

Toy Drive gives children hope for the holiday season

BY IRENE HWANG
News Feature Editor

Cerritos High School has been hosting the Toy Drive this whole entire week. All toys donated will be given to the We Care Organization, a non-profit organization based in Los Alamitos that supports impoverished families and children in the southern part of the Los Angeles County.

Cerritos High has been hand-in-hand with the We Care Organization since the past few years by supporting it with the canned food and toy drives. Cerritos being one of its main contributors, We Care is able to support over 300 households per year.

In order to provide the children with gratifying toys, the ASB Executives, President Klarissa Son, Vice-President Tyler Graham, and Treasurer Danny Jeon, in charge of this event added a few more regulations to the Toy Drive. This year, students were prohibited from bringing used stuffed animals and 99-cent store toys.

They mentioned that bringing 99-cent store toys defeated the purpose of the drive because the unfortunate families are usually only able to afford inexpensive gifts. They also banned students from donating used stuffed animals because in the previous year, three trash bags worth of unclean stuffed animals had to be thrown out.

ASB also made a new system for the fifth period class competition this year. To be as fair as possible and to encourage all classes to participate, the finalized toy points will be determined by the number of toy points divided by the number of students in the class. The first,

second, and third place winning classes will be awarded with pizza, drumstick ice cream, and candy, respectively. Results will be announced two weeks after the tally sheets have been turned in.

The ASB executives also wanted the students to be more involved this year and therefore highly encouraged the student senators to help students take part in the drive. Instead of ASB being the only one concerned about these drives, they would like for these events to be more directed towards the student body.

"We want to emphasize that these events are not just ASB events. They are events for every student on campus. This year we really want every student on campus to be a part of this toy drive," said Jeon.

As an incentive, classes and clubs will be awarded spirit and club points for the Toy Drive. Rather than having the clubs stack up their club points by turning in large sums of products, ASB put a maximum capacity of club points awarded so that clubs would also focus on club projects and not just the drives. However, they still highly encouraged the clubs to exceed the maximum amount and to donate as many toys as they could.

The toy points differed according to the quality of the products. Toys were classified into categories of small good toys, large good toys, great toys, and super awesome toys worth one point, three points, five points, and 10 points, respectively. The goal this year for the school was to collect at least 3,000 points worth of toys.

"In terms of economy, it is very difficult. So as a community, we want to do our best to lessen the pain, especially to children by giving enjoyable and fun toys to own this Christmas," said Jeon.



Photo by Irene Hwang

POSING WITH THE TOYS: ASB Executives, President Klarissa Son and Treasurer Danny Jeon pose with the toys from the senior class competition bin. All throughout the week, ASB collected toys from the classes at the quad.

Marching Band prepares for the 2012 Summer Olympics

BY ALLISON MUNDER
Staff Writer

The Cerritos Regiment of Gold walked away successful on Nov. 19 at the SCJA Championships, receiving second place, ending the season with a big hit, and preparing the wind symphony for the 2012 London Olympics this coming year.

While the school was beginning Thanksgiving Break, the Cerritos Marching Band was ending its season at Huntington Beach High School. The band had a rough start receiving fifth place at the first competition, but slowly progressed its way up the charts, having received first place in a new circuit. The Regiment of Gold did just as great competing against the ten best 4A marching bands in Southern California.

"I think we did really well on championships and placing second on a new circuit is pretty intense. I'm really excited to come back as alumni and watch next year's show!" said Senior Carl Cosue. Not only did the band receive second place but received a high visual award. As some band members might say, "We scared the competition from behind!"

Having improved so much from last year, it's guaranteed that the Regiment of Gold will outshine the other bands next year with what they'll have next. But this isn't the end of such a successful year; the Cerritos Wind Symphony will be performing at the 2012 Olympics in London.

This will be an amazing opportunity for the Wind Symphony to show people what they got. They had the amazing chance to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York last year, but performing at the Olympics is the chance of a lifetime. The members are excited and working hard to

look their best next summer.

"I'm looking forward to going to London and Paris. Practices are going well. We are progressing at a rapid rate," said Senior Basnath Muralikrishnan.

The performance will have to sound perfect if the wind symphony is going to perform in front of such a big audience. Practices have already started and they can feel the heat. The pressure of performing in another country is over powering for all of the members, and music director, Mr. Trost.

