

ASB decorates school with plants

ALEX TYLER
Opinions Editor

ASB members placed large planters filled with an assortment of wildflowers around campus the past few weeks. The students put in a brick pathway outside of the Eggers building, and they also trimmed plants around school with the help of student activities director Helen Paris wielding an electric edger.

These efforts are well appreciated, but some students feel that the money should be spent on other school improvements such as new books or locks on the bathroom stalls.

Senior John Rasure said that although the improvements are helpful "they should have done this a long time ago, at this point the money could be better spent elsewhere."

ASB spends around

\$1000 each year on school improvements such as new plants and other aesthetic additions. Their decision to place planters came from activities director Helen Paris. She bought the planters in a previous year and had them situated near the redwood tree by the Eggers building. Since nobody seemed to notice them there, she decided to move them to more noticeable places. Students in the fourth period leadership

class water the new flowers and make sure the additions stay nice.

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Junior Julian Malar, president of the New Leaf club said that their club submitted a plan to ASB to place different plants around

school throughout the year. ASB moved the planters before they passed the plan. New Leaf club will work together with ASB to continue adding flowers, trees and other plants around the school. They will be planting plants to celebrate Earth Day, April 22.

Bastard gets the thumbs down

ANTERPREET KAUR
Staff Reporter

For the second year in a row, AP English teacher Teri Hu submitted the novel *Bastard out of Carolina* (Dorothy Allison) to be reviewed by the Fremont School Board. Last year, the district officials voted 2 for and 3 against the book. The three that had voted against the book had not read it, while one of the two who voted for it had.

"Supervisors didn't vote from a position of knowledge. Three out of the four officials straight up admitted that they hadn't read the book," Hu said.

"As a parent, I just feel this is not appropriate," District Board member Ivy Wu said.

Wu is concerned about her daughter who would read this book in AP English next year if it is approved.

Board Vice President Bryan Gebhardt believes otherwise.

"Originally, I was not in favor of this book, but I did change my mind just from my perspective, and that is, when a book is brought forth to the twelfth grade AP, it really essentially is a college book," Gebhardt said.

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Photo by
JORDAN BRAHANEY

Students across campus dress in green in celebration of Saint Patrick's Day, March 17.

WASAC committee assesses WHS

BACH PHAM
News Editor



Brynn
Osicka

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) had their ceremonial evaluation of the school from March 7 to March 10. The committee members were given an itinerary from WASC coordinator Brynn Osicka.

"I helped organize the teacher input in the report. I wrote sections of the report. I organized the actual visit with the committee. I did none of these things alone," Osicka said.

The committee was given a tour of the school from ASB members, and in the following three days, they met with teachers and

administrations and visited almost every classroom. A student focus group was also included in the evaluation.

The focus group included members from some of our clubs on campus such as MeCHA, Gay-Straight Alliance, Black Student Union and Interact. There were also students from the African American Male Focus Group, the Multimedia Art Academy and a group of juniors who have been in the families program since their freshmen year. They discussed things such as school atmosphere, preparation for college and the standardized tests.

"The chairman of WASC said we should bottle [clubs and support groups that allow a non-discriminatory environment] and sell it to other schools," junior David Agorastos said.

The report gave out the traditional points of strength. They consisted of our staff encouraging high

expectations of students and using assessments, group projects and collaboration to improve achievement. Other strong points were our school's leadership program, student activities such as clubs and student government. The focal point of many of the representatives was the supportive community, the school's leadership program and the student related programs that were available at the school. They also applauded the school for using assessment tools such as the Online Assessment Reportings (OARS) to direct our curriculum.

Most of the areas of focus that were around for the last evaluation were met except for closing the achievement gaps and implementing ESLers in order to heighten academic achievement. This year, the committee focused on developing programs for underrepresented sub-groups and closing the achievement gaps for those groups. This

meant getting the communities of those groups involved more with the school. Another area of improvement that was a big factor was the technology plan. Even though the school recently installed LCD projectors, the committee wants to develop a technology plan that will be able to increase learning efficiency in the classroom.

These areas will have to be improved upon the next time that WASC visits. The school's accreditation is temporary and the number of years is unknown at this moment, but during that time, the school will be implementing changes to meet the requirements.