



THE DEVIL'S HERALD

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AG CLUBS

Art Society composes art with meaning

By
Meredith Haas
Staff Writer

Imagine having so little, and still losing so much, but the one thing that might turn your year around is a painted portrait of yourself. Children in Haiti will be receiving portraits of themselves in April from Art Society, something they would not receive any other day.

A total of 21 portraits will be painted by Art Society members and artists at Avon Grove, and it will be for a good reason.

Together, 15 Art Society members and six art students of Ms. Deleguardia have teamed up to provide meaningful art to children that will enhance lives. Ms. Martorello is the leader of this project which is run through the Memory Project.

Ms. Martorello found this project through her art group, which is called the No Name Art Group. They have also provided other projects to Art Society like the Earth Day rocks that were painted in the 2016-17 school year.

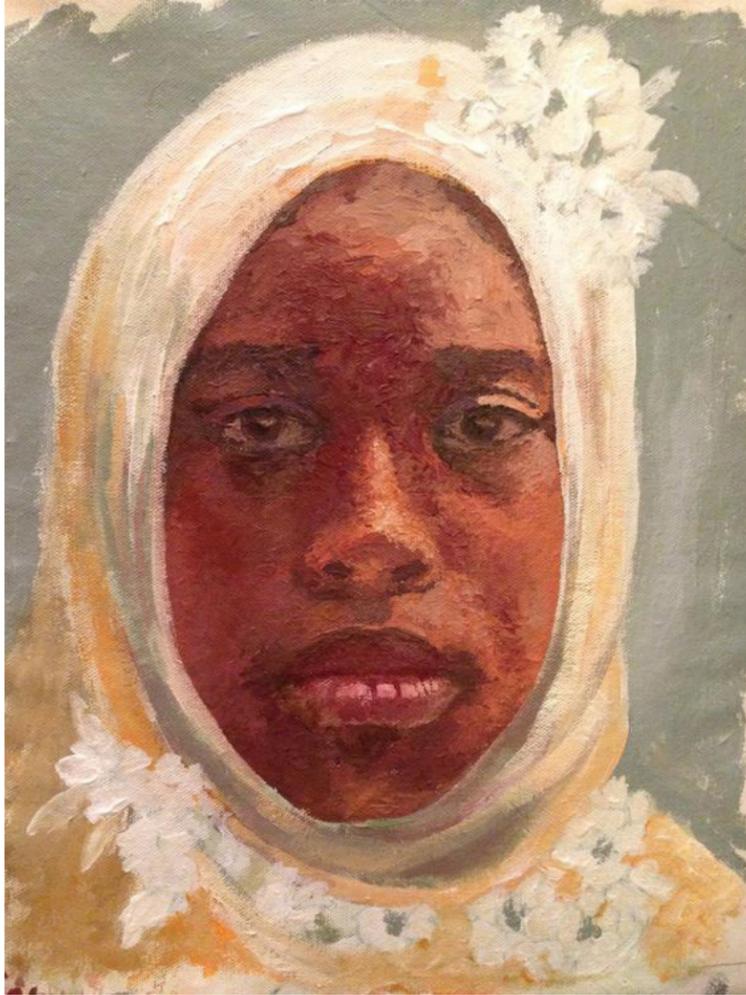
The portraits will be due April 2, 2018. Artists are preparing now, figuring out what their designs will be, and how they'll draw their portraits.

The Memory Project is based in Wisconsin, but involves youth around the world. The organization asks teachers and students to provide spectacular works of art that go to kids all over the world who have faced a lot of challenges.

During every I/E, Art Society members work on their portraits. Many are still in the first stages of their paintings.

"It looks robotic right now, and I'm hoping the reduction comes out better. It is my first time drawing a face," Art Society member Kyra VanVoorhees said.

What she means by robotic is that she has to lay out so many sections of the face with shapes, so it



- Photo courtesy of Ms. Martorello
Ms. Martorello's 2016 memory portrait of a Tanzanian girl. Members of the Art Society are working on portraits of Haitian children this year.

doesn't look like a face at all. In order for VanVoorhees and others to get the dimensions correct, they have to begin with simple shapes and shading.

With time those robot looking pictures will transform into the young children in Haiti. The faces painted will resemble them in the best way possible.

The final projects will look like the pictures that have been provided by the Memory Project association. Each artist has been provided a 12-inch by 12-inch picture of the child they're painting.

Watching these transformations is what makes the process so amazing. Pencil outlines turn into sketches, which develop into many shades. Those many pencil marks then take a new form when paints are added, whether it be water color, acrylic, or oil paints.

Artists are allowed to take artistic license by creating new backgrounds, colors, or changing a child's hair.

Some students last year painted their child green or orange. This is taking a large artistic license, but the portraits still look like the kids. This year, changes may be more refined so that only small things can be changed, such as the background or hair type.

