

Interactions Magazine 2017

TJ Interact Club

2017

Our long term global service project, ShelterBox, was completed successfully as we donated a \$1000 check to support one ShelterBox kit. ShelterBox Ambassadors, Tom and Marie Grant, joined us for the check presentation assembly on Thursday, May 4, 2017. They spoke to our Club about the history, mission (delivering shelter, warmth and dignity), and current reaches of the ShelterBox NGO non-profit organization. They also brought an actual ShelterBox kit with them so that students could see the actual contents supplied in first response to natural disaster and humanitarian crises. We are grateful to Pleasant Hills Rotary and South Park Interact (SP Rotary Students of the Month) for donating to our fundraising efforts. Additional thanks go to TJ's faculty, staff, and administration for donating on Dress Down Fridays. Special appreciation is awarded to the TJ Interact members who fulfilled the "Water Bottle Dime Pledge" and raised \$100/water bottle towards this cause. As a Club, we have decided to continue this commitment for 3 consecutive years to attain ShelterBox HERO status.



Vice President Jessica Taylor, Treasurer Cole Majernik, ShelterBox Ambassador Tom Grant



Secretary Audrey King, Treasurer Cole Majernik, President Alexandra Downer, Junior Adviser Avery DeGruttola, Vice President Jessica Taylor, ShelterBox Ambassadors Tom and Marie Grant



Teacher Advisor Denise Breisinger, President Alexandra Downer, Pleasant Hills Rotary Vocational Chair Darlene Kruth, Pleasant Hills Rotary President Steve Slater, Treasurer Cole Majernik, ShelterBox Ambassadors Marie and Tom Grant, Vice President Jessica Taylor, Secretary Audrey King, Junior Adviser Avery DeGruttola, Rotary Special Advisor to District Governor/District Rotary Foundation Chairman Sue Kelly

Four Interact Members (Audrey King, Alexa Uhlyar, Remy Zandier, Avery DeGruttola) with Teacher Advisor Denise Breisinger, Point Park Graduate Student Sara Tallerico, and our Rotary liaison Darlene Kruth attended the Rotary Leadership and Ethics Institute at LaRoche College on March 10, 2017. Workshop topics included college finances, mentoring, social media, and motivation. Drawings were held for two scholarships. The event concluded with a town-meeting style panel discussion about ethical leadership and related topics.

Service projects this semester include continuing work with Pleasant Hills Library Youth Services Librarian Dani Danylo; creating Valentine's Day cards for Arden Court residents; assisting with district events such as book fair, art shows, Read Across America, STEAM Lab family orientation, musical, flea market; assembling paracord survival bracelets for Operation Gratitude; teaming with Student Council for THON and Earth Day Clean Up; walking for Cystic Fibrosis. We are hoping to earn a Presidential Citation for 2016-17.

The TJHS Interact Club is honored to be guests at the Pleasant Hills Rotary Lunch on Tuesdays. February Rotary Students of the Month were Erin Mykich and Cole Majernik; March students were Julia Micklo and Remy Zandier; April students were Caroline Ribich and Faith Rockwell; May students were Julia Fiedor and Mia Como.

South Park Interact Club

2017

During the past couple months the South Park Interact Club has been heavily involved in many events around the city. Some of our highlights during were, the Special Olympics at Baldwin High School, our Camp Kon-O-Kwee event; where we helped to prepare a campground in our area, a baseball season opener event, and many more!

One of the brand new events that our Interact Club participated in this year was our township's baseball opener. Students woke up bright and early to help celebrate the opening of the baseball season. Students from our club set up games and a face paint and temporary tattoo table. The games consisted of a sack race, duck pond, and a baseball themed bounce house. The big hit with the kids was the face paint table. Some of the favorites were glittery South Park logos and ninja turtle bandanas! Even though it was a little chilly the students all loved to see how happy all the little kids were. They all enjoyed talking and having fun with all the little ones.

We have many more exciting events coming up in the next couple weeks. One of the favorites of the students is our trip to a soup kitchen. This year we got the wonderful opportunity to go twice. We went to serve food at the soup kitchen during the winter months; and our second date is coming up shortly. The students enjoy serving the people at the soup kitchen as well as making the food the day before. Other events coming up soon are, the art show at South Park Elementary Center, Garden Club, where we help a local club plant their flowers for the summer, and The Cystic Fibrosis Walk. The Club is so proud of all of our events this year and cannot wait for the next events coming up.



Carlynton Interact Club

2017

This fall we held a pull tab competition between homerooms. The pull tabs were taken to a scrap metal yard and recycled. The money was then donated to the Ronald McDonald House. Arthur Moats of the Pittsburgh Steelers even matched our donation! We also toured the Ronald McDonald House to see how our donation helps other children and their families.

During December we sold candy grams. Both students and teachers joined in on the fun. The money we raised was donated to the Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh.

