

Christmas Break

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But of course, the music is much different.

The Christmas songs that Americans all know and have grown accustomed to are in Spanish. The melody is exactly the same; the only true difference is that the lyrics are in Spanish.

Being a native speaker, Leslie has to release the use of her second language (English) whenever she journeys to Mexico.

Leslie said, "It's really tough thinking in one language and speaking in another."

Translation can be a big problem for her. She will know what the speaker is saying and in her head knows how she wants to reply but being as the two languages are so complex, it is not always easy to find the right words for either.

Another difference is the food. On and around Christmas, the whole family feasts. "The kind of food we eat depends on the cook's mood," Leslie said. "But usually it's a soup-like food called Mole."

Mole is a common Mexican dish. More often than not, it is spicy and is filled with some type of meat (usually beef), veggies and rice.

However, Leslie cannot deny her favorite Christmas food to be good old fashioned cookies.

"I obviously eat cookies year round, but somehow, I enjoy them much more around Christmas time," she said.

Christmas is a holiday shared by many in this country. There is much celebration and life.

When asked to describe her absolute favorite thing about the Christmas season, Leslie said "The joy the holiday encompasses is undeniable. It just puts a good feeling inside of me."

Surely a white Christmas doesn't determine the spirit that the holiday possesses.

Criminal Justice an interest to the students at RHS

By: Christina Thomas
Staff Writer

Richard Margosian is held up against a cop car, hands held behind his back, handcuffed. But his arrest isn't a cop - it's a student.

Mr. Margosian is the teacher for the Criminal Justice program at RHS that inspires students wishing to pursue a career in this field. Mr. Margosian's job is to increase student knowledge of the court system and the law.

"By the time the students leave this class, they'll know more about their rights than 90% of the public do," said Mr. Margosian.

After 28 years of law enforcement, it was a natural fit for Mr. Margosian to teach this course.

"Students need to see the real perspective of the Criminal Justice program, not just what they see in TV shows and movies," said Mr. Margosian.

The class is a lot of hands-on training, including when Mr. Margosian was "arrested".

The main concept was to show students what happens in an actual traffic stop, which is the most dangerous procedure a cop can be involved in, according to Mr. Margosian.

"I learned that you must check the suspect carefully because you never know where a weapon could be," said junior Jordan Cates.

Students have learned defense tactics and what to do at traffic stops. They are certified to give CPR and will be visiting the Macomb Community jail in the spring.

"We read the same packets that the cops get in their training classes," said senior Jordan Adams.

This course is a two hour class, taking place 5th and 6th hour. "Being a senior, I took this course to see if I wanted to pursue a career

in this field," said Adams. "I know the basics of the law and know my rights as a citizen a lot better."

In addition to the various activities, the class reads an autobiography about a retired cop and also reads out of the class textbook.

The autobiography *Paths Crossed*, written by Cliff Edwards, is a series of short stories that start off when Edwards was recruited to be a cop and then proceeds through his police career.

Every other Friday, students are also required to do a one-page research paper and give an oral presentation to the class about a crime that had taken place.

"Doing the oral presentations increases speaking skills and has also made me better at researching," said senior Austin Yannatter.

One of the oral presentations Yannatter has done was about a woman from Henrico County, Virginia that was charged from lying to the FBI about alleged connections to ISIS.

Yannatter believes the woman should be punished for this crime because it is not good for America to have citizens going against the country.

The class has a positive effect on all the students whether they want to pursue a career in the field or not.

"I've learned different aspects of the law and learned that there are many jobs in the field to go into such as a police officer, FBI agent, detective and others," said Yannatter.

"I know my rights better and how to defend myself on my own." This course gives students an open idea of what they can do in certain situations and opens up a lot of unknown knowledge about the system

of law enforcement.

"I've realized that the law has to go through certain circumstances to get things done," said Cates, whose favorite thing he learned about was search and seizure. "It was cool because not every day you get to arrest your teacher for a grade."

Junior Andrew Reed wants to pursue a career in the field of law enforcement, wanting to go into the FBI.

