I'd Rather Be Watching Anime

Anime Club meets to play games and discuss their favorite shows

Making Decisions In Room 258 Puzzled, Anime Club president Teagan Wedige (11) tries to answer a question right during a game of "Real or Fake? at their meeting on Dec. 3. "I guess [being president] just gives me a position of leadership where I can decide what things we're doing during the club, like what anime we're going to watch or game we're going to play, and parties and stuff. It's kind of cool to just lead a group of people," Wedige said. Wedige had been president for two years and was a member her freshman year. *Photo by M. Ballard*

Conversation Starter Officer Zoey Lynch (11) describes the plot of one of her favorite anime during a guessing game at the Anime Club meeting on Dec. 3. "I was a part of Anime Club at our middle school, but it was shut down. But I'm into anime and I wanted to meet people who were into stuff that I was into. There's a huge variety of things you can watch, so it's not just for one person but it's for everybody. There's a lot of stuff you can talk about with it," Lynch said. Lynch had been a member of the club since her freshman year, and was an officer this year. *Photo by M. Ballard*

Real Or Fake? As a strategy, officer Ian Chen (10) discusses the anime plot with fellow Anime Club members Jenna Durbin (9) and Ava Bockhouse (9) at their meeting on Dec. 3. "[I joined Anime Club because] my friend, Blake, is in here too and told me to join. [My favorite part about Anime is] the stories," Chen said. The club also discussed an upcoming Anime Club holiday party where they will watch an anime together and play games. *Photo by M. Ballard*

Put On A Show

Students share their culture at the KIVA concert

A fan-favorite, the annual KIVA concert on Nov. 20 drew crowds from all different social groups, races, and religions. The KIVA concert also raised awareness for countries less fortunate than the United States. In the past, the KIVA concert ended the KIVA Awareness Week. Although the week-long event was discontinued, the KIVA concert was here to stay. Students like Omar Ruiz Gonzalez (11) attended the concert to support the performers and learn more about the world.

"I like the concert because I went for Annabella, but I also went to know other cultures and other music. I think it's cool because you can get to know other people and other cultures and it's interesting," Gonzalez said.

Some of the acts at the concert included a Bollywood dance from the South Asian Student Association and Ethiopian dances.

"My favorite part was the Ethiopian dances because I thought it had a lot going on, and it was really interesting to watch. I think it's important because it lets people express themselves and their culture and where they come from. There's not a lot of culture at this school, so it's nice to see different cultures," Elim Hiyabu (12) said.

Beyond the engaging performances, the KIVA concert reminded the audience of the things they take for granted living in the United States.

"We are extremely fortunate in the U.S. and we have access to incredible opportunities that are unfathomable in other areas of the world. I believe that by giving back, we are helping improve the lives of others who aren't as fortunate as we are. KIVA helps us make change with actions that seem so small but have such an incredible impact," Sanjana Vookanti (12) said.

To The Beat Of The Drums Together, Leul Dawit (12) and Eyosias Lemma (11) perform a traditional Ethiopian dance at the KIVA concert on Nov. 20. "[My favorite part was] definitely performing in front of people and being able to show everyone what Ethiopians could do," Dawit said. The Ethiopian dance was one of the larger performances of the concert. *Photo by L. La Frombois*

Performing Proud At The KIVA Concert Neesheeta Kakkar (10) holds a pose during the Bollywood dance on Nov. 20. "I like dancing, and I am also proud of my culture. I liked performing, but everyone else had really cool performances too," Kakkar said. The group dance was a mash-up of boys and girls from the South Asian Student Association. *Photo by L. La Frombois*

Rhythm Of Your Heart Passionately, Anabella Arocha Fernandez (12) sings at the KIVA concert. "I was invited to audition for the KIVA concert and I was more than delighted. It was the opportunity to share with the people of my school a part of my Latin culture and I found the purpose of the event very beautiful," Arocha Fernandez said. Arocha Fernandez sang "Vivir Mi Vida" by Marc Anthony. *Photo by L. La Frombois*

Certified Expert

Three students pass the CSWE certification exam on Dec. 9

Excellence And Innovation Zachary Fitzjarrell (10) is one of only eight students who have passed the Certified SOLIDWORKS Expert (CSWE) certification exam. "To be honest, I turned the monitor away from me. I was sitting there for like two minutes and then I finally turned it around. I actually said four cuss words after I saw it. What the best thing was what that I got the highest score out of the three of us that day, and I'm also the youngest in the state. I have a lot more to do, I have more to grow on, the E is just the tip of the iceberg. There's a lot more underneath, so I just have to keep working," Fitzjarrell said. Fitzjarrell took six exams total before the CSWE. *Photo by M. Ballard*

Relief In The Testing Room Jack Wicklund (11), Hayden Schlichting (11), and Zachary Fitzjarrell (10) proudly hold their CSWE certificates. "It was a feeling of relief because I was qualified and able to take at the end of last year. I didn't pass then and I was just a couple questions short, but I was mainly taking it then just to see what was on it. I was relieved to take it this time and get them all done and out of the way," Wicklund said. Wicklund wanted to be a mechanical engineer in the future. *Photo courtesy of B. Nuebel*

Where I Want 2 Be

NeXus enjoys its last meeting and reflects on their impact

Bridging The Gap At the last NeXus meeting, Mr. Shannon Cobb admires a signed picture from the club members. "If you want to change culture in the building, you can't do it from the top down. You have to grab students and get them to integrate together because if you don't, then these really good ideas get lost because you don't have that bridge to get kids to share ideas and do things together," Cobb said. *Photo by M. Ballard*

Make An Impact Madison Devries (11) stands with NeXus leaders Maleeha Shah (11) and Elyse Sommer (11) at the Dec. 11 meeting. "I learned how to use my voice and make an impact in freshman's lives by being their support while they're learning how to do high school. It pushed me out of my comfort zone and has helped me become a better person overall in the sense of supporting and encouraging others," Devries said. *Photo by M. Ballard*

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