

EVENT WATCH

PINK OUT RAISES AWARENESS AND MONEY

Fremd and Schaumburg High Schools united on Oct. 5 to support breast cancer awareness. During the football game, players from both teams put aside rivalries to support the cause by wearing pink socks, participating in a "Pink Out." UCF sold pink "Raise Awareness" shirts to be worn during the football game, raising just over \$15,000.

BLACK OUT THE STATE

Show support for the varsity football team by wearing black to all playoff games. UCF will be selling T-shirts next week during lunch periods.

Oct. 26 - Nov. 25

TRICK OR TREAT

Elementary school students will walk around the school from 4 to 6 p.m. in Halloween costumes, visiting decorated rooms and earning candy.

Oct. 31

ONCE UPON A MUSICAL

Come see the musical "Once Upon a Mattress," a remake of the classic fairy tale "The Princess and the Pea," in the auditorium at 7 p.m. Tickets will cost \$7 per person and will be sold at the box office.

Nov. 1-3

FALL BACK AND HIT SNOOZE

Earn an extra hour of sleep on the first Sunday of November. Remember to set your clocks back one hour at 2 a.m. for the end of daylight savings time.

Nov. 4

TEACHER INSTITUTE DAY

Enjoy an extra day in your weekend, but don't forget to do your homework for Tuesday.

Nov. 5

DECK THE HALLS WITH TONS OF ART

Treat your eyes with a showcase of art pieces created by art students in collaboration with Tri-M, a national music honors society. You can have a look at the collection during your lunch periods.

Nov. 11 - 16



Logue photo by Amy Liu

WE'RE ALL OUT OF CANDY. Since the beginning of this school year, the new spirit shop, now located in the gym hallway, is no longer satisfying students' sugar cravings.

Taking the sweetness out of spirit

Christine Spasoff

Contributing Writer

The cries of some sugar-crazed students have gone unanswered this year as the Spirit Shop is no longer giving out candy.

This decision came in last month when the Spirit Shop was moved from the main office hallway to the gym hallway due to reconstruction.

Two main reasons prompted the policy change, according to Principal Marina Scott. Free candy was a safety hazard and attracted kids to the gym area who didn't belong there.

"The students in P.E. were leaving class to get candy and then coming back with candy in their mouths. This

was disruptive for the teachers and was dangerous for students when participating in sports with hard candy in their mouths," Scott said.

Eliminating the candy may also help secure the locker room.

"The candy attracted students with no intention of buying anything to linger in the PE area. Since the locker room is already the area where the most thefts occur, we do not want people loitering there for no reason," Scott said.

Spirit Shop volunteer Candy Borst says the change has not affected product sales.

"I don't think we're losing business, but because there was candy, it might have brought people in,"

Borst said.

One student says she will never forget the times she got candy at the Spirit Shop.

"The candy at the Spirit Shop was something that we could look forward to every day after gym or during lunch. I'll miss this opportunity," sophomore Arianna Garcia said.

The shop's co-chairs, Karen Ernst and Denise Comstock, invite students to continue coming to the Spirit Shop.

"We encourage students to visit. The new location is fantastic, and we have a lot of new items," Comstock said. "We're in a non-option hallway, but students can ask the hall monitor for the 'okay' to visit the shop."

Classrooms open new discussion venue

John Rizner

Contributing Writer

Not long ago, the word "blog" was largely absent from student vocabulary.

Now, millions of blogs can be found online discussing numerous subjects, ranging from politics to pop culture.

A blog itself is a frequently updated journal or online newsletter that is intended for public consumption.

As this trend grows, teachers have implemented blogs as a tool allowing students to interact and discuss diverse subjects outside of class.

"I know that speaking in class sometimes is hard for every student, so I think the blog is a nice forum for those who sometimes don't necessarily feel like speaking in class to be able to voice their opinion," social studies teacher Amanda Schmidt said.

Schmidt said her blog aids students when dealing with homework and tests.

"The blog is wonderful because it allows for open communication about homework assignments, tests and studying," Schmidt said.

This is Schmidt's first year using the blog.

"Once a week, my students have to check the blog and respond to one another," Schmidt said.

According to Schmidt, another benefit of blogs is the camaraderie that develops among her students as they discuss present day political issues. She believes students enjoy class more since the blogs allow them

to debate one another using a forum outside of the classroom.

English teacher Gina Enk utilizes blogs in her class as well.

"I think that blogs allow students to write in a different way for a different audience," Enk said. "If you know that your peers are going to be reading what you're writing, then I think that students phrase things a little differently than they would if it was just me. It gives them a different venue to showcase their writing."

For parents who are concerned for their children's safety when blogging, Enk takes preventive measures to keep her students safe.

"The only people that can contribute to my blog are students that are invited," Enk said.

Students using blogs were complimentary of their incorporation in school.

"Blogs are a positive addition because you are allowed to talk about stuff that you don't have time for in the class," junior James Hoover said.

Students also said the blog was a great tool for shy students.

"People who are generally quiet in class can talk on the blog," senior Sarah Chae said.

Students generally use the blog once a week after being instructed by their teacher to do so.

Given its acceptance in current classes, some teachers say students should expect to be using blogs as an additional classroom tool in the near future.

'Jena six' sparks racial controversy

Alex Klein

News Editor

Many students believe racial discrimination died out years ago, but the recent acts in Jena, La. seem to have proven these assumptions false.

"I didn't think outright acts of racism really happened anymore," junior Roxanne Miller said. "But the students hanging nooses has clearly shown me otherwise."

The "Jena six" case started last year when a group of white students hung nooses from a tree outside of Jena High School in Jena, La., after two black students sat under the tree that only white students sat under.

The students who hung the nooses were given a suspension by the school. After this event, racial tensions were running high in Jena.

Then, last December, Justin Barker allegedly was attacked by six black classmates, now known as the "Jena six." Supporters of the Jena six argue Barker provoked the attack with racial slurs, while Barker's parents say he did nothing to incite the attack. Barker was treated for injuries and released from the hospital the same day of the attack.

The six were charged with second-degree attempted murder and conspiracy. Outrage ensued at what many thought was an unfair charge motivated by racism.

"It wasn't a race issue, but it turned into one because of racial tension that already existed in the town," social studies teacher Jason Spoor said. "The punishment was too severe for the crime."

The students' charges were later changed to aggravated second-degree battery and conspiracy to commit aggravated second-degree battery.

Mychal Bell was the first to receive a conviction of the six, but on Sept. 14, the conviction was overturned because the case should have been tried in juvenile court. The other five are also awaiting trial.

On Sept. 20, more than 15,000 people descended upon the 3,000-person town of Jena to protest what they called the unjust treatment of the black students.

"The whole situation has been an important reminder to us that we still have a long way to go to achieve equality in this country," Spoor said.

The Jena six case has brought out racial tension across the country. At Columbia University in New York, for example, a student hung a noose around a black teacher's door.

Many, including Miller, believe the recent outburst of racism is all a result of the actions in Jena.

"It seems like the racism in Jena has just bred more racism," Miller said. "It's sad, but hopefully we can learn from all of it and grow into a more unified and equal nation."

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Whenever the word "strike" is mentioned at school, students usually take notice, and this latest round of negotiations has not failed to generate a buzz.

"I think that the teachers should feel lucky that they have jobs because not everyone has one," junior Paige Almdale said. "They don't need to worry about how much they are getting paid at the moment"

As of Tuesday night, there were no talks planned by either side, meaning all anyone can do is play the waiting game.

"We've told them what our move is," Spoor said. "Now it's their turn."