"I want to make a change in people's lives; I want to have authority," said Reed. Taking this course has helped Reed out a lot and has assured him that he does want to seek a job in the FBI.

"I have learned the procedure of the law and the different ways a police officer evaluates crimes," said Reed. "It made me realize how hard being a police officer really is." This class causes students to have a different viewpoint of the law than when they started the course.

"I have learned a lot about the court system and what to expect from the cops," said Adams.

Each individual knows the daily procedure of a police officer and what a workday consists of for them.

This class illuminates that nothing in life comes easy; students have to work for everything they wish to achieve.

"You won't achieve anything unless you push yourself," said Mr. Margosian. "The students not only gain knowledge from the class about the field of law enforcement but they also learn that in life you need to push yourself past your limits in order to succeed."

New Year, New Goals

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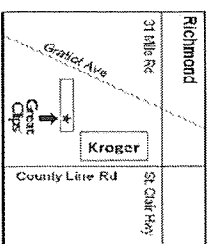
social media and the other technologies we, as a society, are able to interact with on a daily basis.

"People can act completely different from their true selves on Twitter, so in other words they are just lying to themselves when it comes to a New Year's Resolution," said sophomore Marco Mini, whose New Year's Resolution is as follows: "I want to get big enough to where I can bench my own body weight like my idols Jake Schmidt and Kevin Maas."

He added, "I've been working out but not as hard as them so that's why I can't bench my body weight like them, so I'll just have to hit the gym harder. Because I have had success in previous New Year's Resolutions, I think that with time I'll be able to reach the level that both Jake and K-Maas are at," said Mini, who had success when he hit the gym last year too, just not as hard as what he thought was needed.

Of the people who are actually making a New Year's Resolution, some people have smaller goals than Mini, like Julia Foster who just simply wants to "wake up earlier" by "setting my alarm and going to bed earlier."

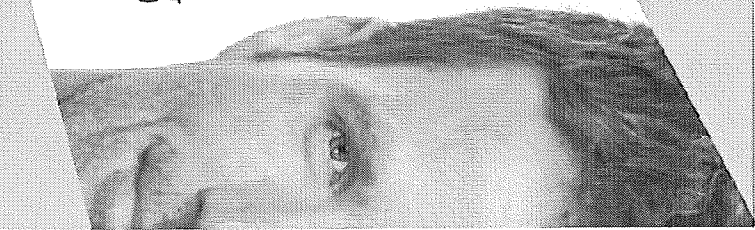
"I haven't really tried to do a New Year's Resolution in a while, so it will be a little difficult to keep it going," said Foster. Andonoff said, "If everyone in America followed their New Year's Resolution, we wouldn't be the most obese country in the world anymore since everyone wants to lose weight."

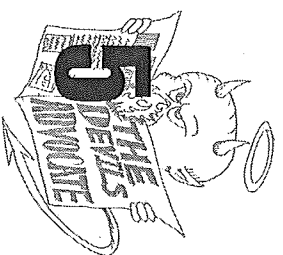


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Mulan Jr.

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Ling, an eccentric soldier in Shang's army.

Seguin said his favorite part of Mulan Jr. was the song "A Girl Worth Fighting For". As for Goodhand, his favorite part was eating peanut butter with the cast. He had heard that eating peanut butter would improve one's singing, so he and others ate a bit before performing.

There were plenty of other enjoyable moments in this show. Haack said she enjoyed "all the laughs and fun times we have at rehearsals."

"Being able to teach the kids about some Eastern culture" is what Pankiewicz enjoyed the most.

Those who auditioned were separated into two casts: the Dragons and the Cherry Blossoms. For Pankiewicz, directing two different casts a day felt like déjà vu. "It's fun to see the show in two different ways," said Pankiewicz.

Over half the kids in Mulan Jr. haven't been in an Aud show before and there was a wide age range to go with it. However, the talent gap didn't follow the age gap, according to Pankiewicz.

