



The BLUE DEVIL'S

Advocate



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DE! DE! DE! Social Studies Trip to Capital a Success

Dr. Ladd takes 32 people to discover nation's capital

By: Lauren Duche
Co-Opinions Editor

After two years, Richmond's AP Government class was able to take the trip out to Washington DC.

After arriving at the school at about two in the morning, the students made their way to the airport, and arrived there at about four in the morning.

Junior, Daniel Seguin, said, "I forgot we had to go through airport security, and I had a lot of stuff in my pockets so it took a lot longer than I anticipated. Waiting around was awful. Needless to say, I hate the airport."

Although the airport antics were below average, the rest of the trip went quite well.

Seguin said, "My favorite part of the trip was on the first day was either when we went to see an IMAX movie at the Smithsonian Museum about Mars or when I got to see president Obama's two dogs. The trip definitely picked up after the airport; the only problem was we were all really tired," he said.

Despite the exhaustion, junior Amanda Gorr still managed to make the most of their short time at the capital.

"My favorite part of the trip by far was the Lincoln Memorial. I'd seen

pictures of it before but nothing compared to actually seeing it. It was so enormous. The only word I can really use to describe it is breathtaking," she said.

While the Lincoln Memorial was exciting, sophomore Anna Maxwell enjoyed the Holocaust Museum.

"I had gone to the Holocaust Museum in Michigan and I learned a lot from it but being able to see everything on a larger spectrum I learned a lot more," she said.

Next to the Holocaust Museum, the nights spent in the hotel rooms were also memorable.

"I didn't know them people I roomed with all that well so I got to get to know them really well. I walked in not knowing anyone that well and walked out with really good friends," she said.

Junior Mary Gaffney enjoyed watching Georgetown's graduation.

"We got to watch Georgetown's graduation literally on accident. We were on our way to the FDR monument and we got to see the end of their graduation. I ended up finding a tassel that fell off of someone's cap so I kept it as a souvenir," she said.

The best part about everyone's



Seniors Paige Koehn, Ashley Reese, Emma Perry, Grace Daniel, Sarah McNichol sitting on monument in D.C. (photo courtesy of RHS yearbook)

encounters was that the entire trip was captured.

Junior Mikala Evans made a short video about the whole trip featuring most of the kids.

"I wanted to make something everyone could see that way everyone could look back at all the memories we made there and the crazy things that went on. A video seemed like the best way to go," Evans said.

And it was. Featuring clips from memorial sites, late night adven-

more, said, "I really liked getting the opportunity to vote for my favorite teachers. It was fun to do. I voted for Dr. Ladd for best handwriting because it's a joke we have that he has messy handwriting."

The fun doesn't stop there. "I also voted for some teachers because I really thought they deserved a specific award. For example, I voted for Mr. Murphy for most school spirited because he always participates in spirit days, he's always the most excited at pep assemblies and he really supports all the different clubs and sports teams," said Maksymnik.

But not all students were so certain they knew who they wanted to win each award. Stephanie Graham and Joey Ottenbacher went classroom-to-classroom to see who should really be crowned Best Singer at RHS.

Graham, a senior, said, "The most

Richmond Teachers Shine

By: Haley Fortuna
Features Co-Editor

The votes are in and the winners are....

For teacher appreciation week, Student Government held teacher mock elections where several awards were given to teachers and voted on by students.

Some of the awards included the following: Best Dressed, Best Lectures, Funniest, Most School Spirited, Best Personality and many more.

Mrs. Smallwood, who received the award for best singer said, "It was great. All of the teachers really enjoyed their awards. It's definitely something we should do again next year."

The idea for the awards sparked in a Student Government meeting. Emily Nichter, sophomore co-president, took part in organizing and

distributing the awards.

"It was really cool to be apart of the whole process. We really thought the teachers would appreciate it that their students were voting for them for various categories and we were right," Nichter said. "When we handed out the awards you could just see how excited the teachers were to receive theirs."

Receiving awards voted on by their students truly brought a smile to the RHS teaching staff.

Mr. Schleder, recipient of Best Personality, was thrilled about his award. In fact, it is hanging up in his classroom.

When asked by students what he thinks of his award he replies, "... Supp... I feel like that's why I got this award because I say stuff like that."

Not only did the teachers enjoy the mock-election, but the students enjoyed it as well.

Clayton Maksymnik, a sopho-

tures, and comical side comments, the entire trip was captured in a four minute clip.

Gaffney said, "I'm really glad she made the video. It really portrayed the atmosphere we were in and it gives us something we can always look back on. Memories fade, but now we have the ability to look back on the trip and I'm really glad she got to document it all."

Fun I had with the teacher awards was when Joey and I went around and asked all the teachers to sing for us. The only teacher who actually sang was Mrs. Smallwood and she was so good."

Teachers, students and the Student Government were all pleased with how the awards turned out and hope to bring them back next year with even more award opportunities.

