

# Students connect with community through clubs

ASHLEY WELP

Staff Reporter

Becoming involved in the community is a theme of many of the new and existing clubs. Opportunities to go out and serve, whether it be inside the school, throughout the state, across the nation, or across the world are a focus.

"WLHS doesn't require you to do any community service in order to graduate," Erin Axelrod and Taylor Nowlin, co-presidents of Serious About Student Service club, said. The purpose of SASS is to "get students involved in the community, get excited about helping, and make it easy for them to volunteer," Nowlin said. Members of the group are regularly trying to be as involved as possible. Last year they collected cans from the Cedar oak area for the city wide canned food drive and partook in an after school program for Russian immigrant's children with Human Solutions.

SASS is also involved in groups that provide meals to 20-30 homeless youth. They are also teaming up with another club, Green Team, for a few projects.

"We live in such a fortunate community. I mean Portland has the highest rate of homeless teens in the

whole country. It just really makes us want to help out because [our city is] so close to them and have so much," Axelrod and Nowlin said.

The club usually meets on the third Tuesday of every month at lunch in E205.

"The size of our club varies but we have about 15-20 core members. The more the merrier! We love people joining. Even if they only come for the food," Axelrod said.

SASS isn't the only club looking to have a hand in things that matter. The Young Advocates for Peace club (YAP) is "trying to teach everyone peaceful living by way of example," Colton Erickson, club leader, said. YAP actually gives out homework

assignments at the weekly Monday meetings. These assignments usually consist

and staff made T-shirts, sang songs about peace and just hung out.

around 40 students at the meetings. This is our biggest attendance year so far and we hope it will be even bigger in the future. We are always open to students joining. We love it," Erickson said.

The more students join the more ideas and activities YAP will produce.

"We try to have the club be student lead. If a student in the club has a great idea we will focus on it and make it happen," Erickson said.

The National Theater Honor Society, also known as the Thespian Troupe 1915, is also doing its part to involve students and break down barriers.

"This year we are trying to be more inclusive with students. People have been slightly intimidated by the Thespians in the past, but we're attempting to reflect our image to the community in a better way, so we're not seen as just a bunch of strange and odd kids," Caitlyn Olson, co-president, said of the club.

The purpose of the group is "to meet and share the work we do elsewhere and participate in activities that extends the theatrical experience of classes and productions," Olson said. There are currently around 35 Thespians at WLHS who have put in lots of time and effort to acquire their status.

Thespians is one of the only clubs that students can not join at any time. They must acquire ten points and be involved with two theatrical productions. One point is 10 hours worth of service in the theater. Then students must go through a tryout called "Happy Week" which happens in Jan. and in June.

"Thespians is a great outlet for students to meet and interact in a [positive] way," Olson said. Most of the clubs provide an encouraging atmosphere for students to become involved in what's important to them.



Young Advocates for Peace members Jordan LeVeque, junior, Kaitlin Nordstorm, Caitlin Connolly, Jasmine Winfield, Haley Epperly, Colton Erickson, Mollie Schlunegger, Anneli Tostar, Brenna Stahlnecker, sophomores, Jali Henry, Mollie Bushnell, juniors, Stacy Erickson, adviser, Graham Frank, Andrew Daniels, Micah Wiard and Georgia Muggli, sophomores, meet to plan a walk for peace. The YAP club meets every week on Mondays at lunch.

Photo by Hannah Zaayer

of text messaging a peaceful message to a friend or making something beautiful for another student.

"We work in small ways to achieve peace at school. They really add up," Erickson said. The club is trying to set up fundraisers by bringing a guest speaker to the school and planning a peace walk. They have already had a peace vigil where students

"The purpose of YAP is to increase the peace in our society, community and school. We also want to project the peace outward into the nation and the world," Erickson said.

Students are welcome to join YAP at any time during the year.

"At the club fair we had 90 people sign up and there are usually

## Thanksgiving week turns into fall "spring" break

LEXI WELP

Staff Reporter

Moist turkey, fluffy mashed potatoes, creamy gravy-finished and luscious smooth pumpkin pie. While some students are sticking to the traditional feast with family, others are taking advantage of the weeklong break to travel and bond with their families through games and exotic vacations.

Thanksgiving break has not always been a nine day vacation for students. Two in-service-days, which teachers must attend, were added to the week.

"I like a week to rejuvenate," Anneli Tostar, sophomore said. Tostar likes to sleep in and enjoy relaxing throughout the break.

