

BREAKING UP

The week

THE POWER OF BURGERS.

On sunny school days during lunch or at tailgates before football games, that's when you could find Grill Club (a.k.a. Grillionaires) ready to serve this school year. Whenever the smell of burgers wafted through the air, or the sound of music and laughter rang throughout the courtyard, students rolled up to join in the fun.

"We don't have any other clubs that I can name that just go out there and grill burgers or just play music for the people, and it's fun to do because it's so unique and with that we're able to reach such a large basis of students," said Grill Club president Kyle Sylvester (12).

The Grillionaires weren't just out there to grill, either. They wanted all students to find just as much joy in Grill Club as they did.

"We've worked with admin and within the club to be able to create a situation where we can have fun and play some music and unite the people throughout Monarch High School for the love of burgers and music," Sylvester said.

Every burger showed a dedication not just to grilling, but also to improving the social climate of our school. Grill Club was an oddity among the clubs, but the students wouldn't have it any other way.

FLEXIN' Richard Stimac (12), Kevin Webb (12), Jack Tater (12), Patrick Sternberg (12), and Hayden Bolles (12) line up to show off their Grillionaire jerseys, a tradition started by previous seniors. "You kind of choose your own nickname and number and we all like to have fun and make grill puns," Sylvester said. Sylvester's moniker was: "Happy Grillmore".

photo by bonnie katzive



MAKING PROGRESS Daniel Smith (11) makes his next play against his opponent. Smith was one of the original members of Chess Club. "It was a pretty small club last year, five people, but it's definitely grown this year," Smith said.

A club has returned to the library. Chess Club. Reconstituted by a group of chess-loving friends, this club has grown in recognition. It has participated in a couple tournaments, yet it was not as competitive, or as mundane, as some might expect.

"Some people might be surprised that it's a lot of fun. It's not just playing chess but we make a lot of jokes, too, and it's just a good environment to be in," Daniel Smith (11) said.

Chess Club provided a new activity the school hadn't had in since 2017. The club promoted itself as a social club, as well as a competitive club. It could be a place to learn Chess, or a

WAFFLES FOR GOOD

What's the best way to start your Wednesday? Waffles. What's even better than starting out your day with waffles? Waffles that support a good cause.

Waffle Club didn't only benefit Monarch students with a tasty breakfast, they also helped the community by donating proceeds to various charities.

"To me it means getting to do something good for the community and world around us by donating, but it's also a fun part of Monarch," Sophie Schuler (12) said.

Since its founding, Waffle Club had supported a new charity each month. Some of the money went to resupplying the club, but the majority was given to those in need. Waffle Club raised money for hurricane relief in partnership with Student Council.

"We donate the rest of [what we don't use] to whatever charity we do that month. Most recently it was hurricane relief. We worked with StuCo to do that," Grace Brown (12) said.

Truly, the Waffle Club had hearts as golden as their waffles.

page by mae harmon

It's super fun to have people from the school come in and buy waffles. It just feels good to do something to give back to the community."

- Grace Brown (12)



photo by mae harmon

"There isn't any other club like [Waffle Club]. I mean we make fresh waffles and that's pretty sweet!"

- Sophie Schuler (12)



photo by mae harmon

BEST OF BOTH WORLDS Luke Mitton (11) watches as Liam Barnes (11) and Cosmo Mitchell (11) play a game of chess. Mitton revived the club along with his friends and has since helped it grow. "I think that we're just the right combination of both [competitive and fun] because it is a friendly, social, causal club but at the same time if you want to be competitive you can do that," Mitton said.

A NEW STRATEGY

place for students to test the skills they might already have.

"There are people who are really invested in it [Chess] and previously they didn't have many avenues in order to play games with people that they know and also the Chess Club makes tournaments easier and cheaper to go to, so it means a lot to me because I'm providing a service to people to make it easier for them to enjoy chess," club president Luke Mitton (11) said.

THE CLUB THAT PLAYS TOGETHER, STAYS TOGETHER

Over 25 unique board games? A dozen pizza boxes? A library full of laughter instead of quiet? Sounds like Game Night. On Fridays after school, a group of students from all grades met in the library. They set up a smorgasbord of board games and snacks, ordered pizza, and played the night away. There was only one rule: no screens. With just that, Game Club built a tight-knit community, and something even more important, a safe place.

"It's a fun and safe place for people to hang out on Friday nights and feel like they got out there and socialized and tried something new fun. You get to be a part of a community. It's like having a party to go to every Friday that you know you'll be safe at and have fun at," Grateful Beckers (11) said.

Over the span of Game Club president Cooper Gerrish's four year reign, Game Club grew into a priority event on the schedule of its members. It wasn't just board games and pizza though. Where people expected Game Club to be quiet, its members broke those expectations with their unpredictable antics and nonsensical conversations.

"You expect to come and maybe play some card games or Monopoly. We don't have Monopoly, but you come and most of the fun happens when you're not playing games or when you forget that you're actually playing a game and people just start running around and going wild," Beckers said.

At Game Night members could unplug, forget the pressures of school and life, and just let loose for a bit.

"Game Club is a really cool place to come and hang out. There's no pressure to know how to play a game or know any people. You don't have to know anyone. You can just come and people will be willing to teach you games and willing to hang out with you," Jessica Hannebert (12) said.



photo by mae harmon

NO PRESSURE Jessica Hannebert (12) plays a precarious game of Chairs. Hannebert has been a member of Game Club for four years. "[Game Club] is a very no pressure way of getting together because you can just play board games," Hannebert said.

D&D WITH GRATEFUL BECKERS

Q: What is Dungeons & Dragons?

A: [It's] a little bit of roleplay but mostly rolling dice and you have a character and a group of people and you talk out a campaign or quest in some mystical world.

Q: What is your character?

A: My character is a half-elf who is a bard and she was cursed by a witch so that she turns into a giraffe sometimes at random moments and she uses her charm to persuade monsters and people and whatever she encounters to overcome obstacles.

Q: What do bards do?

A: They're entertainers. They are like the performers of the world in all aspects which is very true to me because I'm an "All the World's a Stage," kind of person because I'm in theatre outside Game Club. They're talented and convince people of things, and they aren't as much fighters as they are good with words.

"It's pretty fun and we ended up doing some pretty crazy things in our campaign."

- Grateful Beckers (11)



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