



# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSEMBLY

by Sahar Khan

For the past ten years, Parkland High School has welcomed exchange students from different countries during the International Student Assembly. The purpose of this program is to introduce those students and familiarize them with American culture, while Parkland faculty and students learn about their countries and lifestyles.

"Many of us at PHS do not realize the depth of cultures present at our high school. This assembly allows students from other countries to share their culture with students at Parkland High School while giving Parkland students a view into the culturally diverse people within their school they never knew existed," said senior Mary Tajiri, one of the presenters in the assembly.

The International Student Assembly is a way to introduce the foreign exchange students as well as those who moved with their families from different countries. This year it was held on Friday November 20, during first and second periods. The French Honor Society and

French Club helped organize the event, along with the help of the German Club and Honor Society and the Spanish Club and Honor Society. Madame Smith was the teacher supervisor and junior Sophia Lee Srinivasan was the chairperson for this year. Seniors Emily Edwards, Allison Hoffman and Varun Gupta provided technical assistance.



photos by Katie Sheinberg  
 Herr Quinter speaks to students about his travels to Switzerland.

Madame Smith then called upon Srinivasan to start the assembly. Each foreign student was paired with a Parkland presenter, who introduced and interviewed them. The introduction began with the vivacious Alejandra Carillo Diaz from Mexico, accompanied by the equally energetic senior Kyle Pierce. According to Diaz, the biggest difference

between the United States and Mexico is the party scene. Diaz believes that her hometown had more exciting and lively parties than the average American Homecoming Dance. The duo ended the presentation on a lively note; Pierce and Diaz demonstrated a salsa dance for everyone, much to the crowd's delight.

Following this tough act were three siblings from Israel, introduced by junior Monica Hagenauer. All of them seemed to miss their country but were glad to be here experiencing something new. Then Disha Jani from India was presented by freshman Alisha Rege.

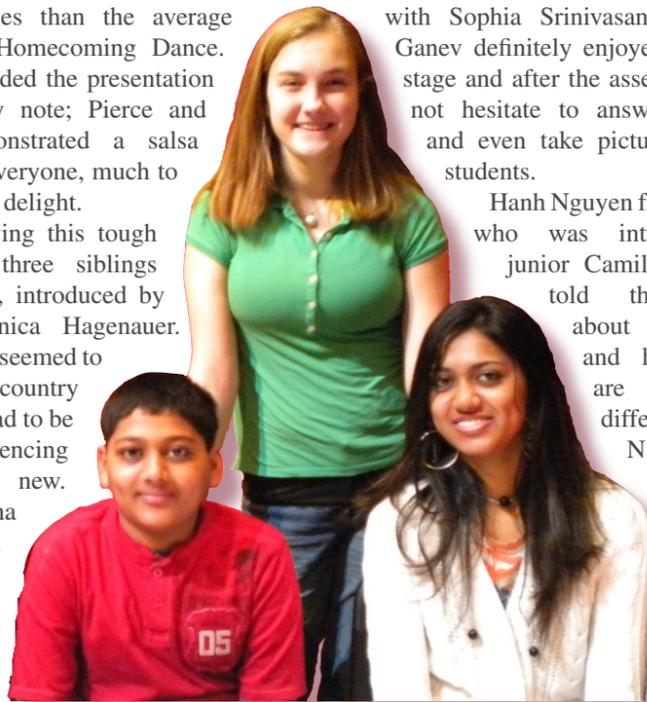
When Rege asked about the differences between the United States and India during the assembly, Jani said, "Schools are really small [in India] and the education system is really different." She said that life in America was humdrum whereas in India everyday was a Friday.

She and her friends enjoyed going to the mall after school.

Andrei Ganev from Bulgaria along with Sophia Srinivasan were next. Ganev definitely enjoyed talking on stage and after the assembly, he did not hesitate to answer questions and even take pictures with the students.

Hanh Nguyen from Vietnam, who was introduced by junior Camille Houferak, told the students about his country and how schools are completely different. After

Nguyen, Madame Smith called up Gonzalo Pugnaire from Spain. "I like to play sports and hang out with friends,"



Presenter sophomore Sasha Savkova poses with Kushal and Himani Patel.

said Pugnaire during his introduction.

