



Siblings Lily, Lucas and James Berckefeldt, center, watch a Halloween parade march to Gault Elementary on Saturday.

KARA GUZMAN — SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

UC Santa Cruz's Sigma Pi fraternity helped run oldfashioned games: model boat races, a cake walk, bean bag tosses and water gun targets. Many of the games were loaned by the Santa Cruz Bible Church, and the rest were built by parents over the years.

Volunteers included the Santa Cruz Harley Owners Group, a motorcycle club that staffed street barricades along the parade route. Dozens of local businesses, such as Shopper's Corner and the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, donated raffle items for the school fundraiser.

Patty Estrada was one of dozens of Spanish-speaking parents who cooked and sold traditional Mexican dishes to help raise money. She began boiling atole, a warm drink made from corn, milk and cinnamon, at 6 a.m. Saturday.

On Dia de los Muertos, Mexicans dip pan de muerto — sweet bread made for the holiday — into the drink, Estrada said. She felt it was important to contribute money and time to her child's school, she said.

Around 55 percent of the school is Latino, so Dia de los Muertos is integral to the celebration, said Principal Amariah Hernandez.

Hernandez began attending the parade more than 30 years ago, when her mother was a Gault teacher. This year, for the first time, Hernandez held the school's flag with her twin 5-yearolds, now Gault kindergartners.

"That was really special," said Hernandez. "For a lot of families, it feels that way. You come back with your kids."

Halloween tradition continues at Gault School

Parade and carnival passed down from generation to generation

HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

By Kara Guzman

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SANTA CRUZ >> Hundreds of costumed children marched down Seabright Avenue on Saturday morning for Gault Elementary's 67th annual Halloween parade and carnival.

Led by the Santa Cruz High School marching band, pretend pirates, zombies and pumpkins walked with their parents toward a volunteer-run carnival in Gault's playground.

At the field's fringe, thirdgrader Grant Evans wriggled free of his shiny robot armor so he could play in the bounce house. His helmet was a flower pot and his chestplate a metallic shop vacuum. The outfit was heavy, he said.

"I polished it last night," said Grant, who said he spent weeks building the costume with his brother and grandparents, who also paraded as robots.

"I think I'm going to take off my pants, too," he said, shedding his suspenders and wiggling dryer vent tubes off his legs.

At another corner, Maya Galvin, a Branciforte Middle School sixth-grader and Gault alum, glued googly eyes to a sugar skull for Dia de los Muertos, the Mexican holiday. As part of the school tradition, children painted skulls for someone who had died, then placed it on an altar at the carnival's entrance.

"I had a lizard and she was a gecko," said Maya, 11. "She was a really good pet and I had her for about a year. She was really fast so I wanted to paint my skull in fun colors."

"She would run around the living room floor. Her name was Zippy," Maya said.

Around 80 volunteers from