As students swipe their pencil on the paper and brush their paints across the canvas, one has to think that there is more to this than just painting a child. Not only are these students painting a child, but a child in need.

These children are not from orphanages, but from a poverty-stricken country. These portraits may bring some kind of brightness to their day, whether it be a small smile or chuckle when they first see their painted portrait.

"Emotionally, it is touching. We are making art for a reason," Ms. Martorello said with a smile on her face.

That is it, making art for a reason is why Art Society is involved in this project for a second year. Every hour that is used out of the artists' personal hours will be put into mastering these portraits.

SEE ART SOCIETY PAGE 3

COMMUNITY

Future of Landenberg store is uncertain

By
Anton Bilski
Editor

The Landenberg Store is a historical jewel to any Landenberger, or just anyone who has been there. But after it's closure in April 2015, many have wondered if anyone would be willing enough to take it over.

The store was first leased by Mary and Tom O'Connors, in 2005, and was immediately struck down with violations. A pre-operating inspection revealed that the septic system was overflowing, and so 2,000 gallons of sewage were pumped clearing out the issue, according to the *Chester County Press*.

But then again in 2011, the same violation occurred, but this time it made it all the way to the Chester County Health Department. An inspection was held and they found that there was untreated raw sewage, and they received nine sewage violations in total.

However, according to Mrs. Beth Skalish, co-owner of the building, the septic tank was replaced in 2012 and has been approved by both the township and the county.

The Skalish's have received many offers from many potential buyers, but have not found the one that meets the needs of the community.

"There have been many inter-



-Photo by Anton Bilski
The exterior of the once prominent and bustling Landenberg Store.

ested. But many of those buyers didn't fit the model. We have held back due to feedback from the community who have wanted it [the store] to stay the centerpiece of the community," said Skalish.

The different types of store ideas that have been presented were ideas like an antique shop or an office/business location for another business, but the Skalish's would like to preserve the original store concept.

"They'll [community] be excited to check it out. They are anxious for it to re-open," said Skalish.

But the store hasn't just sat there collecting dust.

The entire building has been

thoroughly cleaned, flooring removed and replaced with new commercial grade wood flooring, new countertops, and new paint. They also re-painted the exterior.

Overall, the Skalishs want to bring back the nostalgia the store had for Landenberg residents and all of those who've parked their cars and picked up some candy and sandwiches.

"We're hoping we bring it back to be the center of the community."

I/E PERIOD

Style Swap raises awareness

By
Stephanie Paglia
Staff Writer

Some people say fashion hurts, but a group of girls proves that being trendy can have a healing and beneficial effect.

The Style Swap I/E puts a positive twist on the month of December. This month they introduced their participation in Dressember, an organization that raises awareness for sex trafficking and slavery.

The Dressember organization was established in 2013 by a group of women who have received \$1.5 million in donation in the last three years.

Dressember makes their cause heard by having women wear dresses everyday in December to show dignity and freedom. Men can also get involved by wearing a tie everyday and everyone has the opportunity to donate.

Zoe Frantz heard about the Dressember organization and met with the other cabinet members and they decided to join the cause. The Style Swap team held a meeting with their I/E and others to share the purpose of Dressember and how Avon Grove is getting involved.

"A dress might not be able to change the world, but the people who wear them can," stated soph-

omore Zoe Frantz.

The style swap fashionistas and those interested pledged to wear a dress (or a tie) everyday in December.

"I am wearing a dress to help end slavery and sex trafficking in foreign countries," said participant Danielle Caprarola.

Wearing a dress everyday was not required, but students and others showed support by donating to the Dressember program.

The style swap gang understands that not everyone owns 31 dresses, so to tie their I/E into Dressember they would swap dresses every week.

Those participating also did not have to wear a dress everyday; some wore the Dressember pin to show their support.

Those involved had the opportunity to win prizes as well. If a participant wore a dress/tie for 20 or more days, he/she could get first pick in the next style swap.

A mani-pedi was also offered as an incentive for those who donated on the Dressember website.

There is always next year to join the cause and wear a dress, but you can still donate at <https://support.dressemberfoundation.org/team/style-swap>.

AG CLUBS

Tri-M celebrates 25th Santa Breakfast

By
Ashley Murphy
Staff Writer

Community members walked through the lane of candy canes to the Avon Grove High School cafeteria on a snowy Saturday morning. Friendly greeters awaiting their arrival gave the participants all of the necessary information so that they could make the most out of their time at the Santa Breakfast.

After breakfast goers were seated, a server came to take drink and meal orders, and then a hot breakfast of pancakes and sausage appeared at their tables.

While all of this was happening, live music was being played by members of the Tri-M music honors society.

