

The Hatchet

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Donuts will not be sold during finals brunch periods, new healthy food codes the culprit

CHRIS DELL A VALLE
Staff Reporter

The annual foreign exchange student program coordinated by Spanish teacher Mary Gimeno brought 29 Colombian students and four teachers to Fremont Jan. 13-20. Although this is the program's fourth year running, students were eager to participate. Several had previously hosted foreign students, and wanted to take part again. Most, however, welcomed the Colombians for the first time.

"I wanted to see what it would be like to have a sister," sophomore Shaler Cambell said.

Parents were just as eager as their sons and daughters to foster a Colombian student.

"It's a great way to realize that we're all the same around the world. We all share interests and lifestyles, and it's important to see that in other people," parent Cathy Hughes said.

The exchange students shadowed their California hosts on Monday and presented in classrooms on Tuesday. On Wednesday and Thursday, the Colombians put on a cultural performance at Centerville Junior High.

The assembly, which lasted about an hour, included skits, folk songs, and traditional and salsa dancing, all performed by the Colombians. "The dances showed off a lot of their culture and the instruments were cool. It taught me that they are actually not much different from us," freshman Alex Morariu said of the assembly.

Friday was the Panera and ice skating field trip at Sharks Ice.

Washington hosts first Paws for a Cause



HERS Foundation employee Vera Packard and activity coordinator Helen Paris cut the ribbon at the starting line. Senior Casarh Catucci and Shanya Finley prepared themselves for the five laps they were about to walk.

YouTube ban lift proposed at meeting

KEERTHIKA RAMAKRISHNAN
Staff Reporter

Teachers want to lift the ban on YouTube to have access to the educational videos. The debate over YouTube has been considered for a while, but only during the Sept. 30 board of education meeting, the issue was addressed.

Our school's Internet is funded by E-rate, and this program tells the district which websites need to be blocked at school. In order to get the E-rate funding, our school needs to abide by the laws of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). CIPA requires Internet access to be filtered of images that express pornography,

obscenity or any other pictures that might be harmful to minors. In addition, CIPA mandates the blocking of chat rooms and other social networks like MySpace to keep minors in a safe place. Since YouTube has some inappropriate videos, E-rate requires the website to be blocked.

Teachers argue that they want Internet access to show educational videos to students that better learn through visuals. Sites like Teacher tube and School Tube do not offer the types of videos the teachers are keen on showing.

"There is no way to be sure that unlimited access to YouTube won't be abused

by kids, but I do think that teachers should be able to access YouTube," English and social justice teacher Stewart Perlman said.

Teachers agree that there are some inappropriate videos, but they would like YouTube to be unblocked only for teachers with password protections. However, some argue that even with password protection, certain teachers might let a student use their computer where YouTube might be accessed.

At the board meeting, the board members agreed YouTube is a good source for teachers to use in class. The vendor that FUSD uses to filter the Internet does not have the technological ability to

give password protected access to YouTube, but the vendors are working with this idea. The idea of changing the vendor crossed the board members' minds, but money was the main concern.

Changing vendors would cost more money for the district and budget cuts constrain the spending of the district. The board's decision is pending until the next board meeting to see whether the Internet vendor can create password protected filters for teachers to access YouTube.

By the first week of November, the board of education will announce whether teachers will be able to access YouTube. Orecatinciti

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