Pankiewicz saw improvement with how far the casts came. He said that when kids realize that they have limited rehearsal time, they get into gear. "Off-book [having lines memorized] for this show was downright amazing," he added.

The cast saw improvement in themselves individually as well. "I grew a bit as an actress and singer," said Fortuna.

One of the biggest issues encountered by Pankiewicz was the amount of absences by cast members. This can be problematic with such limited rehearsal time.

"When you fix one mistake, one pops up again," said Seguin. Many shows have obstacles to overcome; it's just a matter of how you get through them.

Another problem arose: one of the set designers had broken her arm outside of the production. This, however, didn't hinder her from finishing her set pieces. She ended up painting the rest with her less

dominant arm.

The actors and actresses thought the performances went well. "Our second performance was probably the best time we ran through the show," said Fortuna, who was part of the Dragon cast.

According to Fortuna, Mulan is one of the only Disney princesses that teaches independence and courage. Haack said that the message is about being yourself; Seguin said the same.

To Pankiewicz, the message is slightly different. He said, "Every person has the opportunity to change their own world."

Richmond Choir and Band Carole into the Holiday Season

By Paige Koehn
Features Co-Editor

Throughout the month of December, Richmond High School had their annual Christmas concerts for both the band and the choir. To kick off the holiday season, the Band performed on the 9th and 10th of December. The following week, the Choir performed on December 16th and 17th.

Both began at 7:30 pm and were held at RHS's auditorium. Tickets were five dollars a person.

At the band concert, many holiday songs were performed—both religious and nonreligious—such as Silent Night, Jingle Bells, Carol of the Bells, Up on the Housetop, and Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree. Rachel Rigole, sophomore, who plays the flute, and Blake Iskra, senior, a singer, had a duet with each other. The two together performed O' Holy Night.

"The reason why we enjoy performing this song together is because it's an extremely powerful Christmas song. Also, the message behind it is really beautiful," said Rigole.

For Band solos, Caitlin Weishaar performed a traditional French Carol in variation. Also, brass, woodwind, and percussion ensembles performed songs such as and Go Tell it on the Mountain and O' Come O'

Come Emmanuel.

"We sight read some songs and choose them based on the amount of time we had to prepare and how they fit our ensemble. It is based on how well the playing ability is. We also picked songs we enjoyed to play," said Mrs. Molly Schack, the Band teacher.

Before the show began, quite a lot of preparation was put into it. Performers spent many hours practicing and memorizing their songs, while also working out the dynamics of them.

Preparation for the Band Christmas concert began in October, right after the MSBOA Marching Band Festival. The concert became their main focus once the marching band season is completed.

CJ Wagner, freshman, plays the Alto Saxophone. His favorite thing about participating in RHS's Band is performing at concerts or at football games during halftime.

"My favorite songs to perform at the Christmas concert was Celtic Carol, by Robert W. Smith, and Crazy Mixed Up Christmas, by David Shaffer," said Wagner.

Mrs. Schack enjoys seeing all the hard work the Band members put into playing their instruments.

"I enjoy seeing the difference between the beginner sixth graders and the high school groups. The improvement students make over the six years of being in band is tremendous," said Mrs. Schack.

This year's Band concert was a huge success. Both students playing the instruments and the audience thoroughly enjoyed it.

Beau Brockett, a senior who plays the baritone, said, "I think the concert was extremely successful this year. Everyone played the best they could. One of the best songs that I think we performed that night was Silent Night. We sometimes struggle with playing slower songs, but we came together and made it sound beautiful."

Since the middle of October, the Choir and Chorale students have been practicing their songs together. They chose this year's song list by listening and viewing music over a course of several hours.

The RHS Choir also

performed several holiday songs as well, such as Winter's Night. There were several styles of music performed at the concert—such as songs with and without piano, pop songs, traditional Christmas Carols, Hanukkah songs and even novelty songs like the Grinch. Stephanie Graham, who is a junior, has a song she especially enjoys performing.

"My favorite song to perform is Carol of the Bells, which is a tradition for the women of the choir to sing every other year. I like it because it is fun and the ladies from both choirs get to come together to perform a really fun song," said Graham.