This is what it was like to be at the Santa Breakfast, Saturday, December 9. The early wintry weather accentuated the festive mood to greet Kris Kringle.

Santa Breakfast is an event where people can come to get a hot breakfast, watch live musical acts from students in the Tri-M music program, get their faces painted, take pictures with Santa, and enjoy a fun holiday atmosphere.

The event has been happening for 25 years and has become a tradition to many families in the Avon Grove community.

"We love coming to this event. It is a tradition to come every year," and "we would absolutely come back, our children love being here," were responses from many families.

The children said they love getting the reindeer food, listening to holiday music, and, of course, meeting Santa Claus.

Megan Gunnell, a student leader of the event, said, "I love raising money for the music program. I love seeing how the students help out and work together to make this event happen."

All the proceeds from the event go to a foundation called the Make Music Happen Fund. The Make Music Happen fund provides students in our community with the opportunity to be involved in the music programs at Avon Grove, who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford it.

Many families who attend and AGHS students volunteering said they attend and participate to donate to this cause.

They also love seeing how the students work together to make



-Photo by Ashley Murphy

Tri-M members Siobahn Hall (left), Adrianna Barnett (middle), and Camille Fancy (right), perform during the Santa Breakfast on Saturday, December 9.

this event happen.

One family said they love the student's involvement and their younger kids like to see the high schoolers participating in the event.

This event is fun for kids of all ages and kids have said they love coming and can't wait to come back next year.

It is not only a fun event for families to come to and enjoy. It

also gives back to students in the community, giving them the opportunity to be involved in the arts at our schools.

HOLIDAYS

Last-minute shoppers can still find great gifts

By
Grant Folkert
Staff Writer

As Christmas approaches, many students find themselves a little behind the ball when it comes to buying presents for loved ones. Some are too busy with paid work, some have work for AP classes, and others are filling out college applications.

Assuming you've already decided that you want to get a gift for said person, think about their hobbies. Are they a music enthusiast? Reader? Sports fan? Gamer?

It may seem obvious, but you want to get a relevant gift—not a book they won't read or a gift card for Bed, Bath & Beyond.

If you already know a lot about the person's interests, then you don't have a lot to worry about. The trick is finding the best gift for their interests without giving them something they already have.

Buying gifts for music lovers is easier if you know their music tastes. iTunes gift cards are classic and allow them to make their own choice, but CDs are more physically sentimental, if you're both okay with ancient technology.

If the recipient owns a turntable, vinyl records are a great gift

worth between \$20 and \$40. A less expensive and more personal option is to gift your old music, whether CDs or a vinyl record.

Musicians could always use a new set of strings, reeds, or an effects pedal, whichever is applicable for their instrument. If there is an aspiring musician in your life, you could always help them get started with an instrument they've always wanted to play. Squier starter kits are good for beginning guitarists and bassists.

If you already know a lot about the person's interests, then you don't have a lot to worry about.

Buying a gift for a sports fan is always easy, with nearly unlimited options of paraphernalia for their favorite team. Jerseys and other clothing make good gifts, but so do mugs, posters, flags, bumper stickers, the list goes on.

For someone who avidly plays video games, it might be difficult to choose a game that they would like. However, there are many safer options including gift cards and

peripherals.

If they use a PC, Steam gift cards are a great choice, giving the recipient thousands of games to use it on. If they use a gaming console, it may be easier to buy them a subscription for Xbox Live or Playstation Network.

If you are in the market for kids' toys, Nerf foam dart guns and Legos are still selling hot. Both are definitely timeless, with several generations of children enjoying them. Most of us can remember not wanting books or gift cards when we were kids!

What about gift shopping for someone who doesn't have a serious hobby?

This year, some of the best selling electronic gifts on Amazon are Amazon Echo products, including the Amazon Fire TV Stick. If that would be over the top, you can always consider a relevant gift card or a new set of earbuds.

While buying a gift for someone is a nice gesture, always remember that it isn't the purpose of the holidays. What's really important is to appreciate your family, friends, coworkers, and other acquaintances.

Buying a gift isn't the only way to show that you value them. Try a random act of kindness.

COMMUNITY

AGIS holds 26th annual Country Christmas

By
Lara McKinnon
Staff Writer

At 8:15a.m. on Sunday, December 2, Avon Grove Intermediate School was a blur of colors and activity as vendors came to set up for the 26th annual Country Christmas. By 9:00a.m., students, families, and friends began to arrive.

Country Christmas is an annual event organized by the Avon Grove PTA, where vendors, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and other organizations and businesses come to sell art, crafts, baked goods, and much more. All of the profits made by Country Christmas will benefit the PTA.

While there, families got the chance to enjoy performances by groups of students from the music programs in the intermediate school, as well as spectacular dance performances from local dance schools. Performances

included selections of Christmas songs by a small group of string orchestra students, and a performance of the ballet, *The Nutcracker*.

