

Coin drive money goes to Red Cross

By MAYA PATTERSON

Freshman Tyler Fox started a coin drive to raise money for those affected by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike.

The coin drive began on September 22 and ended on October 31.

The drive was based on the money raised by the classes. The freshmen raised \$146.23; the sophomores \$79.19; the juniors \$70.25; and the seniors \$12.61.

Fox said he thought the coin drive was a success.

"Yes, but it wasn't what I expected. I felt that we stressed more on the contest, not the problem," he said.

The freshmen class will receive an ice cream party for raising the most money.

In the beginning, the money from the coin drive was going to be split among Red Cross and Wirt High School, an impoverished inner-school in Gary, Indiana, according to SGA President John-Pierre LaFleur.

After a long discussion, Fox and LaFleur decided to give all the money to Wirt High School, but the school will be closing after this year due to low test scores and school damage. So, they finally decided to give the money to Red Cross.

Fox was so inspired by the coin drive that he would like to organize another charity event.

"Every time I do something, I learned a lot from it. Even though we didn't save the world, we helped a teacher's life and made it a little better and it would mean a lot to her. Even if it couldn't make a big difference, it's showing that somebody cares and that can make the biggest difference in the world."

Costume Cleaning



Drama teacher Sylvia Martinez (above) directs students in laying out costumes.

Costumes from the drama department were aired out on the front lawn after some pieces became dingy from being kept in the costume closet which has no ventilation. The closet was bleached and dried with fans in order to keep costumes fresh and ready to be worn on stage.



College search leads many out-of-state

By JORDAN GASPERECZ and JEREMY NICHOLS

Out of the 2009 graduating class, about half are applying to go out-of-state while the other half want to stay in Louisiana.

Many students are applying to universities in New York and throughout the Northeast, Colorado, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Alabama.

Students cite better opportunities and a need for new experiences as reasons for applying to out-of-state colleges and universities.

"I think it's good to experience a new environment as part of your holistic education," said senior Logan Cummings.

Senior Brandon Bark said, "There are just more opportunities out-of-state. And besides, it's time for me to leave the nest."

For seniors applying to multiple schools with deadlines coming up, the most stressful part of the college application process seems to be the essays.

"The essays have definitely been the most stressful part of the whole process for me. Everything else is pretty easy and mindless," said Bark.

One reason why students are applying to more than one school according to senior Allison Liu is that "many of the students don't know which college would be the best fit for us so it's good to have options. I think people should apply to at least six schools."

FIRE SCARE, (continued from page 1)

"I haven't seen any dents in the escape plan yet," he said.

After the students were evacuated, students commented about how the response time seemed to be much faster than usual since it was an actual emergency. Peers helped each other grab their things in the classroom so everyone could evacuate quickly and safely. The evacuation time for the whole school was two minutes. This was one minute less than the response time for the emergency units including firemen and police.

Greer received a phone call from a representative of the

fire department the day after the fire. The point of this phone call was to congratulate her, the students, faculty, and staff for an excellent job in evacuating. The representative said the situation was handled very well.

Earlier this year we had a cell phone emergency where it was acceptable to use a cell phone during the school day. This occurred right before Hurricane Gustav. During the evacuation many students started to take out and use their cell phones. Teachers had mixed views about whether this should be allowed.

Greer said, "This was an emergency when phones can be used without penalty."

Baton Rouge High has been six years without a working fire alarm system. This problem went unfixed until early in the 2008 school year. The school now has a fully functional alarm system, but it could still be improved.

Greer said, "The fire alarm and smoke detectors are functional and I am very pleased. The only concern is that we do not have sprinklers and no communication to the fire station at night."

At least one student seemed to disagree with Baton Rouge

High being a safe school. Junior Katelyn Scullin said, "I don't think we're safe because the school is so old and we'd burn down in like two minutes."

Scullin was also concerned with the evacuation. "We should practice more fire drills. We need to have a more organized plan so students aren't scattered about outside," she said.

Some areas that could be problematic at BRMHS, according to Cutrer, are the heating units, the boilers, and the kitchen. All of these areas are serviced and checked every six months.

Cutrer named only one major problem that was encountered at the school.

"One problem that was found at the school a number of years ago was the taping of posters in the corridors," said Cutrer. "This gave a flammable covering over all of the walls."

The reaction to this minor fire shows that the school is ready in case something does happen again. Asked if she was worried about a recurrence, Greer said, "I cannot tell the future, but I hope not. I do know that we are prepared - thanks to the faculty and especially the staff."