The Gata Data

ST. AMANT HIGH SCHOOL ● 12035 HIGHWAY 431, ST. AMANT, LA 70774 ● MARCH 2024

The Black History Club ends Black History Month with their annual program

BY: MARIA MELLAD, PARIS GOMEZ
Gata Data Reporters

This year the Black History Club hosted their annual Black History Month Program to mark the end of Black History Month. The program included a wide variety of singers, dancers, poets, and other performers. The program was wildly successful with over 80 guests in attendance.

One of the club sponsors, Malcolm Reed stated "It just feels good to have students who are looking forward to doing it and getting involved. That's probably the thing that excites me the most." Having previously done it at Mckinley High for multiple years, Reed helped bring the program back to St Amant for the second time. "Bringing it here it was something that made me proud to introduce it to St Amant." Reed says.

"It's always exciting. When there isn't one I feel like I've been cheated." Reed says on the topic of the importance of having a Black History Month program. "That happened at Mckinley a few times, I was like 'What no Black History Month Program? I have to do something about that.'"

"Edutainment. Educational Entertainment. Making learning fun, making it an interactive experience." Reed says when asked about the importance of black history month and the program as a whole. "Learning is fun, it should be fun. Entertainment is fun but it should come with a message."

This year the program included the club's very own, senior Ashley Zelaya who performed the song Walk On By by Dionne Warwick. When asked about the experience she stated "performing on that stage was honestly a moment I'll never forget, I honest am so glad I found the courage to sing". We later asked Zelaya why she believed that this program was so important, she explained that it "is important because what most are taught is whitewashed history, and when people look at black history they just see slavery. They think, this is just a thing that happened to them, but there are so many contributions that black people have made throughout history and many do not know about them really that's why joining the black history club and having not only a program but a whole month dedicated to that is so important. " she continued " I mean we have whole genres of music" which coincidentally is what the program is dedicated to this year, " and many black people are the reasons for those contributions."

The amount of people showing up for the club's program only added to its powerful message of promoting the arts. Fresno Swindle, the clubs (insert fresnos position) says, "This being the second year that we put on the event, so many people showing up was incredibly meaningful."

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL MUMPHREY

Fresno explains. "This year I feel like the amount of people that came just really shows how much the community cares about what we're doing."

"It's important for us to have a program dedicated to black history because on campus we don't focus on black culture, black lives, just our black students." Fresno says. "I feel like it's important to give a specific opportunity for the people on campus to have attention brought to them." This highlights one of the program's goals which was achieved, by highlighting the students who wish to showcase their love for Black History as a whole

"I think that everybody should learn about black history, it's just history." Fresno says. "Everybody should have a well rounded history education."

The Black History Club throws its annual Pie in the Face fundraiser

BY: MARIA MELLAD, AGUSTINA BUSTOS
Gata Data Reporter

The Pie in the Face event is a fundraiser hosted by the Black History Club to help promote the club and raise more money for things such as field trips and other events. During this event, students had the opportunity to enter a raffle for only 50 cents a ticket, or could automatically pie a teacher in the face for $20. Senior, Asia Beverly Jackson had the opportunity to throw a pie at history teacher and Rho Kappa sponsor Jill Sandridge in the face. Senior David Byrd paid $60 to throw a pie at Black History Club sponsor Jacob Newsom three times. Both Debate Club sponsors also got a pie thrown to their faces, Andrew Green by Senior Sanaia Hampton, and Sara Bray by Junior Kiersten Vaugn. Overall, the Black History Club has once again had a successful fundraiser. Not only does this fundraiser help raise money, but it is also a great opportunity for students and teachers to connect while doing something fun. We encourage students to participate in next year's Pie in the Face fundraiser which can help the black history club gain more access to educational opportunities. The black history club is open to all students wanting to join and experience these learning opportunities for themselves. We encourage students to gain more knowledge on black history and the intriguing stories that come with it.

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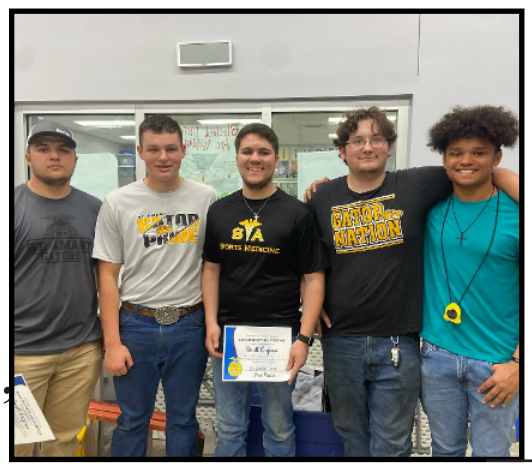

St. Amant Agricultural Students attend district

Recently, students from St. Amant High's Ag/FFA Program recently attended a qualifying round for the District Ag Mechanics career development event. STA welders Braysen Babin and Mario Rivas placed second and welders Ethan Delaune and Joe Sanford placed third.

At the district contest, students complete a horizontal and vertical v-groove welds to match industry standards. Members of the Small Engines team also placed at the district event. Toby Templet and Jacob White placed first and Devin Wells and Broden Gates placed second. According to Mandy Delaune, the small engine team consists of a person who troubleshoots and repairs then another who assembles the engine in an effort to get the engine running.

These students are also preparing for the Area IV Contest to be held next week at Southern University & Agricultural Center. Congratulations to these Gators and their accomplishments!

Track and field season kicks off

BY: DANIELLE DARVILLE
Gata Data Reporter

As spring begins, Track and Field coach Darren Simoneaux prepares for a successful season by motivating and staying on top of athletes while encouraging them to keep a positive mindset.