Brianna Maloney, a junior Student Government representative, said, "It was great to witness my teachers smile when they received the awards I wanted them to win. It was a great way for us students to show our appreciation."

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Singing Goodbye for the Summer

By: Hayley Reed
Staff Writer

The choir students of Richmond share their most memorable experiences from the year.

Over the school year, the choir has had a Christmas concert, a festival, and a spring concert.

During this year's concerts, many solos, memories, and good songs will be remembered for years to come.

Choir is not just about singing. It is about confidence, quality, and positivity. Those are just a couple qualities that are taught in choir.

Rachael Hunt, a freshman choir girl, has been in choir for the past three years. From her time in choir, she has been taught many of these life changing qualities.

"My three years in choir has shaped me to be bold, to not be afraid to say something, and to have

more positivity and enthusiasm throughout my daily life," said Hunt.

Music brings a positive attitude to all the students. It helps inspire them to want to grow and be driven to become better.

Caitlyn Gilbert, an eleventh grade band and choir girl, has learned a lot from her experience.

"Regardless if you mess up or not as long as you do it confidently, no one will question you," said Gilbert.

Choir taught many students a confidence that will live with them and help them grow throughout their lives. Another way choir helps the students grow is through positive criticism.

"The criticism Mrs. Newman gave before a concert has a big impact on me by letting me realize I need to get my act together," said Hunt. Positive criticism can really help

the students blossom.

Ashley Pomaville, a sophomore in choir, has grown over the past year.

"I always keep that criticism in the back of my mind to keep me growing," said Pomaville.

Over the past year, many memories have been made. Many students' favorite memories were the concerts at festival.

"I think my favorite memory was solo ensemble and all the concerts," said Hunt.

Ashley's favorite memory was getting to spend time with the choir girls.

"I remember I was with the choir girls and we went to festival. We had to stand because there was time between the concerts and we went out to lunch. Then after the festival was over, we went out to dinner and I got to spend a whole day with them. It was fun," Pomaville said.

Gilbert wanted one thing to be said for all the upcoming choir students.

"Don't take choir as an easy A. Choir is so competitive. We want to be the best we can be," Gilbert said.

Another thing Gilbert said was to just have fun in choir, but to still take it seriously. Since they learn a new song every day, seriousness is needed to make sure it sounds the best it can.

"Good, better, best. Never let it rest. 'Til your good is better and your better is best." This is a quote by St. Jerome, a quote for the new choir students to keep in mind as they continue on their learning journey.

Special day for the Special Olympics

By: Ana Kinkela
Staff Writer

For these kids it's a day of fun outside in the sun.

It was a one-day event held at Macomb College, and all the kids participated. Seniors Larry Wofford, Tania Mendoza and Austin Engelhard. Junior Jason Ternan, Sophomores Luis Trejo, Jesus, Annalise Catenacci and freshmen Eduardo Sanchez 9th, Mark Cervi 9th and Brandon Malinowski 9th.

But it wasn't just High school kids. It was age groups from 13-16, 17-25 so there were many different people there. There wasn't really any need for training, just many different activities for all the kids to do, from Bocchy ball, running events, standing long jump, soft ball, the 200-yard race, and many more.

They all had a giant blast enjoying the outdoors and fresh air.

"It was good. I actually did enjoy

it, and I was trying my hardest to get my best time," Larry Wofford had said. Wofford also had a 9-foot jump, which was the farthest jump anyone had that day.

Their teacher, Mr. Bloink, said that it was a great experience for them, and for himself, an overall very positive environment.

Mr. Bloink has been a teacher for 16 years, and has been a special Ed teacher for 6. He's been going to the Special Olympics every year with his amazing students. He loves getting to see them this way and watching them enjoy themselves outside of the classroom.

"It's a chance for me to see them in a different environment," Mr. Bloink said.

The seniors this year that were in the Special Olympics are quite sad that this was their last year, but they are happy they were able to experience it all throughout middle school and high school.

For them it wasn't really a compe-

tion. It was more of a time to have fun and make memories.

"I liked that I can get outside more often," Annalisa said.

The Special Olympics wasn't just special for RHS students, but it also was for Mr. Bloink. The Special Olympics is what got Mr. Bloink into becoming a Special Education teacher, and he loves what he does. It was back when he was halfway through college for business; there was one moment that changed it. He had volunteered at the Olympics. Helping the kids get to where they needed to go, and just being able to watch them was an inspiration.

"There was this one moment that changed what I wanted to do. The volunteers aren't allowed to help the students, and this kid with one leg was doing a race. Once it had started he fell, and was trying to get back up, it was a struggle, but he got back up and went on with the race. He didn't give up, he kept going," said Bloink.

In that moment, he decided he would become a teacher to be able to see more moments like that again.

It was that first time volunteering and just once race changed his future.

The Special Olympics was and is every year a memorable time for everyone and something they definitely don't want to miss. Spending time with great friends, and pushing themselves to do their best on each activities, is what they look forwards to every year – to make even more memories with one another.

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Room 209