

Halle Berger
Student Government Day Essay

On March 15th, 2010, I participated in Student Government Day. My day started by being sworn in by the student town clerk, Kellie, as a part of the Board of Health. After that I went along with Harleigh and Sydney (the other Board of Health students) and Robert Medeiros, who is the clerk for the Board of Health. We all walked through the rain to the Board of Health office, where we would start to explore the importance of the Board of Health.

We then talked about what the Board of Health does. We found out it does more than just inspect businesses and restaurants. We found out it deals with almost everything such as animals, septic tanks, flu clinics (such as the H1N1), and much more. Basically, its purpose is to maintain the safety, security, and health of the public. When asked about what is the most frustrating part of his job, Ralph Urban, the Board of Health agent, answered that it is dealing with the public. He said it is most frustrating to be arguing with people who have no idea what they are dealing with, when he knows what he is dealing with.

After discussing these things, we saw how the H1N1 vaccines had to be taken care of carefully and at the right temperature at all times and had to be disposed of when they expire. Everything has to be recorded in case a problem occurs with the vaccinations. We were just beginning to learn how important the Board of Health is!

Our next mission was to do our own food inspection. We drove to Surf 'N Turfs, which is where we would do our food inspection. We walked inside and immediately started to examine the food on the shelves. We learned that all the meats had to be wrapped up tightly but only the expensive fish needed to be wrapped up, and to avoid cross contamination we learned the fish and meats had to be separated. Everything seemed to be tightly packaged and very clean. Next we went behind the counter and inspected the kitchen area. The kitchen was just as clean as the rest of the store! In the end, Surf 'N Turfs passed the inspection and we learned many things about the safety of food.

Finally, we drove to P.J. Keating! There, we drove around the quarry and saw all the trucks being loaded and lifting tons of rocks. Some of the vehicles had wheels taller than me! Unfortunately, we were unable to go inside of the hole or really see much of it because of the rain, but Mr. Medeiros told us he would set up a date for all of us to visit the quarry on a nice day. This was our last task on Student Government Day as the Board of Health.

To end our day we all went back to Town Hall, where we received certificates for participating in Student Government Day. Then we all went on the bus and went to the Century House where we ate a very yummy lunch. Then just like that our fun day was over and we returned to school for the remainder of the day. On this day I learned a lot about the government and how every part of the government is important and how they all work together. Without one part the whole system would be out of balance and none of them are really superior to

one another. I am very grateful that I had this opportunity and I am so glad they decided to continue Student Government Day every year!