

SENIOR THANKSGIVING

the tradition continues

writer emma clute

photos by taylor stewart

designer taylor stewart

The fall tradition continued this year as the senior class came together to celebrate Thanksgiving. The early celebration came on Nov. 3. and was catered by the Amish home-style cooking restaurant Der Dutchman.

Featured at the event were typical Thanksgiving food, activities and a space to be grateful.

"The theme of the event centered on a Thanksgiving motif. There were also two photo booths and statements of gratitude during the luncheon. This was a time where students could write different things that they were grateful for and they were read during the event," Senior Class Cabinet adviser Kari Phillips said.

Another important aspect of the lunch was the honored speaker, Principal Trond Smith. He opened up the event and got the festivities started.

"The speaker is especially important this year because there's been a lot of hardship this year but also a lot to be grateful for," Senior

Class Cabinet member Alex Lin said.

One big change from last year's event was the lack of COVID-19 restrictions put in place.

"Last year, we had to do two different shifts for lunches because of capacity restraints, and we're back as one big group," Phillips said.

The main difference between this event and years past is the date. It's a few weeks before Thanksgiving while it's usually closer to the actual holiday.

"It was earlier than we've ever done it because Der Dutchman catered the event, and they were short staffed," Phillips said. "Normally, they could cater multiple schools in one day and this year they couldn't because they don't have enough employees, so we had to book the event a lot sooner than we normally would."

The numeral photo was also taken that day. This yearly tradition was taken on the football field, and students in the senior class arranged themselves as their graduation year:

22.

"The numeral photo for the senior class will be taken on the turf before the meal and then we all came in and ate food," Phillips said.

Senior Thanksgiving is always a big hit among seniors, and the tradition carried on this year.

"This event is a chance for our entire class to come together, just enjoy senior year, and it's also a school tradition," Lin said. "It has happened every year. Even when COVID-19 was more prevalent, we adjusted for the situation to make Senior Thanksgiving happen."

It's also one of the first major events that seniors have during their last year at the school.

"It kicks off the senior events leading up to graduation that will work to bring the class together," Phillips said. "Since Olentangy was a one high school district, they've been going to Der Dutchman, and it's good to honor that tradition."



Erin P. and Micaela S. prepare the tables before the other seniors arrive to eat lunch.



Kathrine M., Lauren B., Ashlinn R., Makenzie M. and Eve D. pose for a photo in front of one of the two photobooths.

BAND IN HOLLYWOOD

orange in annual christmas parade

writer nathan chow
designer nathan chow

photo by erin parsons

As Thanksgiving rolls around the corner, something to look forward to are the annual Christmas Parades across the country. The Marching Band has been invited to perform in the Hollywood Christmas Parade. Originally planned for 2020, the 89th anniversary of the parade will be on Nov. 28th, and the band will be playing an arrangement of “Santa Claus Is Comin’ To Town”, edited by band director Dr. Ishbah Cox.

The band was selected to be one of the participating bands last year, but the trip was canceled due to the pandemic.

This season, the theme for the band’s shows has been Roadtrip USA, and the songs have ranged from songs from the East end of the country to the West side, ending in California.

According to the Communications

Executive Secretary and band administrator Heather Lantz, “All marching band members had the opportunity to participate in the upcoming trip to Hollywood. This trip was originally scheduled to take place in 2020, but due to COVID-19 the Hollywood Christmas Parade was canceled, and our trip was rolled over to 2021.”

Members of the band are excited about the trip as well, as the band will be visiting Universal Studios, Disneyland and sightseeing in Los Angeles.

“I’m most excited to go to Universal Studios and Disney with my friends, as well as be able to parade on live TV and represent my school,” junior flutist Shukanth Jojodae said. “The band sounds great, and Dr. Cox’s arrangement is phenomenal!”

The parade will be hosted by Erik Estrada, Laura McKenzie, Dean Cain, Montel Williams and Elizabeth Stanton as the Grand Marshall, and according to the parade website, “The parade features Hollywood celebrities, movie cars, award-winning bands from around the country, dazzling equestrians, larger-than-life character balloons, colorful floats, culminating with the Jolly Old Elf himself, Santa Claus.”

The parade will be nationally broadcast on the CW channel and National Prime Time Television.

“I’m excited about marching in such a big parade,” junior saxophone player Neil Hariths said. “Being able to show off the work we’ve put in all year on national television is cool. The atmosphere is going to be wild, and I know my friends and I can’t wait.”



The band performs their halftime show in the game against Pickerington North.

MARSHALL MEDLEY

sophomore recovers from a serious injury

writer emma barnhart

designer emma barnhart

During the boys soccer JV game, sophomore Marshall Medley's life was changed forever.

It was Sept. 18, a morning to be remembered. Due to an incident, Medley fractured his C5 vertebra, which often leads to paralysis. However, Medley recovered with damage, but no paralysis.

"It affected my neck, my arms a little bit and my hands had some nerve damage," Medley said.

It was a traumatic event to watch, especially for the head coach of the boys soccer program, Brett Weiss.

"My first reactions were fear and shock. I was afraid for Marshall and his health. Then, I was worried about his family and my other players who saw it happen," Weiss said.

After the incident, Medley was sent to Nationwide Children's Hospital in downtown Columbus, where he would be staying for the next week.

"The hospital experience was alright because I had some great nurses who took great care of me," Medley said.

