

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.

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



Students eat their lunches in the amphitheatre during the Halloween rally. There were over 500 students present. Photo stich by CHRISTELLE XU

Halloween rally draws largest crowd in 20 years

KEERTHIKA RAMAKRISHNAN
Staff Reporter

The amphitheatre packed 500 to 600 students for the Halloween rally, and almost 800 students and faculty members were fed.

"The Halloween rally at lunch on October 30th attracted the biggest crowd I have seen in all my years at Washington," activity director Helen Paris said.

There were barely any seats available for students who came late to rally. The Halloween

rally has been a tradition at Washington High School for the past 20 years.

Unlike other schools in Fremont who usually have international kitchen for a week, Washington hosts Barbeques throughout the school year. The rally is funded by money from ASB cards. Most of the money collected through the buying of ASB is returned to students in the form of rallies. Students purchased food for a \$1.00 without a costume and \$.50 with a costume; teachers in costume got food for free.

In general, the Halloween rally usually consists of a costume competition, pumpkin carving and bobbing for apples.

The Halloween costume contest contained a wide range of costumes, from a Roman goddess to Po from Teletubbies.

First prize for pumpkin carving went to junior Kaitlin Loob, and senior Alex Tyler won first prize for apple bobbing.

The funniest costume went to the costume group, "Irony," with two prisoners and a cop.

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