

AP TREATS

Lit. students are challenged to analyze different aspects of media and are rewarded with treats.

As senior Millie Varley walks into teacher Sarah Wessling's room and takes a seat at her desk, she glances at the bright overhead screen and tries to analyze the ad of the day. She turns to senior Amy Nihart to discuss the bigger meaning of the ad.

After understanding the ad's greater meaning, she quickly raises her hand to share her analysis with the rest of the class. After sharing, she darts to the front of the class to pull her clothespin off the board.

Wessling was inspired with the idea when her son Evan asked how students in her class earned parties. "After I told him they don't, he asked me how I expect them to like me then," she said. Wessling started thinking of good ways to build a routine in class which was both fun and interesting. She came up with the idea

of a class challenge between her two AP Literature classes.

Each student's clothespin needed to be taken off the board by making an analysis based on the topics presented daily. "It's a quick, fun way to start class, and helps build confidence," Wessling said. "My favorite part is when students help other students make an analysis. They all seem to get better together." The class to finish first was rewarded with homemade treats prepared by Wessling.

She enjoyed baking but knew that it was more than just the treat. "The bigger reward is the students knowing I took some time to do something for them," Wessling said.

Although the second hour section seemed to be more enthusiastic about the game in the beginning, two weeks in, both periods were



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1. Putting on the finishing touches sophomore Austin Leabhart applies stain to his picture frame in Woodworking. "This project is very easy once you get the hang of it," Leabhart said. "It's fun because you can put your own touches on your project just as long that you follow the speculations and requirements." Photo by Laura Schwartz

2. At the fall choir concert, senior Craig O'Keefe sings "Zadok The Priest." All the audition and non-audition choirs performed at the middle school Oct. 17. Photo by Kare Allender

3. Senior Molly Greenwood gives out ideas for the next issue of the "Black & White" print edition. She was the editor and chief of the print version of the paper. Photo by Laura Schwartz



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4. Sophomore Chloe Schneiter cooks up fried rice in Culinary 2. "It was the best meal we have made so far in this class," Schneiter said. "Culinary teaches me how to cook new things. This is one of the only meals I would make at home." One perk of Culinary 2 is that they get to work with meat. Photo by Laura Schwartz

5. Preparing for her informative speech, senior Sarah Ross pours Starbucks' Passion Tea Lemonade with Raspberry Syrup for her classmates to try. Ross worked at Starbucks and for Advanced Speech talked about how much she enjoyed working there. Photo by Laura Schwartz



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equally involved. "I think students really look forward to it because when I forget about it sometimes, they remind me," Wessling said. Each day about 10 minutes was spent on the challenge, and it often sparked discussions between students. "It definitely helps build culture in the classroom," Wessling said.

After a class finished a challenge, a new one, with a new theme was started the following day. Some were observing literary devices in song lyrics, seeing deeper meaning in ads and observing literary theories in film clips. "It taught me how much practice students really need," Wessling said. Each challenge took approximately one month to complete and the following challenge was usually more difficult.

On a reward day, instead of starting class with an analysis, students celebrated with

Wessling's treats. "It was my favorite when she brought us brownies because she thought the scotcheroos she brought on another day weren't enough," senior Millie Varley said.

Senior Amy Nihart expressed interest in analyzing movies for a future challenge. "They would be good because there are multiple literary devices to analyze and more concerns to identify." The challenges provided by this theme, she believed, would spark competition with the other class period.

"What we study has applications outside of school," Wessling said. "The way they learn to think in class is not just for school, its for life." The challenges were designed to evolve over time so they got continually difficult and different. "We will continue to play as long as the students stay interested."



Senior Monica Gangne heads to the front of the classroom to take her clothespin off after making an analysis of the day's ad. As part of the class challenge, the class had to have everyone's clothespin off the board first to win a prize of home-made treats.

Photo by Swathi Somisetty

Spread by Swathi Somisetty and Laura Schwartz



background photo

In General Chemistry, sophomore Brittany Martin stares at the flames that have appeared in her hands in a split second. Chemistry classes did this activity when they were learning about combustion reactions.

Photo by Kate Allender