

The Hatchet



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Mission

The Hatchet is a forum for student expression and discussion of ideas uncensored by school officials. The Hatchet staff seeks to ethically produce an accurate record of the news, sports, issues and people of the Washington High School community.

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Hatchet encourages public opinion through Letters to the Editor, which represent the opinion of the writer only. An editor must confirm submission of all letters with the writer. Writers may request that their letter be printed anonymously, but The Hatchet will not print letters submitted anonymously. Letters will not be edited. If a letter is not publishable due to legal liability, poor taste or length, the letter will be returned to the writer for revision.

Letters should be addressed to "the editor," and given to a Hatchet staff member, hand-delivered to Room E221, sent via email to <editor@whshatchet.com>, or mailed to WHS-The Hatchet / 38442 Fremont Blvd. / Fremont, CA 94536.

Washington hosts first Paws for a Cause

BRIANA TERRY
Staff Reporter

At a goal of raising \$4,000 to donate to the HERS Breast Cancer Foundation, our school gathered the community and its students together to spread the awareness of breast cancer.

ASB secretary and senior Lauren Floro came up with the idea of walking for breast cancer. She was inspired by "Relay for Life," an event that gives people around the world a chance to celebrate individuals who have been directly or indirectly affected by cancer.

Floro asked activity coordinator Helen Paris for her opinion on hosting the event; Paris thought it was a great idea.

Paws for a Cause is a non-profit charity walk in honor of national breast cancer awareness month, which would be a new tradition at our school.

As participants for the charity walk lined up to sign in, others lined up to get "paws" to show which individuals affected by breast cancer they were walking for. The paws represented lost, love and awareness of breast cancer.

"I lost two of my grandmas, from breast cancer, leaving one with one breast. Before it could

spread they had to cut one of my grandma's breasts," senior Casarah Catucci said.

At the starting line, a ribbon was shown to symbolize the beginning of our first annual walk. As the ribbon was cut, families and friends raced around campus. Most walked, while others decided to run their laps. Having to walk five laps, students received stamps to show their number of laps they completed.

Junior Carmelle Coleman felt the walk was a great idea to spread awareness. She came out and walked around campus for her mother.

"My mother got diagnosed with it, so she's been fighting towards breast cancer since last June. Thankfully she's been cured for a year now," Coleman said.

The students and community enjoyed themselves and came together to celebrate and spread breast cancer awareness.

At the end of the day, Paris was pleased and happy with how the first annual Paws for a Cause turned out. More people than what was expected showed up to help out with the walk. The community took the time to bring success to the big event.

"Paws for a Cause will now be a tradition to the Huskies



Photo by Josh Das

Leadership members, including senior Kimberly Chatterjee and sophomore Shannon Grant, draw raffle tickets for all those who participated in Pause for Cause. Raffle winners also received iPods, hats, T-shirts, shoes and gift cards.

Teen Leadership

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WHS students represent in Honor Band

BACH PHAN
Staff Reporter

Sophomore Daniel Brown and juniors Allen Liu and Kevin Luo were selected to be part of Fremont Unified School District's honor band.

The honor band consists of around 40 students total from around the district. The rehearsals started during January at Mission San Jose High School, and the concert was held at the Ohlone concert hall on Feb. 6. They played music from the eighteenth century.

"If I had to describe it in a word...calm," Brown said.

Scott Pierson, the marching band director for San Jose State and the director for the Santa Clara Vanguard, directed the honor band. He taught the honor band new things, such as breathing techniques.

The auditions consisted of recorded tapes, with the

applicants playing folk song suites and scales, which are different ways of playing notes.

The directors from each high school, including marching band director Duane Mitchell, came together and listened to the audition tapes anonymously. Then they picked a certain number of students for each instrument depending on what they needed. They also made sure that every school was represented.

"This is the best [honor] band we've had in eight or nine years," Mitchell said.

Brown, Liu and Luo give credit to Mitchell for organizing the classes, setting everything up and directing everybody. Mitchell directs more than just marching band. He is the choir director, and he teaches the guitar class.

The WHS honor band students started playing their instrument when they were growing up. In fourth grade, both Brown and Liu acquired their instruments. Brown picked the trumpet and Liu began playing the French horn. Luo picked up his clarinet in the third grade after he was done with his after school music classes, where he

played the recorder. Brown was inspired by his older sister, who plays the piano. His first instrument was the piano, which he continues to play today.

"My director chose my instrument for me," Liu said.

They both practice many times throughout the week.

Brown practices every day for

about an hour, while Liu practices around five hours a week. They attribute their success from this constant practice.

"It's really about practice, there is no talent, it's just practice," Brown said.

However being in band has not affected their academic life. They are still committed to a high standard of education.

Liu is looking at UC Berkeley as a prospect for his future. He has not thought of doing anything else with his life besides classical music.

Brown has not looked into many schools, but knows of many of the prominent music schools. He has other hopes as well. If he had to do something besides music, he would become an inventor or an engineer.

Luo does not plan on pursuing music as a major, but rather a minor in college.

"I feel proud to be in honor band," said Luo.

This is the best [honor] band we've had in eight or nine years.

Duane Mitchell