

Making a 'Big Time' impact on a small town school

Nickelodeon rocks North County Christian School

by Sarah Wilson, Feature Co-Editor, Olivia Musial, In-Depth Editor, and Kelly Munns, Editorial Editor

First name, e-mail, parent's e-mail. Click. That's all it took for freshman Amy Boggan of North County Christian School in Atascadero to win the Nickelodeon Rocks Your School sweepstakes.

Three months later, Boggan would be surrounded by Nickelodeon fame, a supply of green slime, and a cacophony of uncontrollable screams.

A sweepstakes clean sweep

Boggan entered the sweepstakes in August after hearing about it on nickelodeon.com. She was selected out of approximately 150,000 applicants as a winner. In addition to Nickelodeon coming to her school, she received a new DELL laptop, and the school received \$5,000 and a year's supply of Bounty paper towels.

On Nov. 16, boy band Big Time Rush captivated teen hearts with six songs, and iCarly cast members Jennette McCurdy and Nathan Kress visited Boggan's school for a meet and greet with picture opportunities, a dance party where they got up close and personal with their fans, and other fun activities, such as "slimeball."

"It's the most exciting thing of my life," said Boggan, who talked with band members Kendall Schmidt, James Maslow, Carlos Pena, and Logan Henderson—her favorite part of the day.

iMeet iCarly

Anxious students hustled in line to meet, snap pictures with, and receive autographs from McCurdy and Kress. One by one, students stepped onto the platform set up in the courtyard to revere their couple of minutes with the stars, all the while smiling like they couldn't believe this was happening to them.

"My favorite part is getting to see our fans up close and personal. It's always great to go out

and visit big groups of kids at one time and see how much they like the show. It's so flattering; it's so humbling," said McCurdy, who plays Sam Puckett on iCarly. "It's exciting; it makes me giddy! I'm excited to meet them, I'm excited to learn their names, I'm excited to find out what grade they're in."

Kress, who plays Freddie Benson, recalled that one of his favorite parts of school was getting to meet different people and having guest speakers.

"Being on the other side of that and being the people that [students] are there to see [has] been really cool. It's been kind of a switch. But it's been really fun just getting to hang out with a large group of kids all at one time," Kress said.

Both Kress and McCurdy interacted with students in activities such as slime basketball, which McCurdy's team won.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for the school and for the city of Atascadero. I think it's good for the whole community," said Principal Louis Mann.

Big Time fans

Students enjoyed a lunchtime jam session with Nick DJJ-Boogie where they dougied and shuffled around the quad with Kress and McCurdy. They piled into the school's gymnasium, where they giggled and jittered restlessly in anticipation of their own personal concert from Big Time Rush. After students exclaimed "Nick rocks our school" to the Nickelodeon camera crew, the band leapt on stage performing their hit song "Big Time Rush." The concert included performances of their singles "Boyfriend" and "Worldwide," which was sung to Boggan, who blushed after receiving a kiss on the cheek from Schmidt.

A slimy situation

Afterwards, students received a special treat

when they learned that their principal would be Nickelodeon's next slime victim. Mann walked onto the stage, dressed in a suit and a confident smile. "Slimer" Boggan stepped up onto the stage to be the honorary student to dump a bucket of slime, which is apple sauce in disguise, on her principal. Mann delicately stepped into a blue kiddie pool over which a bucket hung precariously, attached to a rope, which Boggan held. Then the whole school joined in a chorus of "ten, nine, eight, seven..." Mann tightly shut his eyes as the countdown reached "ONE!" and Boggan unleashed a waterfall of lime green slime. The downpour missed Mann, who was standing a couple of inches too far forward.

But when life gives you a slimy opportunity, you need extra buckets. Take two: this time the slime hit its target. The splattering slime coated Mann, inciting a euphoric "Ooooooh!" to ripple through the pleased crowd.

After various tries, Boggan repeatedly backed away from the slime. But she was oblivious to her fate of the extra two buckets of goop that the band members hid behind her. To her surprise, she did get slimed. In retaliation, Boggan leaned in for a slimy hug with Schmidt, who laughed as he accepted the gooey embrace.

After the messy ordeal concluded, workers scrambled to start cleaning, as students slowly said their good byes to the memorable day and headed back to class.

"Well," Mann said, "it was definitely an experience."



AS SEEN ON TV: iCarly star Jennette McCurdy dances with NCC principal Louis Mann (top). Sweepstakes winner freshman Amy Boggan gets slimed by members of Big Time Rush (above). Photos by Olivia Musial and Sarah Wilson.