

# French Club works to help Haitian soccer team

by Nadia Boekenkamp

In the past few months, the French Club has been working hard to raise money for Haiti. As a club, they decided to raise 600 dollars in order to pay for the uniforms of the St. Joseph's boys soccer team in Dubre, Haiti.

"The soccer team presently does not have uniforms, and Parkland's pledge by year's end will not only boost the Haitian economy by having the uniforms produced in Haiti, but will make the athletes very happy!" said French teacher Susan Lobb.

The French Club has recently finished a community service project with a school in Benin, Africa and wanted to keep a French connection with countries that could last for years.

"Once Madame Smith retired, our connection for the Benin fundraiser was lost. So, Mademoiselle Lobb decided to begin a new fundraiser and was able to contact the school in Haiti through AATF (American Association of Teachers of French)," said junior Angelica Herrera, French Club VP of fundraising.

Mademoiselle Lobb found another French teacher, Georgette Schmidt, in

New York City who was trying to find schools to help the school in Dubre. After finding out the needs of the students at St. Joseph's, they brought up the idea

taken to St. Josephs in Dubre by Madame Schmidt in late winter," said Lobb.

The French Club raised \$428 dollars from its first fundraiser at Applebee's.



Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Lobb

Students in Haiti hold up signs made for them by American students.

of getting involved in the project with the French Club. The French Club has been creating fundraisers to come up with the money to help these kids.

"Angelica arranged 25 plastic jugs decorated with the soccer team's pictures and images of the school students who we are helping. She also organized a school supply collection in the fall and we collected two Zerox boxes filled with supplies and will do a second collection in the spring. These supplies will be

So far they have raised almost 75% of their total pledge. French teachers have also been collecting school supplies such as pencils and erasers for students in Haiti. They are also collecting supplies for teachers such as stickers, red pens, and much more.

From Benin, Africa, to Dubre, Haiti, the French Club has been trying to help schools in need. Who knows what school, in what country the French Club will help next year?

## Wetherhold's "Physics Phun" wins awards

by Dolly Malik

Many have heard of the classroom in the back of the lower C-wing full of objects hanging from the ceilings, from Woody dolls to staplers; few have even been lucky enough to visit. Of those few, some have even been lucky enough to be a student in the classroom – with Mr. Wetherhold as the teacher.

For those who do not know, Wetherhold tends to supplement his lessons with his "Physics Phun" videos. These videos are cartoons of his own creation that relate to the concepts taught in his class. He started making these videos in 2006 and recently won an award in the Great Science Teachers video contest at the USA Science and Engineering Festival, which is held annually at the National Mall in Washington, DC.

"I did not think I had a chance, but then my friend Greg, who is an aerospace engineer and manager at Lockheed, VA, encouraged me to apply. So I did and I won," said Wetherhold. He said that the money he has made selling previous cartoons has been donated to the American Association of Physics Teachers as well as to the Parkland School District's physics department, where it will be used to fund new physics equipment.

Wetherhold started making the cartoons after spending a lot of time researching stop-motion and animation techniques. He uses paper and cardboard to make his sets and props and then paints other details.

He said, "It is always hard to answer a time question when dealing with art. A tremendous amount of time in creating a work of art is spent thinking about the first idea and some of this thinking

might have taken place many years ago. It's like teaching. I am always thinking about physics so to try to figure out how much time goes into preparing a lesson is very difficult. I am always reading a physics book, and I am always thinking about physics in the world around me."

He also gave some advice for anyone interested in physics, film production or both. Wetherhold said, "If you want to be an artist, you have to have something to create that interests you. I recommend majoring in both art and something else that interests you. Physics and art was an excellent combination for me. I didn't major in art, but I grew up in a very artistic and creative family."

Senior, Chris Merklin, a former student said, "Mr. Wetherhold was a great teacher and I'm glad to see him win an award for his videos!"



One of Mr. Wetherhold's own cartoon creations.

Photo Courtesy of Mr. Wetherhold

## GEO Club keeps up the green work

by Curt McConnell  
special to The Trumpet

Are you truly green? Do you use green products around the house? These are the kinds of questions GEO Club has been asking teachers. To answer these questions, GEO took 12 volunteers to test out "green" products around their homes. We gave the teachers household products of varying environmental friendliness, and they took a survey on how these products performed, whether they used any other green products, and if they did not use green products, why?

The products ranged from dishwasher gels to laundry detergent to sanitizing wipes and sprays. After a week with the products, the teaching staff returned their surveys. The results were great! Opinions varied for each of the products yet the general consensus was that the green products matched and in some cases exceeded their chemical counterparts.

According to Miss Ruch, the Green Works glass cleaner she used was better than that of her normal glass and surface cleaner. Yet, we found that it was not the performance of the product that worried most of the volunteers; it was the price. "Yes, I liked it and would purchase it if the cost is comparable," said Miss Volikas, in reference to the Seventh Generation Natural Dish Liquid.

Well, the good news is that depending on the store, the prices are very similar. The price of seventh generation dish liquid, due to its simplistic ingredients, ranges from \$2.37 to \$3.30 while Dawn Ultra Dishwashing Liquid goes for \$3.00 to \$4.50. The all-purpose spray cleaners are generally very similar to their counterparts. In most stores, Clorox sells its cheapest 32oz cleaner/degreaser for \$3.84 while its Green Works product is \$3.49.

While not all green products are cheaper, it makes a lot more sense to save the world for a few cents more.

