Checking out Springfield Academy of the Arts & Academics

Kathryn Wilson

This is not your typical high school. Art is everywhere and alternative is everyday. In downtown Springfield on 613 Main Street sits A3, the Academy of Arts and Academics.

On the left is the main part of the school and across the street is the theater. As you walk into the main part of A3 to the front desk you see wall displays of various art projects from many students.

In January students have “J-Term” for section breaks. This is when they have the option to join an internship in Eugene and Springfield and over half take advantage of this opportunity. At the end of the month students present to the community what they worked on.

Our basic day at A3 consists of “Morning mandatory academic classes; reading, math, science, etc. The afternoon classes give the junior and seniors a chance to take college classes at the University of Oregon, the Corvallis Community College or you can take an Art elective (photography, sewing, acting, drawing, painting, video animation, etc.).”

Shelby Harvey (12), a former Billie, explained the idea of students being able to “hang out” in the journalism teacher’s room. “I wasn’t able to meet us in 1st period so instead we went to DeChiara (9), wasn’t supposed to be in class. However, the students present to the community their work.

“A3 is an opportunity to integrate passion for art into academics and prepare for college and the outside world.”

Megan Faber

The color red in February makes one think of Valentine’s Day. However for those in New Zealand, the color red represents the color of Christchurch, the country’s second largest city. In February last year an earthquake destroyed that city. It happened to be a few hours away when this quake hit. Imagine Oregon as its own country, with two main islands, and flapped to the Southern Hemisphere and you get New Zealand. New Zealand only has a few islands and flapped to include Auckland (the largest), Wellington (the capital), and Christchurch, the main part of the South Island. As an island there are only a few ways to import and export goods into the country. From the South Island to another island, so each island needs its shipping port. The North Island has Auckland, the South Island has Christchurch that is, until the city was cracked by an earthquake.

The quake hit Christchurch when I was in New Zealand was just an aftershock, the full scale 7.0 quake had hit the city in the September of 2009. The city was excited to survive its first earthquake in city’s history with only a few scratches, especially when a similar quake happened in Haiti six months earlier and devastated the area. However researchers had predicted that a magnitude 8 aftershock would be coming. This 6.3 after shock hit the city the 12—21 February 2012.

Unlike the September quake this one was centered near downtown and was only 3.1 miles (5km) under the surface and in the middle of the water. A few of the larger buildings collapsed right away, with people inside them. Four days later they had rescue teams searching for people in the rubble. The total death estimate was originally around 300, but the final count for the February quake was 184. However it is estimated that 66,000 people were injured by the quake, not to mention all the damage to countless peoples homes.

The water and electricity were stopped for days, the sewage system for even longer, as the pipes were cracked every few meters. Many houses were in even more trouble, as they were just starting to recover from the earlier quake. Several had bulldozers right through their liv- ing rooms. The city’s tallest building, the Grand Chancellor Hotel, did not collapse, but it is now deemed unsafe. It had taken a dome effect would have been likely, with the shaky situation everything was in.

This is when the water and soil in the soil start bubbling up to the surface due to the shaking. Stiff covered roads, houses, and golf courses. In some places it was over six inches deep.

And this was not the last aftershock. Another hit the city just before Christmas measur- ing 5.8. Quakes in the 2.5 magnitude range are continual. This city has not stopped shaking. It is now a year after the devastating quake.

Jury trials reopened in January, the first multi- story building has been begun to be built in the central business district, and to the delight of all the students the stadium will be reappearing in March, 6000 properties are located in the red zone and were deemed unsafe. Many homeowners were 100% certain the government’s offer to buy their property and plan to find a new home for their property some of this red zone may not be rebuilt simply due to hazardous and the Central Business District will not be re-opened in April as hoped.

Willamette High School

With the downtown and business districts in shambles and the sun unsteady, it is hard to know what the future of Christchurch will hold.

The city was high school had a chance to really be on display at the Willamette High School for a day. It is a chance to attend a large high school and to see how it differs from our small school. We tried looking into the history of the school and found that it was originally around 300, but the final count for the February quake was 184. However it is estimated that 66,000 people were injured by the quake, not to mention all the damage to countless peoples homes.

The halls leading to the classroom seemed endless. After turning about five corners we finally arrived to a big classroom with no windows and rows of desks, about 35 in all.

“Stillquaking in New Zealand”

Faber sees the results of an earthquake up close.

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