

The Anne Frank House of Amsterdam sent an exhibit throughout the US to be displayed in schools. Monte was one of those few lucky schools chosen to show the exhibit! The exhibit overall was about Anne Frank herself. It showed many images of her childhood, Nazi Germany, and historical images of WWII. The exhibit was bilingual, in both English and Spanish. The panels contained many images and lots of info in both languages. The entire exhibit was something very life changing.

The first night to kick off the Anne Frank exhibit in Santa Fe was spectacular. It was held at the Santa Fe Convention Center, and the four schools involved were all there. Students, families, and community members from Santa Fe High, Mandela, Desert Academy, and Monte del Sol, were all there to show support. The room was filled with more than 100 people, and the exhibit was set up with the students giving tours to the public. Mica and her culinary class catered the event, and they did an absolutely amazing job! Some people from Amsterdam that were involved with the Anne Frank House came and said a few words on stage. Two exchange students from Afghanistan that go to Desert Academy said some very moving things. They talked about how hard their lives were as young girls that were part of a certain community. They were discriminated and persecuted for being who they were, which is something they can't change. Students from Mandela had an orchestra performance, a student from Santa Fe High did a monologue, and students from Desert Academy sang a song. Monte del Sol sophomore, Axel Lozoya, wrote a writing piece and read it to the audience. It was about how he relates to Anne

Frank in many ways, and how his story is similar to Anne's. His speech was probably one of the most moving things of the night.

All of the student docents went to a two day training in January at Desert Academy. We were trained by people that worked with the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam. They taught us how to put together and break down the exhibit, how to analyze pictures, taught us about the content we should know, and how to be confident and know what we wanted to say. It was an amazing experience to meet new people and to get to learn a little bit about yourself through history.

The docents at Monte set up the exhibit on Thursday morning, April 4, and did many tours that day. The next day we didn't have school, so there was a public viewing for the community sometime in the evening. Many family members of the docents, students from the school and their families, and teachers came to see the exhibit. The last day, April 8, we finished the last of our tours, took down the whole exhibit, packed it all up, and drove it over to Mandela.

I absolutely loved the exhibit and all the information that it held. It not only taught everyone about WWII, but it taught everyone about how to learn from the past. A lot of what happened during the Holocaust, happened or is happening in the US. History does repeat itself, and if we don't learn from the past and not have to experience what happened in the past, we really need to learn to get past the differences that each and everyone of us has.