

visit leaves students with vivid memories

by Margarita Oliverez
Staff Writer

English Greg Gutierrez organized a fieldtrip for about 150 students to attend the Museum of Tolerance located in Los Angeles on Dec. 2.

This was the second of this unique type of fieldtrip.

Last year, Mr. Gutierrez was teaching his class about the Holocaust.

He was shocked at the fact that many of his students did not know the meaning of the word "prejudice," which inspired him to seek a way to bring awareness to his students.

Upon searching, he received a grant from the Jewish Community Foundation to take his students to a Holocaust Museum.

He witnessed his students learn a lot about prejudice, its role in the past, and its role today.

This year, Mr. Gutierrez began organizing the event without knowing what has going to happen. He claims to have "jumped out the airplane and built his parachute on the way down."

He was determined to make the field trip a possibility, and was once again inspired by a unique experience.

When he wrote to The Jewish Community Foundation, he told them that one of his students said he thought that George W. Bush was like Adolf Hitler. This story caught the attention of the JCF and set the wheels in motion.

Again, two donors from the JCF decided to sponsor the field trip to a museum again. They donated \$2,850, as they paid for three charter busses to take CVH students to Los Angeles.

Mr. Gutierrez then invited other classes like Mrs. Spielman's AP Art Studio class, whom he thought would greatly benefit from the experience.

Once at the museum, each bus was taken in one at a time and given a tour of the museum.

Students learned about the definition of the word prejudiced, about hate crimes, and about responsibility.

They then were given the opportunity to find information about a child involved in the Holocaust.

Students then proceeded to a walk-through informational exhibition about the Holocaust and its origin.

At the end of the walk-through exhibition, students were given the opportunity to insert plastic cards into a computer in exchange for a printout of the child they had chosen.

This printout gave a summary of the child's life, and told whether or not the child had survived the Holocaust.

After the emotional tour, CVH students were dismissed, boarded the buses once again, and headed back home to Chula Vista.

Mr. Gutierrez was very proud of the outcome of the fieldtrip. He believes that every time students come back with a valuable lesson and a meaningful realm of new things learned.

He hopes to be able to continue these fieldtrips for the years to come, and in a hopeful tone pointed out: "I want to send the whole school, every kid, and maybe then even the whole district."

He strives to continue his tradition of bringing awareness, and thanks the Jewish Community Foundation deeply for making this a possibility.