

# Clubs in a flash

## Dressing up the bags

by Kanwalroop Singh and Christine Chang

Rain falls in torrents and gusts of wind seem to provoke four girls as they walk towards room 40 of Cupertino Middle School on the morning of Oct. 13. Laden with stickers and trick-or-treat bags, the youth commission of community leadership is on its way to treat a class of autistic children to an hour of Halloween cheer.

A tradition that started three years ago, Artistic with Autistic is the quintessential example of an event that can make a difference in the lives of disabled children. Each year, the youth commission does a different activity with the students—this time it was decorating trick-or-treat bags for Halloween.

“The interaction between high school students and the [autistic] students adds variety and exposure,” Cupertino Middle teacher Sudha Krishnan said. “It’s an enriching experience for both.”

Although the levels of autism vary, most of the children have difficulty with social interaction, resulting in behavioral issues. But sophomore Stacey Urauchi had no problem establishing a connection. She watched Ashwin, one of the autistic students, write his name in beautiful delicate letters.

“Do you want me to cut that out and put it on your bag?” she asked.

He nodded and she smiled.

As the event drew to a close and the youth commissioners left the classroom, Krishnan asked the students, “Do you want them to come back?”

A long drawn out “Yes!” erupted from all around.



**BEAUTIFY THE BAG** Sophomore Stacey Urachi helps an autistic child cut out decorations for his trick-or-treating bag.

Kanwalroop Singh | El Estoque

## Paint a Smile On

Performing reconstructive surgery on facially deformed children doesn’t come cheap, as the officers of the Operation Smile club have come to realize. Before the homecoming game and rally on Oct. 9, the officers sold face paint to raise money to fulfill their yearly goal of making 400 to 500 dollars. Operation Smile is a non-profit organization that helps children all around the world through its medical missions that cost 240 dollars per child. Although the officers on campus have not yet been able to attend one of the medical missions, they strive to promote awareness of the cause and raise money for it. They plan to sell caramel apples later on in the year and deliver smiles to the children who need them.

## Cheese Galore

Room A201 transformed into a casual picnic setting on Oct. 2 after school as French Honor Society students gathered to take part in a cultural dinner. Members and officers alike chatted leisurely while treating themselves to traditional French refreshments, which included baguettes, cheeses, and ciders. Since the French are renown for the variety of wines and cheeses they enjoy, the club dubbed the event the Cheese and Wine Festival. And though wine was not actually served, the “cheese” portion of the festival was served. The cheese-tasting opportunity allowed members to sample several varieties of this delicacy. As the group of students indulged in French food, French hip-hop music played in the background, enhancing the ambiance of the festival.

## Art for Measles

No one ever said art and medicine can’t go hand in hand. For the past month, Red Cross has helped host an ongoing art contest aiming to raise money for treating and preventing measles. The art contest is part of Measles Initiative, an international project led by American Red Cross to promote global awareness of measles. Since the measles crisis has not received as much attention from the general public as other diseases such as HIV, Red Cross hopes the contest will help bring the problem to light and encourage more donations to the cause. This year’s contest theme, “Celebrating a Child’s best shot at a Healthy Life,” was created to communicate Red Cross’s mission to put an end to measles-related deaths worldwide.