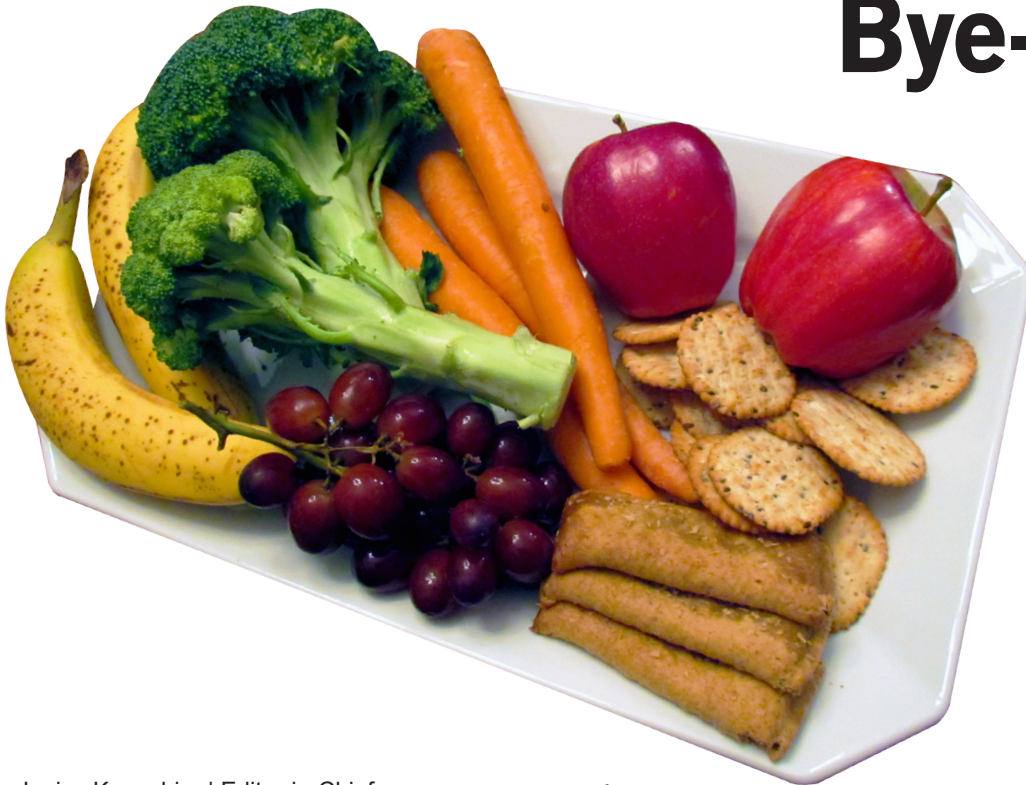


# Bye-bye bake sales

Senate Bill 210 has NHS and STUGO rethinking their yearly fundraisers



Janica Kaneshiro | Editor-in-Chief

No bake sales, no hot dogs in the halls and no Seroogy bars. Senate Bill 210, effective as of July 1, 2011, has hit fundraising at Mason High School hard, according to National Honors Society Vice-president of Fundraising, senior Nicole Rojas.

“For NHS, it really affects Pasta for Pennies,” Rojas said. “It’s our biggest event, and our school does really well every year, and [Senate bill 210] will affect bake sales. Classes individually raise their money, and they can have bake sales to raise money. We raised \$5,000 to \$7000 just in bake sales. Last year, the winning class really won because of their hot dog sales every day in B2, so because of [Senate Bill 210], we’re probably going to lose that money.”

Rojas is also a member of Student Government, and she said that the Seroogy sale, one of the most popular of the year, is currently not made possible by the standards of Senate Bill 210.

“In STUGO, we have the Seroogy sale every January through February, and it’s obviously a really popular sale,” Rojas said. “As of right now, we can’t sell them...but what we’re trying to do is figure out new ways to raise money.”

Though fundraising is becoming challenging due to the Senate Bill 210’s banning of bake sales, the main reason behind the ban is childhood obesity in America, according to Child Nutrition Supervisor, Tamara Earl.

“I believe the reason behind [Senate Bill 210] is truly the recognition of obesity among children,” Earl said. “Right now statistics are showing one of every three [children] have obesity, ...so I think that’s why there was support to

design nutrition standards that would not just affect what students are eating at lunch during the school day, which already has a lot of standards to it, but in addition to it, all of the other foods they might be offered during the school day.”

Earl said that the removal of bake sales from the public school day plays an important role in teaching children that upon finding success, they should celebrate with other things than food, though she said that cross-over is difficult.

“[Senate Bill 210] does raise awareness about classroom reward parties and [the celebrations] always being about food,” Earl said. “I know some of our companies we’re working with are doing more to provide prizes that have more to do with athletic events like pedometers, balls, things like that, so anything like that we’re getting, we’re trying to make that available in the classrooms and to the teachers, so they can use that as rewards. So, I think it’s all trying to show an emphasis that food [should] not always be used as a reward—as hard as that is.”

Senior Michael Carozza, president of NHS, said that while he sees Senate Bill 210 as a possible set-back for fundraising, he believes that fundraisers can come back from the loss of revenue through a little innovative thinking.

“Bake sales are just a really easy way to get that money—you can pretty much say that high school [kids] will buy food,” Carozza said. “So, I think we’ll just need to be a little bit more creative in our approach. ...I think our spirit of service will stay strong though. There’s just so many things we can do, like our senior service project [in NHS] is to actually go out and do things, not just fundraise, so I think our ability to serve is definitely not affected.”

Rojas said that like Carozza, she knows that the upcoming year for fundraising will be one with many challenges, but she also said that she believes students will still find a way to help their cause.

“I think there’s so much more to student activities than having bake sales or having a Seroogy sale; it’s more about being involved in what you do. Like in STUGO, it’s not about carrying around the boxes of Seroogy’s, it’s about the fact that you’re figuring our flavors and how many to sell, and that you’re a part of a team. Or in NHS, it’s not about selling the food, it’s about raising money for a really good cause and helping the Leukemia and

Lymphoma Society with research, so that’s the driving force, not money.”

