

# Down the Rabbit Hole and Up the Spiral Hill



**AHS MEETS WONDERLAND** In AHS Homecoming assembly, ASB presents 2014's theme, "Nightmare in Wonderland." The assembly consisted of performances from band and color guard, choir and All Male. *MOOR* montage by SHANNON KHA

**BARRY CHEUNG**  
**JOSEPH NEY-JUN**  
Staff Writers

For 2014, ASB based the theme of the Homecoming dance on a blending of the two movies "The Nightmare Before Christmas" and "Alice in Wonderland" and named "Nightmare in Wonderland," with red, black and silver as the theme colors. The dance took place at the Quad on Nov. 1.

"In terms of work, ASB [pitched] in ideas for the vision we [had] for "Nightmare," ASB President Kristie Sham said. "It's been a really creative process, and the decor [looked] pretty [amazing]. ASB and Frosh Leadership [had] been working during class and after school for all the preparations. Despite facing some unique challenges this year, I'm so proud of ASB for always pushing to do more."

The opinions from students varied on the idea of Homecoming's theme being a mix of the two movies.

"I never watched either movie so the theme doesn't really intrigue me and the spirit week

is as usual, but the energy is great," junior Tina Le said.

Annually, there is an assembly to announce the Homecoming festivities such as the Homecoming game, dance, carnival and Spirit Week. This year the assembly featured two homecoming videos: one on the Homecoming Spirit Week and one on the Homecoming dance. ASB informed students about the carnival and the new parade during the assembly. The Homecoming king, queen, the princes and the princesses were all introduced in the Homecoming Court announcement. In addition, the Mighty Moor Marching Band (MMMB), Choir and All Male Dance Team performed.

"The homecoming assembly was simply spectacular. Even though the pep of the school may not be as high in past years, I think the effort of ASB to produce has not faded. I enjoyed the video shown and especially enjoyed All Male's highly anticipated performance," junior Justin Imaa.

This year's Spirit Week incorporated the days "Mad Hatter" Monday, "Twinkle Dee" Tuesday, "Wickedly Wiggy" Wednesday,

"Twisted" Thursday and the traditional "Blue and Gold" Friday.

"Spirit Week was planned slowly and steadily ever since the theme was settled. There was a myriad of thoughts and ideas made possible with our props and materials. The video was worked on with comedy in mind in order to invite AHS with the enthusiasm and entertainment Homecoming has to bring," Assistant to Webmaster Allen Fann said.

ASB publicized Homecoming in various ways. They promoted Homecoming through social media websites and placed posters all around the campus. To promote the dance further, they offered free admission to Thespians' Haunted House. After the assembly, ASB passed out dance contracts to make it convenient for students to obtain one.

"Homecoming is such a fun high school tradition. It's really the center of school pride. I hope by offering such diversity in activities, we can encourage more students to be part of this annual tradition. Homecoming is basically all about having pride in your school and community," Sham said.

ASB planned to make this year's Homecoming week a new experience with the addition of AHS's first Homecoming parade and the continuation of the Homecoming carnival. The parade was led by the MMMB around 4 p.m. and ended around 4:40 p.m. from AHS to Moor Field in time for the carnival that started at 4:30 p.m. Many clubs were invited out to participate in the parade and march alongside each other. There was also a banner competition among the clubs that participated in the event. The event was made possible by collaborating with Alhambra Police Department, AUSD District Board and the City of Alhambra.

"The clubs of our school played a very crucial role in this year's homecoming. They participated in every aspect of homecoming. They walked in our parade, provided food and games at our carnival and dance, and performed at our halftime! If it weren't for all the clubs on campus and the students in those clubs, Homecoming would not be what it is meant to be, a great experience for everyone involved," Assistant to Commissioner of Clubs Agatha Handojo said.

## Close Race for California Superintendent of Public Instruction

**JACQUELYN LOI**  
Staff Writer

Education is often a main issue that appeals to many voters. This year, two candidates, Marshall Tuck and Tom Torlakson, are running to become the California State Superintendent of Public Instruction. However, according to the Contra Costa Times, both Tuck and Torlakson have opposing views on California public schools and who should attend and teach in those schools.

Tuck aims to have student test scores evaluate teachers' competency and wants to simplify the state's education code, so that public schools can operate more freely and be geared more towards students and parents, similar to charter schools. On the other hand, Torlakson favors an increased annual state income for schools to implement

new teaching methods and for testing under Common Core standards, according to the LA Weekly.

Both candidates also have different views on the Vergara lawsuit, which was filed by a group of students who claimed that the state's tenure and security system deprived them of equal education. The system protects teachers who have obtained tenure after teaching with satisfactory performance ratings for two school years, but targets teachers with less experience for layoff regardless of their teaching abilities, as stated by San Jose Mercury News.

The ruling was appealed by Torlakson, along with state Attorney General Kamala Harris and Governor Jerry Brown. Torlakson claims that teachers are unfairly blamed for problems that have other solutions, such as teacher training. He

believes that teacher training should be improved instead of throwing out the tenure system altogether.

"I believe teachers have the right to a fair hearing. We shouldn't be blaming teachers. Investing in them is the way to help teachers improve their practice," Torlakson said, according to the San Jose Mercury News.

On the other hand, Tuck said he would withdraw support for the appeal of the ruling and believes that layoffs should take into account the performance and effectiveness of the teacher.

"I've had to literally look parents

in the eye and say: 'Your son or daughter's teacher is getting let go and they are good, but the law says they actually have to be let go,'" Tuck said, according to the San Jose Mercury News.

The opposite views between both candidates have resulted in a very close race for the election, which will take place on Nov. 4.

"I think that this race could really be won by either candidate. What Torlakson wants is what is already being implemented. However, I feel that what Tuck wants for our education can help [us] in the long run. He is offering new ideas that can further help students learn. But, when it all comes down to it, I think that both candidates have an more or less an equal chance of winning and that both will probably do their best to ensure we get quality education," sophomore Christina Tran said.

**TOM TORLAKSON**

- Student test scores used as evaluation method for teachers' competency
- Simplify state's education code similar to charter schools
- Believes teachers are unfairly blamed for problems that could have other solutions such as teacher training

**MARSHALL TUCK**

- Layoffs should take into account the performance and effectiveness of the teacher
- Increased annual state income for schools to implement new teaching methods
- Testing under Common Core standards

*MOOR* graphic by LESLIE HWANG

### IN OTHER NEWS

**DRIVER JAILED AFTER FILMING SELFIE VIDEO DURING HIGH-SPEED POLICE CHASE**

**TODDLER STUCK AFTER CRAWLING INTO CLAW MACHINE**

**CALIFORNIA WOMAN GETS STUCK IN CHIMNEY TRYING TO SNEAK INTO HOME**

**WOMAN DELIBERATELY DRIVES CAR INTO PLASMA-DONATION CENTER**

**MAN ARRESTED WITH 13 TINY ENDANGERED MONKEYS STUFFED IN SHIRT**

**PENNSYLVANIA TEACHER FAKED BRAIN TUMOR TO GET TIME OFF**