

Making THE CUT

Students opt to dissect frogs in Biology

Of the group of four, junior Catey Blair was the person who grabbed the frog out of the bucket and made the first cut. “When I went to go get the frog, it was really nerve wracking because I’ve never touched a dead animal before,” she said. “I thought it would be weird and squishy, but it was actually hard. When I made the first cut I thought that everything would spill out and blood would go everywhere, but surprisingly the skin folded back and I was able to see all of the organs right there in front of me.”

Biology students dissected frogs for the ecosystems unit first semester. To make students feel comfortable with the dissection, teachers split the class into groups of four based on the results of a comfort zone survey. With 225 students enrolled in Biology, 63 frogs were needed.

Students expressed mixed reactions about the ethics of dissection. “I don’t know. Like part of me is like it’s okay because it’s good for learning purposes, and then the other half is like, well, they’re animals you know,” sophomore Julia Manyame said. “I’d rather have it be an animal that already died so it’s not like they’re killing an animal for me to dissect it.”

The frogs were purchased from Carolina Biological. Sarah, a worker from the company, said during a phone interview, “The frogs are farm raised like they are being raised for food, and then they are killed and sent to you for dissection.”

Blair was okay with the dissections because they were for scientific reasons. “It’s not like they had a life outside the science field. There were a lot of people that didn’t like it or the idea of it.” Students took all the organs out and labeled them on a sheet of paper.

Every student chose whether they wanted to opt out of the dissection. Everyone chose to. In past years, not everyone participated. Resources were available on Moodle for them to learn about the frog without touching or seeing it.

Students commented on how some of the dissection was gross. Blair found it interesting. “We wore gloves,” she said. “They were really thin and you could actually like feel everything and it was really interesting.”

Teacher Lisa Horsch also had mixed feelings about dissecting. “It’s just like how we would raise cows or pigs,” she said. “Some may say that dissecting animals isn’t ethical or isn’t right. Others may say that it is okay for scientific purposes. I love frogs, don’t get me wrong, I know and have had thoughts about this, but I really think it’s a good experience for kids to do.”



Letting the dice roll during Financial Lit, juniors Tarun Srikanan and Trenton Perkins look to see the number that will determine their move in the game. “Whenever we had competitions, they were always fun and enjoyable because of the atmosphere Mrs. (Heidi) Zulic helped create,” Srikanan said. Photo by: Taryn Mock

4th PERIOD



Juniors Fikreta Subasic, Irma Sehic and Sella Dolic work on homework during teacher Tony Kruse’s Algebra 2 class. “I liked this class because it was fun and we had a lot of time to talk and work together,” Subasic said. Photo by: Define Mansour

Story: Madison Springer
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