After Pugnaire, several other students were introduced who continued to share fascinating information about their culture and the differences between the United States and their countries.

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These exchange students currently attend PHS.

# PARKLAND PRESENTS: A SEASON FOR GIVING

by Mark Walsh

Parkland High School's newest edition to their yearly holiday CD collection has arrived. This is a disc that anyone would love. Not to be confused with any 'throw away' disc one could buy at the local dollar store, this is a CD that will be kept and listened to for years to come. The most impressive part of this holiday disc, by far, is the quality. The next best part is the drastic change in genre between songs. The genres include country, R&B, ska, techno, a cappella as well as performances from the Parkland chorale and flute choir.

*A Season For Giving* took three weeks to produce, involving the Music Production and AP Music Theory classes both taught by Dr. Watson. The sales will benefit the Valley Youth House, a charity helping troubled teens and their families.

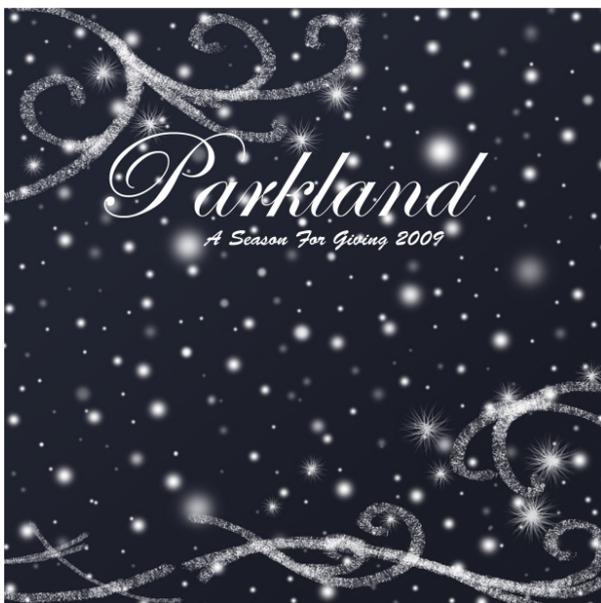
The CD starts out strong with a rendition of "Good King Wenceslas" produced by Connor Tench. The song bursts into a catchy ska/punk melody after two minutes, which sets the tone for the rest of the album. Junior Connor Tench said,

"Making my own track and producing this CD have both been really unique experiences. I feel like this has been a really good creative outlet for me, and I'm proud of how the CD sounds." It continues with a techno "Carol of the Bells" and a slow James Bond-esque song sung by Erin Kelly.

Senior Carlos Castillo, who sings an R&B song titled "Spend All Night," said, "The process of making the song took a lot of

attempts, but we got it right. Parkland has a lot of undercover singers. This CD is really full of talent."

The album continues with a talented orchestrated "O Holy Night" and "Journey of the Magi." The Parkland Chorale performs a song called "Ding-a-Ding-a-Ding," which shows the power and range of the voices throughout the choir. Another song, which may surprise listeners,



Parkland's annual holiday CD is available for purchase.

is the "Manger Hoedown," written by senior Mike Tom. The song starts with a calm melody and breaks into a lively hoedown.

The last four songs on the CD include one written by junior Taryn Gulkewicz called "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen," which holds a touch of keyboard and strings. Another is a cappella song called "Christmas Time," led by seniors Andrew Kurtz with Ryan McCarty and juniors Ben Mays and Nich Roehler, which is sure to be a favorite to friends and acquaintances of the singers. A soothing indie-rock ballad, sung by sophomore Andrew Dorn and senior Wills Butler, is the second to last song, titled "Angels We Have Heard On High." The final song is Parkland's flute choir rendition of "Let It Snow," which is a refreshing ending to the energetic disc.

Songs from the holiday album were played at Coffee House Wednesday on December 2nd where the album was on sale. The album can also be bought for \$7.00 before first period in A120 or at www.amprecordings.com.