During the concert, many high school students showcased their talents with special performances. Sophomore Corri Andress and junior Courtney Davis performed a duet, as well as freshman Hayley Fortuna and sophomore Daniel Seguin. Soloists were Graham and senior Amanda Vinson.

Fortuna said, "Daniel and I chose to sing Idina Menzel's and Michael Buble's version of Baby It's Cold Outside because they are some of our favorite singers. We thought it was perfect for us to perform."

Stephanie Graham, junior, performed a solo at the choir concert. She sung Gesù Bambino, written by Pietro A Yon. The song is a mix between Latin and English.

Graham said, "My favorite thing about Choir is the end result and hearing the applause after performing a song. The feeling of accomplishment is so great after putting hours of hard work into getting ready for a performance."

Mrs. Stacy Neumann, RHS's choir teacher, enjoys seeing all the hard work the students put into making the concert a success.

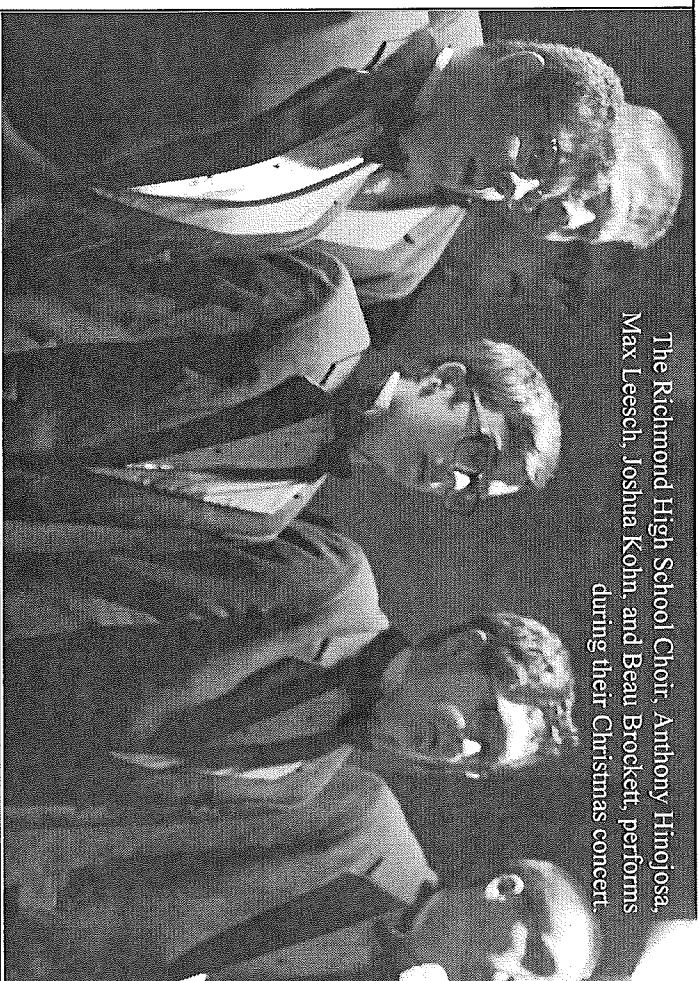
"One thing I enjoy most about the Christmas Concert is the constant stream of music of the choir while they sing around the auditorium," said Neumann.

Together, the RHS band and choir did a spectacular job welcoming the Holiday Season into the community of Richmond.

On This Day

- In 1732 Benjamin Franklin began publishing *Poor Richard's Almanac*.
- In 1941 Adolf Hitler appoints himself Supreme Commander-In-Chief of the German Army.
- In 1984 Britain signs the agreement to hand over Hong Kong to China in 1997.
- In 1998, the US House of Representatives approved impeachment proceedings against President Bill Clinton.

Source from hereisthecity.com



The Richmond High School Choir. Anthony Hinjosa, Max Leesch, Joshua Koehn, and Beau Brockett, performs during their Christmas concert.