Simoneaux expresses that Track comes with a lot of self-motivation. Simoneaux states, "It's very rare that you find a kid on campus that only does track, so a lot of them are coming out to get better at their other sports, but it's also the competition so it's us motivating them and staying on top of them." He expresses that he wants to see each athlete get better at their event and see them grow. Simoneaux states that the team is focusing on succeeding at District. Simoneaux states, "We want to see each athlete improve at their event. Whether it's jumping a little bit further, or running a little bit faster. Just seeing them grow as individuals."

On February 29, the Gators competed in the Griffin Relays where Easton Jarreau ran the 400-meter with a time of 52.89 seconds, garnering fourth overall. Koen Rock won the Shot Put throwing 43-06.75 feet. Braxon Trabeau competed in the 110m Hurdles with a time of 15.73 seconds placing 4th overall. As for the Lady Gators, Asia Williams and Rondeja Williams ran the 200-meter. Williams with a time of 28.12 seconds placed first and White with a time of 28.91 seconds garnering second. As well as Gracie Baker, competing in the Javelin with a throw landing 92-07 feet, placing 1st.

FFA Farmer's Market and Plant Sale

The St. Amant FFA organization will hold its annual Farmer's Market and Plant sale. This year the event will be held March 23rd from 8 am to 2 pm. The event will have an expansive educational section on top of all of the many fun events for kids, such as a kids zone, many picture opportunities, as well as visits from the Easter Bunny and Ally the Gator! Currently, FFA is accepting vendors, and for the first year ever is also accepting Food Trucks. The organization is also pre-selling fruit trees. For more information. Please contact Mandy Delaune at Mandy.Delaune@apsb.org.

Gators Softball trounces EA to open district play

BY: XYAN DOBARD
Gata Data Reporter

The Gators softball team trounced East Ascension on the road in the first district game of the season. The 18-3 blowout displayed dominance in all aspects of the game. The Gators started the game in the lead by a comfortable lead of 4-2 by the end of the first inning. However, the Gators quickly expanded this lead by eleven unanswered runs by the end of the second to increase the lead to 15-2. This led to the game's conclusion at the end of the fourth inning with a final score of 18-3. This game propelled the Gators to a record of 10-3 and increased their win streak to seven games. The Gators will have their next game at home against Denham Springs on Thursday, March 7. They face off against district rivals Dutchtown and Walker on March 12 and 14, respectively.

Dates to Remember

March 12-13: Midterms

March 15: Ring Night

April 1-5: Spring Break

April 13: Prom

May 1: Senior's Last Day

May 7: Senior Awards Night

May 9: Graduation

May 20-22: Finals

May 24: Last Day of 2023-2024 School year

Gator Tots go to Wonderland

STAFF REPORT

On Tuesday, March 5, the Gator Tots were treated to a Theatre III & IV performance of the ever-popular *Alice in Wonderland.* This audience-interactive show was held in the commons specially for the St. Amant Gator Tots, the children of STA staff, as a sneak-peek prior to the live performance held Wednesday, March 6 at Lake Elementary.

The half-hour performance was enjoyed by parent and child alike, and the audience was able to interact and take pictures with the cast after the show. “I’m so proud of the students for their engaging performances of our show,” said Theatre teacher Heidi Frederic. “Performing for our Gator Tots was a great rehearsal for our show at Lake Elementary.”

St. Amant juniors prepare for Ring Night

BY: EVIE FORSYTH
Gata Data Reporter

Ring Night is just around the corner! Next Friday, March 15 Juniors will report to The Pit for the ceremony. If it rains, however, students will report to the Gold Dome. If the ceremony takes place in the Gold Dome tickets for family members will be limited due to maximum capacity. Ring Night is a commitment to graduate states Ring Night organizer Blaire Melancon. It is a common misconception that in order to participate in Ring Night you need a ring from Jostens or even a ring from outside companies, but the ring is just a symbol for the commitment. Therefore, Juniors do not need anything but themselves. Or you could use other things that could stand in place to serve as a constant reminder of your commitment to graduate. According to Mrs. Melancon, Ring Night should only last about an hour.

Last day for juniors to fill out ring night form: March 8

Ask Allie

Are you struggling to find a balance between school work, extracurricular activities, and your own personal life? Do not fear, Allie is here to help! High school can be very stressful at times, and you may feel like it’s nearly impossible to keep up. My job is to help those of you looking for some ways to combat those feelings and make high school feel doable again!

One thing that you need to know is that the main indicator of these feelings is procrastination. Sometimes we often wait until the very last minute to get something done because we don’t “feel like doing it” right at that second, but what many don’t realize is that this only brings more stress and overwhelming work when the due date is actually nearing. These feelings of overwhelming stress are easily resolvable, with just a few minor changes to your daily routine. Start with something simple like dividing your tasks. For example, say there is a project due a week from now in one of your classes. Instead of doing the whole project the day before it is due, try to dedicate a short amount of time each day of that week to working on it. This way, the project is still being completed but without the added stress and overwhelming consequences of poor time management.

Priorities are also extremely important when it comes to finding a balance. A common misconception held is that school and social life cannot go hand in hand, but they most certainly can with the help of proper prioritization. Sports practice, hanging out with friends, free-time, and any other activities do not have to go away on nights that schoolwork is a little consuming, they just have to wait until after the schoolwork is done. The two important aspects of your life do not have to clash with each other and cause issues, but instead can go together to make life a whole lot easier! Remember, no one person is alone in these endeavors. If you still find yourself struggling, take a deep breath, clear your head, and remind yourself that stress is temporary and fixable.

Sincerely,

Allie Gator