

Mom finds treatment for junior's disease

CHRISTINE HARMS
reporter

Veronica Bonfiglio, junior Brent Bonfiglio's mother, has possibly found a treatment for her son's disease, neurodegeneration with brain iron accumulation (NBIA). There supposedly is no known cure for this disease, and most drugs cannot improve the condition because they cannot cross the blood brain barrier and remove the excess iron from the brain. Any other drugs would deprive the body of necessary iron and cause patients to become anemic. The drug Veronica found, Deferiprone, can cross the blood brain barrier.

According to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, NBIA is a "rare, inherited, neurological movement disorder characterized by progressive degeneration of the nervous system." Some of the symptoms include involuntary muscle contractions and an inability to coordinate movements. These symptoms are caused by an unusually high level of iron in the brain.

Veronica is part of an online support group for people with

NBIA. A man in Iceland posted a press release about a drug in France that, although used to treat a different disorder, can cross over the barrier into the brain and help reduce iron levels. After doing research, the Bonfiglios decided to pursue this option.

In order to be able to use the drug in the United States, a doctor needed to make a compassionate use case for Brent to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that this drug, Deferiprone, was the only treatment that could help him.

Veronica found a doctor at the Children's Hospital in Oakland who uses Deferiprone to treat a different disorder. They weighed the risks and benefits and decided it would be best to go through with it. It took a lot of paperwork for the doctor to make a compassionate use case to the FDA as well as at the hospital level.

Brent was the first child in the United States to receive Deferiprone for his condition. He started treatment in November 2007. To date there have been no side-effects. The drug has helped stop the disease from advancing in his body as well as alleviating



Photo by BOB SMITH
Brent Bonfiglio with his mother Veronica outside their home. Veronica's research has helped Brent live life to the fullest. his

Bastard gets turned down again

ANTERPREET KAUR
reporter

For the second year in a row, AP English teacher Teri Hu submitted the novel *Bastard out of Carolina* (Dorothy Allison) to be reviewed by the Fremont School Board. Last year, the district officials voted 2 for and 3 against the book. The three that had voted against the book had not read it, while one of the two who voted for it had.

"Supervisors didn't vote from a position of knowledge. Three out of the four officials straight up admitted that they hadn't read the book," Hu said.

"As a parent, I just feel this is not appropriate," District Board member Ivy Wu said.

Wu is concerned about her daughter who would read this book in AP English next year if it is approved.

Board Vice President Bryan Gebhardt believes otherwise.

"Originally, I was not in favor of this book, but I did change my mind just from my perspective, and that is, when a book is brought forth to the twelfth grade AP, it really essentially is a college book," Gebhardt said.

To approve a book, it must first be read and approved by two English teacher. It then passes through an English department, after which the textbook committee reviews it and the final decision lies upon the District School Board. Last year the book failed to make it past the District Board.

The textbook committee will review it May 5. If passed, the District Board will review it in June.

The same five officials who voted last year will be voting again. The District Board members have not changed because elections have not occurred.

The verdict for "*Bastard Out of Carolina*" will be announced at the June 2010 District School Board meeting.

ASB decorates campus with flowers and plants



Photo by HARRIS AFRIDI
Senior Ben Rich enjoys a Chipotle burrito. He set up the fundraiser to benefit the senior class.

HARRIS AFRIDI
reporter

Senior class treasurer Ben Rich organized a Chipotle burrito fundraiser from 5 to 9 pm, March 11. This was the second fundraiser Washington had with Chipotle.

"Students come in with their flyers; we count them off, take our share, and give the rest to Washington," Chipotle manager Jose Corgorno said.

Chipotle donated fifty percent of the proceeds to the class of 2010.

"Every one [one word "everyone"] loves Chipotle and the senior class needs some money," Rich said. "We're very grateful to Chipotle

for helping us out."

"If we can reach out to Washington High School, it's a pleasure for us," Corgorno said.

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WASC committee comes to evaluate Washington

BACH PHAN
reporter

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) had their ceremonial evaluation of the school from March 7 to March 10. The committee members were given an itinerary from WASC coordinator Brynn Osicka.

"I helped organize the teacher input in the report. I wrote sections of the report. I organized the actual visit with the committee. I did none of these things alone," Osicka said.

The committee was given a tour of the school from ASB members, and in the follow-

ing three days, they met with teachers and administrations and visited almost every classroom. A student focus group was also included in the evaluation.

The focus group included members from some of our clubs on campus such as MeCHA, Gay-Straight Alliance, Black Student Union and Interact. There were also students from the African American Male Focus Group, the Multimedia Art Academy and a group of juniors who have been in the families program since their freshmen year. They discussed things such as school atmosphere, preparation for college and the standardized

tests.

"The chairman of WASC said we should bottle [clubs and support groups that allow a non-discriminatory environment] and sell it to other schools," junior David Agorastos said.

The report gave out the tra-



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Brynn Osicka



ditional points of strength. They consisted of our staff encouraging high expectations of students and using

assessments, group projects and collaboration to improve achievement. Other strong points were our school's leadership program, student activities such as clubs and student government. The focal point of many of the representatives was the supportive community, the school's leadership program and the student related programs that were available at the school. They also applauded the school for using assessment tools such as the Online Assessment Reportings (OARS) to direct our curriculum.

Most of the areas of focus that were around for the last evaluation were met

except for closing the achievement gaps and implementing ESLERS in order to heighten academic achievement. This year, the committee focused on developing programs for underrepresented sub-groups and closing the achievement gaps for those groups. This meant getting the communities of those groups involved more with the school. Another area of improvement that was a big factor was the technology plan. Even though the school recently installed LCD projectors, the committee wants to develop a technology plan that will be able to increase learning efficiency in the classroom.

These areas will have to be improved upon the next time