The boys soccer program made a trip to the hospital where players looked up into Medley's hospital room, with signs saying, "Get well Marshall."



The boys soccer team takes a visit to Nationwide Children's Hospital to see Medley. Permission to print from Brett Weiss

"Later that day after the boys had a chance to go down there, meet with his mom and see them with their own eyes, then they were a much, much happier group," Weiss said.

Medley has been in some physical therapy sessions and will increase the number of sessions he goes to when he gets his neck brace off.

"Physical therapy is not bad because my legs work, but occupational therapy (hand therapy) sucks because touch hurts," Medley said.

The boys program continues to help the Medley family through this process by raising awareness.

"We have done a few fundraisers as well as mobilizing as a program to provide Marshall and the Medley family with as much support and love as we can," Weiss said. "We have been able to pass on a tremendous amount of donations for things such as meals, groceries, expenses, going back and forth to the hospital and messages of support."

This has led to a tremendous amount of support from the community, all for the purpose of trying to help out the Medley family in any way possible.

"I appreciate all of the community support, and all people who have my back that care about me," Medley said.

The boys soccer program has been immensely grateful as well for the support that has been shown.

"The community support has been phenomenal. I have trouble describing it in words to people. It has been like the warmest of hugs," Weiss said.

Though a long process of recovery is needed, Medley has been missing his everyday lifestyle.

The support from the community has been immense, including support from a Columbus Crew player, Gyasi Zardes.

Permission to print from Marshall Medley



"I have missed playing soccer and being with my team," Medley said.

As much as he has missed being away from the soccer team, they have missed him equally.

"Marshall has such a glowing and fun personality, and if he is not around, everyone knows it. He's the kind of player that teammates get energy from watching," Weiss said.



Medley's teammates visit him for a warm welcome back home from the hospital.

Permission to print from Brett Weiss

BACK IN THE SWING OF THINGS

new clubs start after a year with COVID-19

writer **rachel lehman**

photos by **alaina jones and rachel lehman**

designer **taylor stewart**

Every year, new clubs are introduced, and they keep getting more creative. Some clubs that were introduced when COVID-19 was prominent in 2020 had a hard time getting started and have just now been able to properly introduce themselves due to restrictions preventing clubs from meeting before.

Due to school starting off normally this year, students are able to choose from a wide variety of clubs to attend before or after school, including some new additions such as WISE, which stands for Women in Science and Engineering. They meet every two weeks at the Westerville YMCA.

“Our goal is to inspire and facilitate the girls and boys of the next generation to develop a passion for STEM-based majors both here in the United States and internationally. We do this by specifically helping kids in underprivileged areas get introduced into STEM-based fields through fun activities and labs,” WISE Co-President and senior Irem Yilmaz said.

Another club that is new this year is Anime Club. It meets on

Wednesdays from 2:45 to 3:30 p.m. in room 2112. Some activities members do include watching anime, eating snacks and playing games like trivia and hangman to win anime-related prizes like posters and figurines.

“We wanted to create a space where people who enjoy anime are able to come together and enjoy something we all have in common. In general, it’s just a good time,” Anime Club adviser and mental health specialist Sarah Leonard said.

Active Minds is a club about student mental health awareness that started late 2019 but did not officially take off until this year. It meets every other Thursday in room 1101, and the meetings so far have been in the mornings at 6:45. However, once cross country season is over, the meetings will be after school.

“We hope to help students understand that everyone has mental health just like physical health, and everyone can use strategies to celebrate good mental days and come together with others to recognize, validate and use coping skills for



Freshman Hannah F. participates in an Anime Club meeting on Sept. 29.



Senior Irem Y., senior Aashi S. and junior Aanya T. lead a WISE meeting on Oct. 21.

harder mental days,” Active Minds adviser and science teacher Jamie Gilbert said.

During meetings, they have discussions, do stress-reducing activities like games and hands-on activities like crafts or building things. In the future, they plan to have larger stress reducing events for the whole school.

“I definitely recommend everyone join Active Minds if they can. School can be stressful sometimes, and in our Active Minds meetings, we do activities and provide tips to de-stress and improve your mental health,” Active Minds club member and junior Maab Karrar said.

A TIME TO REFLECT

plans for Thanksgiving break

writer emma clute
designer emma clute

freshman Hiya Patel

"I'm going to Chicago over Thanksgiving break for a family reunion on my mom's side. We're going to eat dinner together and hang out. It'll be fun."

junior Michael Franketti

"For Thanksgiving, I'm having some family visit and then the day after, the band is going to Hollywood. We'll be there for four days and perform in the Hollywood Christmas parade."

sophomore Hailey Marrero

"On Thanksgiving, I go to my aunt and uncle's house, and I have dinner with my family. After dinner, I play a lot of games with my cousins."

senior Isabella Williams

"My plans for Thanksgiving are to hang out with my family, play with my dogs and decorate my house for Christmas."

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH & PIONEER PRIDE BARS

OCTOBER

Daniel Donovan
Sathvika Kasarla
Augusta Ness
Andrew Barendse
Cristhian Roper Montoya
Triston Miller
Amy Hanson
Jadyn Eldridge
Khushi Pabboju
Nithin Seelan

PIONEER PRIDE BARS

Sam Bryan
Ava Valentick
Clea Case
Evan Krajci
Rayne Freeman