

Preliminary renovation move delayed

By BRIKEA SEARILE

Baton Rouge High was built in 1928, and nearly 80 years of memories lie within the halls and classrooms of the historic building.

In September 2007, Superintendent Charlotte Placide assembled a 12 member BRMHS Renovation/Restoration/Replacement Committee, to address the construction needs at the school.

Originally, the plan was to completely tear down the school and rebuild, but an overwhelming negative response from BRMHS alumni called for a revision to the plan.

The final plan was to renovate the existing main building, demolish the surrounding buildings, build several new classroom buildings, a new gym, and a new cafeteria.

Now it is projected that the renovation/restoration project for BRMHS will be delayed for at least another two years.

An East Baton Rouge Parish school board panel met with Superintendent Placide to discuss the proposition for seeking proposals from different construction management companies instead of renewing contracts with the old partnership.

Due to this move, there could be a delay for several projects, including the \$63 million dollar renovations for BRMHS.

Initially, the arrangements were to move Lee High students to surrounding schools, and renovate Lee High to fit the capacity of the BRMHS student body.

This plan was brought to a stand still, and instead plans were made to move BRMHS students to Valley Park alternative school.

Not much information has been released, but BRMHS principal Nanette Greer said, "Valley Park will be moved to Eden Park, and Valley Park will get renovated next year."

As of right now, the class of 2010 will be the last class to spend senior year at BRMHS before the renovations start.

Classes participate in service project



Brice Braton (standing) and his classmates watch in amazement as a rocket is launched. (Photo by Shelby Taylor)

By OLIVIA PARSONS

Masquerade Day is a time students enjoy being someone they are not. Whether they are wild jungle animals or sticks of gum, costumes representing exciting creatures and people fill the school.

This year, teacher Lai Cao's fourth and sixth hour Physics classes became the scariest characters of them all—these 65 students became teachers for a day.

"It has become my annual project," Cao said. "My Service learning project started in 2001-2002 school year. It was a part of my grant which I did in 2001." Since then, students have received the chance to give back to the community through sharing their knowledge with those younger than themselves.

These junior and senior classes first prepared experiments and lesson

plans in class, before traveling to Buchanan Elementary School to interact with the children. The

high school students.

Topics ranged from the application of sound to the study of the planets. One group even

"It gave them multiple aspects of science, considering each class learned different things. Some classes learned more than one thing," junior Ameerah Bates said.

"We made slime!" senior Hali Cospelich said. "Each kid got to take some home in a plastic bag."

After the students finished their lesson and reviewed basic concepts, they led a line of children, instructed to keep their finger over their lips, to the outside basketball court. There the elementary students watched in awe as rockets built for an earlier project launched with smoke into the sky.

Small voices counted down excitedly, "Five, four, three, two, one," at Cao's direction as the rockets shot upward into the clear weather.

Bates said, "I loved

watching their reactions when we launched the rockets."

Elementary students also voted for which group had the best costumes. Winners included the Rocket Boyz, a group of Julian Escobar, Stephen Osbourne, Wil Gallaspy, and Ian Moppert. Other winners were Firefighters, and a group of Barbie Dolls, though it is rumored that some bribing with candy occurred.

Overall, Cao said the field trip was a success. "I think we represented Baton Rouge High really well. The kids will see how wonderful BRMHS Physics students are so they will study hard and go to BRMHS," she said.

The teachers at Buchanan also enjoyed the Halloween visit. Feedback from elementary teachers requested that high school students visit often, "Because their students were motivated and really behave after our visit," Cao said.

The field trip not only brought joy to the elementary children, but to the high school students who participated as well.

Junior Zakiya McCants said, "It really was fun. I am going to try to convince Ms. Webb to let us do this with social studies."

Future plans are being made for more service learning trips. Cao plans to take the remaining Physics classes to Polk Elementary School or possibly return to Buchanan later in the year.

Students returned to the festivities of Fall Fair at the end of the field trip, thoroughly pleased with the hard work of teaching done in the day.



Alexander Ray (left) and Jeffery Woods launch a rocket by remote control. (Photo by Shelby Taylor)

physics classes were divided into small groups so that 15 classes at Buchanan received the opportunity to learn from the looked-up-to

made ice cream with liquid nitrogen.

"Safety was okay since I took care of the activities that involved liquid nitrogen," Cao said.