"We always have a Thanksgiving 'turkey bowl' football game at my aunt and uncle's house. We make t-shirts and chalk the field every year—it gets pretty intense," Tostar said of her Thanksgiving plans. "We've only been doing this a few years, but it's already become a tradition."

Morgan Thompson, sophomore is traveling to Hawaii. "I have been doing this, probably since I was three, every other year," Thompson said.

She usually travels with her mom's side of the family,

(her grandparents, aunt, and cousins) and they have a family reunion in Kauai, Hawaii; even though

no relatives live there. However, this year she is traveling with her immediate family and they're staying for a week.

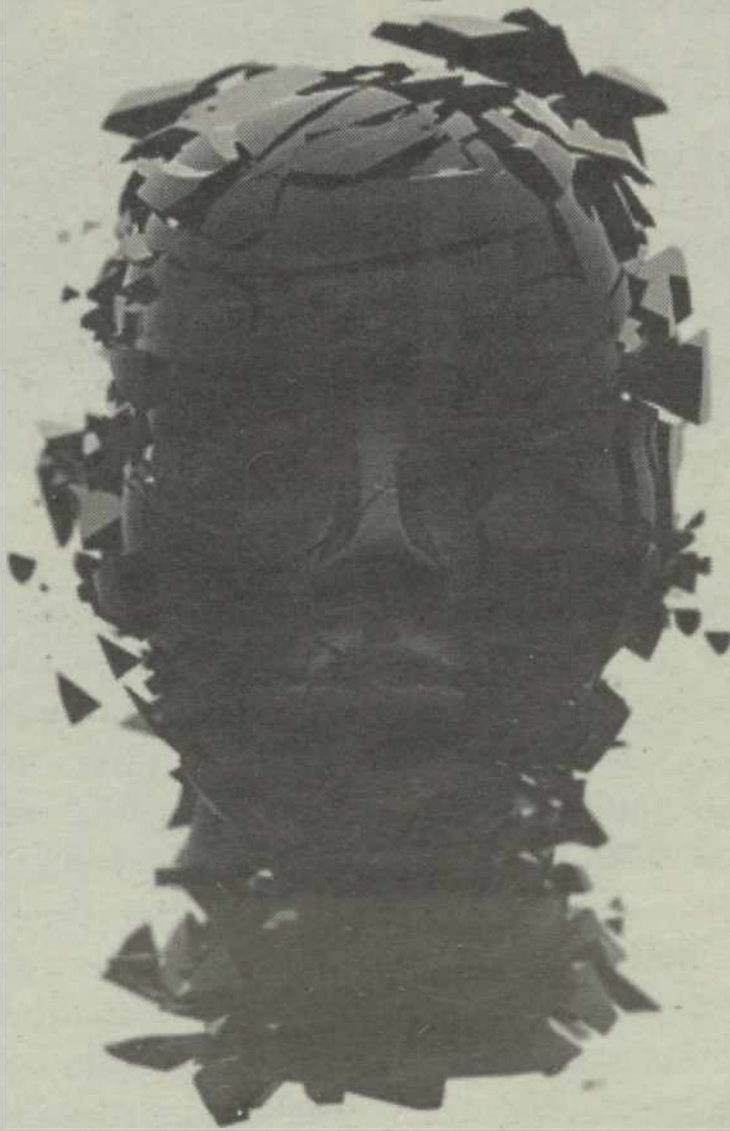
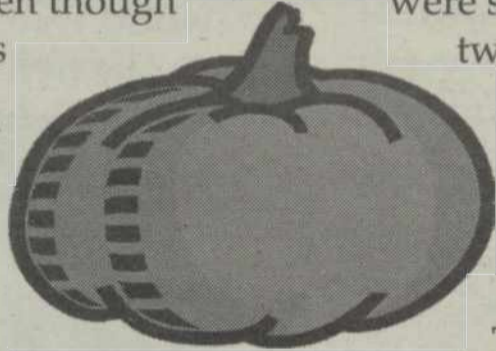
"My favorite thing to do there would probably be surfing or boogie boarding," Thompson said. Every year her family stays at the Kia

Huna plantation which is right on the beach. She enjoys the short walk to the beach where she can catch a wave or two.

Along with being in the water, one of Thompson's favorite things to do during her

Thanksgiving vacation is eat traditional food. "My favorite food to eat during Thanksgiving is mashed potatoes," Thompson said.

For those students not planning a vacation during the break, there are options closer to home.



## It feels like Everything is coming apart

In times of stress do you have someone you can talk to? Someone with life experience?

If your are:

- Depressed
- Fighting with mom and dad
- Having problems with peers at school
- Can't stop partying

Text, Call or Email Donny

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