

Magazine sale profits down

By MARIN SAIZON and LEAH JACKSON

Each year, students are given a magazine sales packet by their homeroom teachers in hopes of raising money for our school.

This money is necessary to purchase books and library supplies.

The profits made from the magazine drive go to the BRMHS library in order to keep and maintain everyday things that students use.

Librarian Betty Brackins says that it is vital to sell subscriptions and raise money for the library. East Baton Rouge Parish does not provide money for library supplies.

Librarian Leola Mitchell said, "It is very important because the magazine drive is our biggest fundraiser, and it is basically the main avenue to purchase library supplies. Without it, we would have fewer books and very little funding."

The library usually receives about \$8,000, but this year they are only receiving \$3,600 after expenses. Mitchell said that this year's involvement was down, but the library would reach its goal if every student would purchase at least one magazine subscription.

Many students do not realize the purpose of the library's fundraiser.

"If teachers talked to us about what we got out of it, a lot more people would probably try to sell magazines," junior Stephen Jacobs said.

Junior Devon Flanagan said, "Last year teachers gave us a lot of bonus points for selling magazines. This year, though, none of my teachers really even talked about the drive at all. I forgot we had it!"

Originally, the due date of the Drive was October 31, so students had two weeks to sell. Due to Hurricane Gustav, the school extended the deadline another two weeks until November 7.

Despite falling short of their goal, Brackins thinks the magazine drive was a success considering the state of our economy and Hurricane Gustav. Brackins said, "Even though we did not reach our goal, we are still appreciative of our teachers, administration, and students supporting us. We hope to be able to continue our services to our student body."

Coral Reefs

By JANELLE SYLVESTER

Baton Rouge Magnet High School is home to many interesting teachers, but who knew there's a global reef superhero in the midst?

Troy Hotard, the Talented Visual Art teacher, has brought his passion for scuba diving and global reef preservation into his classroom.

Inspired by the marine explorer Jacques Cousteau from his popular 1960's television series *Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau*, Hotard has developed a unique passion for scuba diving and the world's fascinating coral reefs.

He holds three of the highest levels of certification and is soon to be a certified divemaster—a professional level diver who can oversee operations.

Hotard describes the experience of a dive as exhilarating. "It's just like being in outer space," he said.

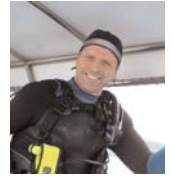
Hotard has dived in spots around the world—diverse places such as North Africa, the Philippines, Japan, Hawaii, and all over the Caribbean.

He most recently dived at the Guadalupe Islands, cage diving with the great white sharks.

"We were in the cage, not the sharks," he joked.



Hotard directs art project

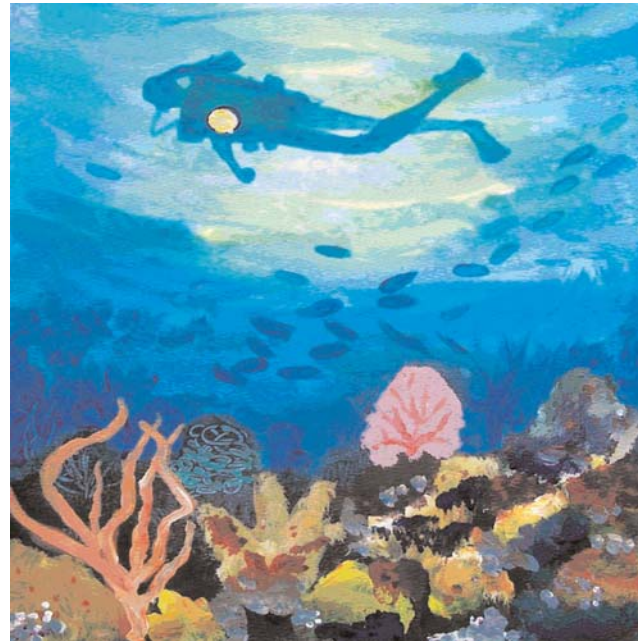


Hotard has participated in many projects but his most recent one

crossed new boundaries. He and his Talented Visual Art students unit-

ed together with the International Year of the Reef 2008 campaign.

They joined in an international effort to save the world's reefs.



The painting above was created by Marlee Pittman in Troy Hotard's Talented Art classes as part of the International Year of the Reef campaign. (Below, left to right), Erin Alcorn, Maya Harvey, Jennifer Le and Amanda Quinn work on their paintings in Hotard's class. (Photos courtesy of Troy Hotard)



On behalf of BRMHS' GO GREEN Campaign they have created the "Going Blue-Green" project, in an attempt to raise awareness of global reef issues. The students donated watercolor paintings to local galleries and an eco-Web site,

(<http://www.iyor.org/gallery/>), that is sponsored by Hotard's private business, Troy Hotard Art Studio.

"The project was engaging and fun," Hotard said. "And it goes to a worthy cause." He said that the project was about "small-town high school students reaching out to join and strengthen forces around the globe."

Locations exhibiting the students' work include the East Baton Rouge Parish School System's Talented Office, the EBRPSS Main Office, LSU, and the West Baton Rouge Parish Library. To add to the accomplishments, IYOR is also planning an exhibit in Washington, D.C., later this spring.

Students who want more information and a close look at the featured art can visit Hotard's studio Web site, www.troy-hotard.com.

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