"Since this is the Olympics we're talking about, Mr. Trost wants to make sure that every little detail is perfect, and we do that by playing the song multiple times, figuring out different flaws we made so we can fix them, or if the flaws we made were so bad that he couldn't tolerate it, we can get cut out from that specific section of the song until we get it together," said Sophomore Cristian Preciado.

Time is passing by too quickly for the members, having to prepare, and all but it's going to be an exciting experience for the Wind Symphony.

"I have high expectations for the Olympics, for last year, I was fortunate enough to travel with the symphony to New York to perform at Carnegie Hall. I am hoping that by going to the Olympics I will be able to see a new side of the world. This opportunity seems like a once in a life-time opportunity to me, for when else will you be invited to perform at the Olympics? Generally, I feel like this trip will be a life-changing experience and it will be great. I feel excited and filled with great anticipation of the great journey to come," said Senior Kyle Chou.

The wind symphony can't wait to be part of such an amazing experience, so help them out, buy from their fundraisers, and this summer turn on the T.V. and watch them perform!

Students spend a day in the shoes of the City Council



Photo Courtesy of Dave Johnstone

STUDENT GOVERNMENT DAY: Students from the ABC Unified School District listen to the Head of the Department of Safety speak about how it is important to get involved within the community and mold into great community leaders.

BY MICHELLE JEN
Special Feature Editor

On Dec. 9, students from the ABC Unified School District high schools, gathered together for the annual Student Government Day at the Cerritos City Council chambers, located near the Cerritos Sheriff Station, in a mock City Council meeting.

The students represented real members of the city council, who were also present at the meeting, and discussed a topic on vending machines. The city council is composed of five members whom citizens of Cerritos elect. As a legislative body, the members are responsible for implementing programs and services for the 51,488 residents of Cerritos.

The city council approves and adopts all ordinances, resolutions, and other legislative matters that they think would satisfy Cerritos residents and benefit the city. The members serve for four years and every year in March, the positions of Mayor and Mayor Pro-tem are rotated.

At the mock meeting, the Mayor was represented by Xavier Buck of Gahr High School, Mayor Pro Tem by Raymond Ku of Whitney High School, and one of the council members by Senior Katheryn S. Lee of Cerritos High School. The five high schools each had one student representing a council member.

Several other CHS seniors were assigned to various departments. Ace Elacio received Public Works/City Engineering Department, Margo Gordon Finance Department, Emily Chang Video/City TV De-

partment, and Jazmine Epperson Administrative Service/HR Department. In addition, Seniors Emily Lee, Nathaniel Bautista, Kai-En Chou, Nina McDonnell, Kristiene Gong, and Luyi Ren were all community and audience members. The community and audience members had active positions because they voiced their opinions on the topic.

"I think that the mock meeting provided a networking opportunity for students to get acquainted with not only other high school students, but also the people who run Cerritos," said community and audience member E. Lee.

Prior to the council meeting, students heard the Cerritos city government department heads, several of whom were CHS alumni, discuss their day-to-day responsibilities.

After the council meetings, students received official proclamations presented by Deputy Mayor Jim Edwards and ABC Superintendent Gary Smuts.

To participate in Student Government Day, students had to submit applications, listing the three most desired positions, and they wrote essays. Approximately 100 students applied, but only 30 were chosen. CHS had the largest turnout, with 11 students chosen, with GHS second at seven students. Artesia High School, WHS, and Tracy High School provided three or four students each.

Once accepted, the students had to research the topic and find information on state laws, codes, and regulations on vending machines and food quality. They had to read the Cerritos Municipal Code on Health to prepare for the meeting.



Photo Courtesy of Yearbook

FLUTE SECTION AT THE SCJA COMPETITION: The flute section of the marching band poses at Huntington Beach High School after its successful championship earlier that night.

Correction Corner

Volume: 40
Issue: 3
Page: 6

Article Title: Young Women's Empowerment Conference hosts Castaneda, Cortez, Hwang, Jung, and Lo
Correction: There was an error printed on the photo credits of this article. The photo of the Women's Empowerment Conference was provided by Senior Yasmin Cortez, not Jinyoung Jung.

The Informer would like to apologize for this error.