



Retail Stores' Non-existent Holiday

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News Editor

With the annual Black Friday sales approaching, it is no surprise that more stores intend to retain employees for longer hours in order to keep up with the busy holiday sales. Midnight openings have become increasingly common, but this year, the retail store Kmart plans to open its doors on Thanksgiving and to stay open for 41 consecutive hours, a controversial decision that comes at the expense of their workers.

Other stores, including Best Buy, Macy's, Walmart, Kohl's and Toys "R" Us, will also open on Thanksgiving, but Kmart's opening time is among the earliest.

The reason for this year's early sales is simple. In order to attract the most customers, stores strategically extend their sales dates. However, after Kmart announced that it would stay open from 6 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day to 11 p.m. on Black Friday, critics challenged the company's aggressive schedule.

"There's an extent to which stores can do this to get profit," sophomore Kesia Eng said. "Employees do most of the labor work, so they deserve to stay home and be with their families."

However, others point fingers at consumers for being hypocritical by shopping during the late hours that prevent employees from being home for the holidays. Still others argue that employees who are unsatisfied with their work hours are not obligated to take the job.

Kmart officials extended the hours for flexibility and the convenience of customers.

"Kmart has been a destination for early-bird shopping and last-minute entertaining needs on Thanksgiving Day for 22 years," Kmart spokeswoman Shanelle Armstrong wrote in

Select Schools in 19 States Send 'Fat Letters' Home to Students

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To what extent can schools interfere in children's health? In recent years, the U.S. seems to have been going through a health epidemic resulting in higher obesity rates affecting not only adults, but children and adolescents as well.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, in 2010, 12.1 percent of children

ages two through

five, 18 percent of children

ages six through

11 and 18.4 percent of adolescents

ages 12 through 19 were

considered obese.

Overall in the U.S.,

obesity rates have

levelled off, but still remain

quite high. However,

another reminder of the

nation's recent health epidemic

may soon be sent by schools

themselves.

Select schools from 19 states,

such as Arkansas and Florida,

are beginning to perform body

mass index (BMI) screenings on

students and are sending the

results home to warn parents

of their children's risk of potential

obesity and health issues. These

warnings, nicknamed "fat

letters," have received much

backlash from par-

ents, as well as eating disorder specialists, who are concerned about the toll that letters take on children's self-esteem.

"I just think it's responsible of parents to send them out looking for free candy just because all the other kids are doing it," a woman identified as Cheryl said, according to CBS.

Criticism arose about the ethics of BMI testing in schools, as many felt that singling out over-

Select California schools have also begun sending "fat letters" home to students and parents. Districts like Riverside County follow state guidelines and send test results of the child's BMI to their parents.

Despite the criticism from multiple parents and specialists, some nutritional experts believe that the letters may help combat childhood obesity more efficiently.

"It shouldn't be a stigma, it's not a way to categorize someone. It's just showing that this child has increased risk to be obese as an adult, which then could lead to quite a few chronic diseases," nutritionist Lauren Schmitt said, according to CBS.

Others acknowledge that the letters have both

benefits and detriments.

"I think it's good because it regards someone's health, but it might also be offensive because it brings down self-esteem," sophomore Toni Shyy said.

Ultimately, sending fat letters home as a method of informing parents of their child's health continues to be adopted by schools despite the backlash.

MOOR graphic by SIMON ZHAO



weight children was problematic. Massachusetts schools also dabbled in the practice of sending fat letters home but soon stopped after self-esteem and bullying issues were reported

"I would like to see BMI testing in schools banned. For those who are already insecure about their weight, these tests can [...] potentially trigger an eating disorder," Claire Mysko of the National Eating Disorders Association said, according to ABC News.

Farewell to AHS' Assistant Principal of Guidance

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Staff Writer

After seven years of administering at AHS, Assistant Principal Jeremy Infranca stepped into his new position at the district office as the Coordinator of Child Welfare and Attendance on Nov. 15.

Infranca has worked in education since 1997. Growing up in the city of La Crescenta, he attended Crescenta Valley High School and, later, the University of La Verne. Infranca became a teacher because he was inspired and motivated by several excellent teachers, who he regarded as role models. He taught English at Walnut High school until 2005.

In 2006, Infranca joined AUSD

and started at AHS as an Assistant Principal of Student Services.

"Frankly, I see myself as a very small piece of a very big puzzle that is Alhambra High," Infranca said.

Throughout his duration of work, Infranca has worked in

three different offices at AHS,

including Student Services,

Business and Activities and recently Guidance. As the Assistant

Principal of Guidance, his primary

role is to support and encourage

students and parents. He spent a

short period of time at the district

office in 2008 as the district's Energy Manager, but he decided he "wanted to come back to Moor Country."

"Mr. Infranca is one of the few people I met in the school that listens to the same music that I do," junior David Hernandez said. "It

"[Seeing] the excitement, relief and pure joy on the faces of students and parents was always the highlight for me. Plus I loved reading the names of graduates in front of 7,000 of my closest friends at East LA College," Infranca said.

According to Infranca, being a

teacher or administrator at a large school

always

has challenges. All of the obstacles that he has encountered

have helped him to develop and improve teaching and communicating skills, which leads him to

where he is today.

"I believe I'm much more understanding, patient and ready to handle any professional challenge that comes my way as a result of my time here," Infranca said. "I've learned so much from our students. They have shown me motivation, resiliency, tolerance and the courage to go out into the world and stake their own claims."

Infranca wants all Moors to keep striving for success and honor. He would like to show his gratitude to all the students.

"Because of you, I've grown as a person and I'm eternally grateful," Infranca said. "I have always been treated with kindness and respect by all students and staff at AHS. In my heart I will always be a Moor!"

"I've learned so much from our students. They have shown me motivation, resiliency and the courage to go out into the world and stake their own claims."

-Jeremy Infranca