

Exchange trips show whole new world

By **Mary Anne Morrin**

Occasionally students at ARHS have the opportunity to go on school sponsored trips to various countries in order to enhance their learning and cultural understanding. During these trips, students have the chance to go sight seeing, visit different major cities, take dance lessons, stay with host families, and experience school in another country. Although there are many requirements to become eligible to participate in an exchange, students always return with a new perspective.

One student going on the 2010 Spanish exchange trip, Amara Donovan, said she is looking forward to gaining a life changing cultural experience from visiting Spain. "I can't wait to visit the city of Madrid because I heard it's beautiful with ancient architecture," she said. Donovan will also be visiting Puerto Rico in

April along with seven other students.

Yanlecc Rivera, one of the students of the Conjunto de Bomba at ARHS is happy to be going to Puerto Rico. He said, "Dancing with the Conjunto at the high school and dancing with the Con-

order to extend their knowledge of the Afro-Puerto Rican dance called Bomba. They will also experience a traditional bombazo, which is when many people gather into a big circle to sing and dance for hours in celebration of life.

hour or so in the middle of the day for everyone to go home and take siestas, or naps."

As far as school goes, it is very different in Spain than at ARHS. Figarella explained, "The teachers change classes and the students stay in the same room. There are no

about Spain's immigration and government organizations specifically to help immigrants get jobs, health care, housing and more," she said.

During the 2010 Spanish Exchange trip, students will visit cities such as Madrid, Seville and Granada, while staying with families in Cordoba.

Noalanii Karakashian, another student going on the Spanish Exchange, said "I'm really excited to take Flamenco dance lessons in Spain."

She is also looking forward to seeing her friends from Spain, who she met through hosting a girl from the Cordoba exchange last year. "The girl I'm going to be staying with in Cordoba is the girl who stayed with me, but it could be challenging staying with another family because I don't know how their family works," Karakashian said.

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junto in Puerto Rico, where Bomba originated, is very different."

While in Puerto Rico, the Conjunto take dance lessons that have been passed down in families from ancestors in

Briana Figarella, one of four students who visited Spain to study immigration in Cordoba, said, "The family I stayed with in Cordoba ate dinner at 10 or 11." She also said, "Businesses close for an

group discussions or anything like that. The teacher lectures the whole time and the students take notes." Figarella loved the trip. "I learned so much about the culture and geography of Spain, and

Students question drinking on exchange trips overseas

Can students drink when it's legal?

By **Mariah McConnell**

It is a question that always seems to resurface with the start of each ARHS exchange trip: can the school truly prevent students from consuming alcohol in a country where it is legal for them to purchase it?

When the ARHS German Exchange was first established, students were not prohibited from drinking while in Germany, where the legal drinking age is 16. If they received permission from their parents, they were allowed to drink small amounts of alcohol in the presence of their host parents or exchange supervisors.

Nowadays, drinking on a school sponsored trip will not only get you sent home immediately, but also ensure you receive extreme disciplinary action by the school as well. What provoked such vast change in school rules? "At some point, teenagers abusing alcohol became a prominent issue on exchanges and that prompted many schools across the U.S. to change their policies," said Peter Goetz, the ARHS German teacher and founder of the German Exchange.

Emilia Fabrizi, '11, a participant in the Russian exchange, did not see drinking

as an issue: "The thought of drinking never even crossed my mind. Besides, even if it had, I would never run the risk of being kicked off the trip. I think that's how it was for nearly everyone," she said.

Though there will always be students who insist on breaking the rules, it certainly seems as if the majority respect and adhere to them. "The school is being really strict but most of us understand that it's sort of necessary," said Sarah Krasnik, '12. "In the end they are just trying to protect us and do what's best."

Tag sale raises money for school activities

By **Ian Malony**

As the morning announcements are read in first period classes all over ARHS, the scene is all too familiar: tired, dreary-eyed students who are still two-thirds asleep listen to the drone of information concerning clubs, exchanges, and the ever-present musical. However, every now and then, amidst the daily reminders about colleges and new issues with Naviance, an announcement pops up that captures attention.

Over the course of a school year, many fundraising events take place for countless clubs, teams, and organizations. However, few are as upbeat and well known as the ARHS All School Tag Sale. Not only does the event provide a convenient fundraising opportunity, but

it is also a fun time for friends and family. "The tag sale was a joyous time for all involved!" said Surya Murty, '10. While nearly all enjoyed attending the fundraising event, some were a bit critical of the quality of the merchandise on display.

"A lot of the things on sale were old antiques. I, for one, didn't buy anything, and I think they should've been more watchful of what they decided to put on sale," said James Kirwan, '13.

Whether you were there tending a table or looking at odd knick-knacks, or even if you weren't there at all, the tag sale was a real effort to try and raise money to keep clubs and sports alive during a time when the school as a whole is losing money.