In February we held a plastic grocery bag competition between over 3,000 bags! Carnegie Elementary also helped to collect bags. We then joined the ladies of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Carnegie to learn how to cut and crochet the bags into mats. We also made fleece blankets with their help. These items were donated to a homeless shelter. Currently, we are collecting shoes for children in Nicaragua.



Interact Club Conference Fall 2016



Plastic bag collection for Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish crochet mats Winter 2017



Crocheting plastic grocery bags into mats for the homeless with St Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish February 2017



Making Fleece Blankets with St Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Winter 2017

Chartiers Valley Interact Club

2017

High school is all about finding your niche in society; developing an idea of who you are, where you want to be, and how you can effectively get there. As students, we begin to develop an understanding of the essential values of deciphering making a living, by making a life; as Winston Churchill once said, “we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” This spring, the Interact Club at Chartiers Valley High School has had a peek from both angles.

To start off the semester, the club hosted a holiday food drive to benefit the local food bank at Bethany Presbyterian Church in Bridgeville. A project in its second consecutive year, the beneficiaries are always grateful for our donations around the holiday season. Similarly, our club also hosted a drive in support of the local Meals On Wheels, collecting both food and packaging materials for the non-profit organization which aims to serve meals to local homebound seniors and individuals both in our area, and across the nation. Another collection we completed was in coordination with an organization called Hurry Home Hounds, whose goal is to find homes for greyhounds, and other animals, in the Pittsburgh area. Interact members collected gently worn or newly donated shoes to raise funds for the organization to make a donation to benefit impoverished people in underdeveloped countries.

In addition, we also took time to pair up with our parent rotary clubs to complete some additional projects to benefit the community. In December and early February, Interact members bundled up to face the chilly winter air, alongside the Bridgeville-South Fayette Rotary Club, as we participated in Wreath Across America; a wreath removal taking place at national cemeteries all across America. The Chartiers Valley Interact Club laid and removed wreaths at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies, paying tribute to those who have fought for our country. In addition, we also worked alongside the Collier-Carnegie Rotary Club to take part in Collier Clean-up Day, which fell on Earth Day this past April. Interact students spent the morning walking along Thoms Run Road, right outside of our school, picking up litter and finding some random oddities which made us laugh.

Another exciting first for the club was the opportunity to volunteer with Tim Tebow’s Night to Shine event! Several Interact Club members went through training to volunteer at this prom-like experience for teens with special needs. Students cited it as an amazing night focused on making every child feel like the star that they are. But, the work with organizations benefiting this special group of people was not quite over, CVHS interact Club also took part in raising funds for the Miracle League of Southwestern Pennsylvania through a district-wide jeans day fundraiser.

Chartiers Valley Interact Club has been quite busy this spring, making a living, but also making a life which thrives on the ideals of true altruism.

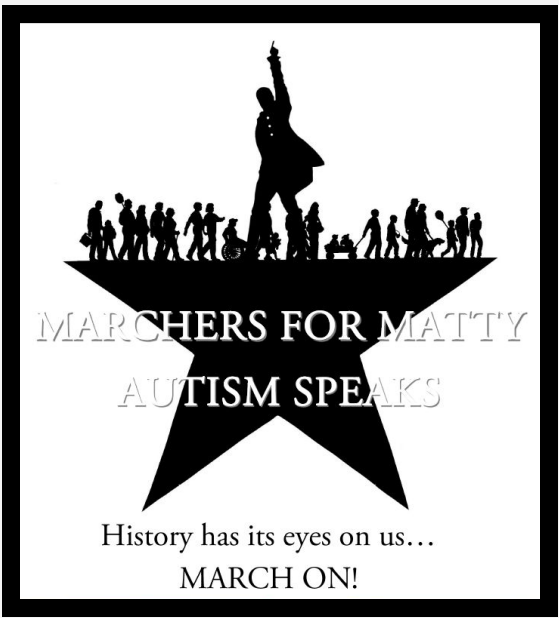
Gateway Interact Club

2017

The spring semester is shaping up to be a productive one for the Gateway Interact Club. Among numerous upcoming events, two in particular garner more attention than the rest: first, the Autism Car Wash, and second, Jamnesty.

The Autism Car Wash is an event organized in order to raise funds for Autism Speaks, a group that advocates advancing research into causes and better interventions for autism spectrum disorder and related conditions. One of the most legendary teachers at the high school has a son profoundly impaired by the disorder, and the much of the Gateway community unifies in support of Autism Speaks and its cause during the annual walk in Pittsburgh, held this year on May 21st.

Jamnesty also holds great significance for the Gateway Interact Club. Held at the end of every school year at the local community park, the money raised from donations and the sale of original and vintage student-designed T-shirts is given to—as the title suggests—Amnesty International. During the open-air event, student bands play rock music for attendee enjoyment. Come and join us!



Montour Interact Club

2017

