

## Teachers want Youtube too

Written by Dave Sanders

Teachers want to lift the ban on YouTube to have access to the educational videos. The debate over YouTube has been considered for a while, but only during the Sept. 30 board of education meeting, the issue was addressed.

Our school's Internet is funded by E-rate, and this program tells the district which websites need to be blocked at school. In order to get the E-rate funding, our school needs to abide by the laws of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). CIPA requires Internet access to be filtered of images that express pornography, obscenity or any other pictures that might be harmful to minors. In addition, CIPA mandates the blocking of chat rooms and other social networks like MySpace to keep minors in a safe place. Since YouTube has some inappropriate videos, E-rate requires the

website to be blocked.

Teachers argue that they want Internet access to show educational videos to students that better learn through visuals. Sites like Teacher tube and School Tube do not offer the types of videos the teachers are keen on showing.

"There is no way to be sure that unlimited access to YouTube won't be abused by kids, but I do think that teachers should be able to access YouTube," English and social justice teacher Stewart Perlman said.

Teachers agree that password protections should be placed on the Youtube accounts.

At the board meeting, the board members agreed YouTube is a good source for teachers to use in class. The



Teachers debate with administrative officials about Youtube in the classroom.

vendor that FUSD uses to filter the Internet does not have the technological ability to give password protected access to YouTube, but the vendors are working with this idea. The idea of changing the vendor crossed the board members' minds, but money was the main concern. The

board's decision is pending until the next board meeting to see whether the Internet vendor can create password protected filters for teachers to access YouTube.

Administrative officers will vote on March 17th to decide, once and for all, what the ruling will be. Let's pray to Dwight that it'll be in our favour.

## No love for "Bastard"

Written by Anterpreet Kaur

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.

## H1N1 scares campus

Written by Bob Parker

The scariest event of the year started when 4-year-old Edgar Hernandez was diagnosed with the first case of the H1N1 swine flu in Mexico March 28. By April, two children from California were diagnosed with first cases of H1N1 in the country. By the end of April, the swine flu had caused over 20 deaths, and the fear of H1N1 spread throughout the world as a phase four pandemic. A phase four pandemic is defined as a human-to-human spreading virus. With the first death in the United States, the swine flu became a phase five pandemic, meaning that more than one country was affected by the disease. About 300 schools closed when the disease was declared contagious.

Parents were skeptical about sending kids to school and students started more precautions. Students started washing their hands more often, used Purell hand sanitizer whenever possible, and stopped sharing food and drinks.

"If anyone coughed or sneezed in class, I felt like



moving away from them. I didn't want to risk getting anything," senior Bhupinder Kaur said.

Students even stopped sharing their food and drinks.

By June it had caused over 30,000 deaths all over the world. Students traveling around the world during summer came in contact with the flu in transit at the airport. With fall arriving and re-opening of school made our government produce vaccines. With many students, teachers, and administrators vaccinated, our school has done its part to contain the flu.

So far, 50 million people in the United States have been infected with the H1N1 along with 200,000 hospitalizations and 10,000 deaths.

The rate at which the H1N1 has spread has been great, but the rate of deaths has decreased. Analysis done by the directors of Centers of Disease Control and Protection say that H1N1 in the year to come will be like the common flu and be treated as a seasonal flu. MSNBC also says that this flu will be considered the lowest ranked pandemic because the spreading of flu has decreased, and estimated deaths are low. The upcoming year is bound to bring in more medical advancements and better health from the H1N1.