprise to receive



special education department and is dedicated to serving the community. In California, a school's Academic Performance Index (API) score is used to measure a school's academic performance and development. With Castillo's help, AHS' API score has increased by 60 points.

"It's my privilege to serve the community, and I take it very seriously," Castillo said. "I believe that everyone took responsibility to make the [API score increase] happen."

Luu is a parent receiving the honorary service award for his outstanding leadership in PTA. He stepped up to the plate when the PTA had been struggling.

According to PTA President Adele Andrade-Stadler, he earns the respect of those who have worked closely with him.

"It's a wonderful event to recognize that there are special people in the community of Alhambra High School," Andrade-Stadler said. "It sets aside all our busy schedules to say thank you to people who work very hard."

PTA COMMUNITY LEADERS Jose Sanchez (left), Jocelyn Castro (middle), Jessica Castillo (right) and Hung Luu (not pictured) were honored on Feb. 8 for their work in enriching the AHS community.

MOOR photos by YIBEI LIU and JOYCE TSUI

study at the Supreme Court. He has always supported the PTA by visiting their booths and fundraisers.

serves this award."

Castro is a biology teacher, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) coordina-

the award," Castro said. "I was not expecting it, but it was an honor."

Castillo is the chair of AHS'

AHS Receives Positive Reviews After Inspection for Audit

SYLVIA WINSTON
Staff Writer

Inspections are regular routines that take place at almost every workplace. They occur at high expense companies, government bases and schools. To this AHS is not an exception.

An audit was ordered by the California Department of Education for Dec. 13, 2012 at AHS. The inspection appraised three areas: Migration Education, Compensatory Education (Title I) and English Learners.

"[These three areas were audited] because they are our three major groups at our school," Assistant Principal of Instruction Marisa Meyka said.

Several weeks ago, the Federal Program Monitoring (FPM) selected AHS as the last of many high schools it would inspect.

"We [receive] categorical money. [This money] helps us fund identified need areas, such as the English Learners. [The audit's purpose] was to see if the school's money was being spent appropriately," Principal Brad Walsh said.

After a thorough inspection that spanned several days, the board finalized their review and reported that there were no findings, meaning that AHS was free of any violations.

"They complimented our school and even said it ran like a trustworthy organization," Walsh said.

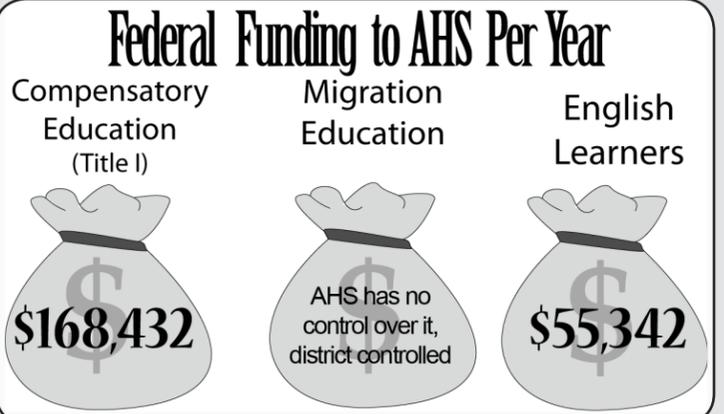
This inspection caused a lot of anxiety among the administrators.

"We were very stressed. It was breath-holding when the auditors were reading the results. The auditors [praised] our school, teachers and students," Meyka said. Meyka was also the coordinator of the audit.

After the audit concluded, Walsh said that he received compliments from the committee regarding the fluidity of AHS.

"After the inspection was done, one of the guys in the back stood up and said, 'It was obvious that we left the best school for last,'" Walsh said.

AUSD Director of Categorical Programs Terry Jaurequi mentioned the pride the district and



AHS took after the audit.

"We feel very proud of the job we do to help students profoundly. Personally, I like to see that we are using our money ethically, [which] gives me pride. I was

surprised to see everything well organized. [Outside] businesses did a great job [of] supporting us," Jaurequi said.

MOOR graphic by SHARON XU

Hot Air Over Science Building Ventilation System

JENNIFER THAI
Staff Writer

What do you notice as you take a tour around Alhambra High? Some might answer with its architecture while others comment on its school spirit. However, behind every building is the mechanics that keeps the air on campus functioning.

Complaints from students and teachers alike have been recently spread regarding the heating and air conditioning ventilation

throughout classes. Teachers complain that the ventilation system disrupts class instruction. The amount of air transported creates the distinctive whirring that makes it difficult for students to pay attention.

"The classes upstairs have it worse because they are closer to the vents [...] We've had experts check the vents [and the] noise

level was 40 to 50 decibels," science teacher Daniel Hyke said.

The current decibel level does not meet the state standard for California, which is 35 decibels

“ We've had experts check the vents [and the] noise level was 40 to 50 decibels. -Daniel Hyke

in an empty classroom. The noise level problem has been an issue for over two and a half years now, since the science building was

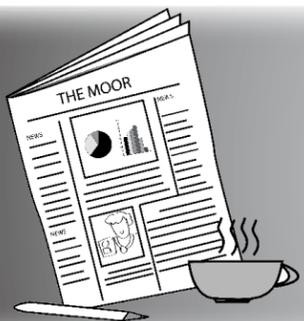
finished. The ventilation company has been conducting an ongoing repair and redesign in order to dampen the air vents; however, the problem still remains. Information on the company's name was not available by the AUSD at the time of publication.

"There's no timeline on when it'll be approved [by the Division of the State Architect]; they are still working on minor repairs to

lower the noise level," Principal Brad Walsh said. "It's still being negotiated."

Air ventilation problems come at the expense of a successful learning experience. At times, teachers and students cannot hear each other during class.

"It's hard to concentrate sometimes because of the AC noise, [especially] when I'm near the wall in class," sophomore Monica Wu said. "I've heard the workers fixing [the vents] on the roof before. I hope it gets fixed soon."



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