

PV High's Project Runway a giving trend

By Robin Katherine Roth | Posted: Thursday, March 9, 2017 3:00 pm

Fun is the first word that comes to mind considering “Walking on Sunshine,” Palos Verdes High School’s 10th annual Project Runway Fashion Show.

So does creative. Not that Project Runway advisor Marissa Trevett and her crew of students ever put on a boring show.

As PVHS school nurse, Trevett’s vision goes beyond the school health office. She is dedicated to campus wellness, but also continually creates student-centered community educational events. Last week’s Project Runway show was no different, pairing passions for educational excellence and fashion with local style to benefit Make-A-Wish Foundation of Greater Los Angeles.

“We wanted to give back to people,” Trevett said.

The show has raised more than \$45,000 over the past four years, helping make wishes come true for children diagnosed with critical medical conditions.

“Every year it seems to get bigger,” Trevett said, adding that the club plans to donate \$16,000 to the charity this year.

Trevett also organized January’s Reality Party for Parents, a simulated high school party designed to school parents on dangerous drinking and illicit drug use.

But what does fashion have to do with education?

Turns out, a lot.

“The best thing about Project Runway is how it is the perfect combination of using something girls love (fashion) and putting it towards an incredible cause,” said junior Liese Cooper, Project Runway 2017 Board choreographer.

Participants in Project Runway, modeled after the Lifetime TV series hosted by model Heidi Klum, not only receive an education in fashion but also learn real life lessons in production, publicity, set design and fundraising.

“The most challenging thing about the production was creating the routines,” added Cooper, who is considering a future career in event planning. “We wanted to make sure all the dances were unique and different.”

Choreographers Cooper and Alison Millman created a routine for prospective models during try-outs. Student model selections were based on confidence, showmanship, and dance/runway execution for



PVHS' Project Runway

From left, Nikki Walker, Adam Enomoto and Perrie Kaminskas participate in the 10th annual Project Runway Fashion Show at PV High School last week.

multiple runway rotations.

“The process of putting on this event is a great learning experience for our students,” Trevett said. “The students learn a lot of valuable life lessons they can take to college.”

Student board members helped with organization, communication skills and creativity, students said.

The set featured massive, bright yellow blossoms in a floral motif congruent with both show theme and current fashion trends. Flower power was further embellished by wardrobe fashion coordinators Nicole Halversen, Daniella Cooper and Jacquelyn Giordano’s bold style selections, all reflecting the graphic floral prints and highlights of Fashion Week in London, New York, Paris and Milan.

Project Runway 2017 showcased more major trends, including suede, velvet, cold shoulders, asymmetrical necklines, side slits, sequins and ongoing odes to vintage looks from the ‘70s and ‘20s. And while current catwalks continue to unleash faux animal prints and fabrics, Project Runway literally let the dogs out when students showcased their own household pets modeling fanciful leashes and collars from Tail Trends. The pet boutique is donating 10 percent of proceeds during March to Make A Wish Foundation.

Models included 70 male and female PVHS students, 11 girls from all three Peninsula middle schools, and eight students from Lunada Bay Elementary School. Models reflected deliberate moves towards acceptance and appreciation of diversity, including body size.

“The show had a healthy group represented with all types of body shapes,” said parent Katrin Cooper.

For more information on Project Runway, visit www.pvhsprojectrunway.com.