As well as entertainment and Christmas shopping, attendees could try their luck to win the 50/50 raffle or one of over 60 themed raffle baskets.

As part of Country Christmas, students from Penn London Elementary and Avon Grove Intermediate schools worked together in their classrooms to create themed raffle baskets

Penn London and AGIS students worked in their classrooms to create themed raffle baskets.

such as a movie night basket with DVDs and instant popcorn, or a sports basket with different sports equipment.

At 3:00p.m., the raffle buckets were collected and tickets were drawn, sending a few lucky families home with their prizes.

Business owners and vendors packed up their tables and chairs and unsold products, many of them saying they would be back.

HOLIDAYS

Teachers share traditions for holiday break

By
Luke Williams
Staff Writer

While traveling on vacation, have you ever bumped into someone you knew, like maybe a teacher? Was it weird seeing them out in public? It's almost like we forget that they have lives outside of school.

However, they do have families and traditions, just like the

students.

To start off the holiday break, a few staff and teachers said they will be enjoying a cookie exchange. Cookie exchanges vary in form, but most ask you to bring 2-3 dozen cookies to the event.

Participants will leave with a variety of cookies.

"It's lots of fun and a great way to either meet your neighbors or enjoy family and friendship during the holidays. This will be my first

cookie exchange, ever," said Ms. Cain, an instructional aid at AGHS. "I'm so excited to start a new tradition with my family."

Mrs. Sorensen, a special education teacher at AGHS, is attending a Pollyanna gift exchange. Each person brings a gift, usually under \$10, and then participants either go around the room or roll the dice, but you get to leave with a different gift than you brought. The fun is in the exchange.

"Pollyanna is so much fun," she said, "especially when people exchange old gifts or ones they make themselves, that will make others laugh."

Mr. Coffey, a special education teacher, is planning to start a new family tradition this year. "This year I'll be cutting down my first Christmas tree with my family," he said.

Since most teachers have children, many of them are planning

on taking their kids to see *Disney on Ice*, while Mr. Gregory will be taking his children to the dentist. "It's a perfect time to go to the dentist, since we're all off together," he said.

Believe it or not, teachers are just like us. They enjoy family traditions, will be serving Christmas dinner in their homes and share the holidays with those they love.

I/E PERIOD

Give a helping paw with Animal Aid I/E

By
Penelope Scheck
Staff Writer

Many can agree that pets make people happier and bring families together. Animal Aid I/E helps bring the joy of animals to families everyday, and help animals in need. With the help of Avon Grove students, they volunteer, donate and spread awareness about all different kinds of pets, and how you can help make a difference in their lives.

Around the holidays, many organizations go out of their way to contribute to the animals that don't have homes and families to spend them with.

Animal Aid is making blankets this December.

"We got our orders of fabric so we can sew and put the blankets together," said director Ms. Hewitt.

Christmas time isn't the only

time the I/E makes crafts and supplies for the dogs in shelters. Every I/E cycle the students make dog collars, blankets, and different toys for dogs that don't have them.

Homemade toys and collars aren't the only contributions the I/E makes. Twice every month, students meet at Faithful Friends animal shelter in Wilmington. This gives students a chance to volunteer and interact with different kinds of animals, and give them the attention they deserve.

"Students don't even have to be apart of Animal Aid," Hewitt stated. "They just have to let me know ahead of time if they are interested and they can come."

Not only do the students go to the animals, the animals come to them. About once a week or once every other week, different kinds of dogs come in during the I/E period.

"Sometimes we bring in therapy dogs, pitbulls, and service dogs," Hewitt said.

The students learn from these dog owners. The owners teach them to not believe stereotypes about certain breeds, and the many things dogs can have a positive impact on.

"We also just bring dogs in for fun, to teach, and as a stress outlet," Hewitt said.

If you're interested in being apart of Animal Aid, talk to Ms. Hewitt about joining next cycle. To view the dates of the shelter visits, join the Animal Aid Schoology page for reminders.

"After one more I/E cycle, we will be approved and become an official club," Hewitt said.

"It really is a great program to be apart of, and you learn a lot and also have fun," Animal Aid member Sam Nuzzaci stated.



-Photo by Penelope Scheck

Animal Aid I/E brings in different kinds of dogs to inform, teach, and provide a stress outlet for students.

AG CLUBS

Leo Club helps others

By
Brendan Thomas
Staff Writer

The festive season is seen universally as a time for generosity and giving, and generosity and giving is what Leo Club is all about. That makes this time of year a busy one for the community service organization.

Leo Club, sponsored by the local Avon Grove Lions Club, works all school year long to raise money for local charities, including, but not limited to, the Ronald McDonald House and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

What has Leo Club been up to this holiday season?

In late November, Leo Club organized a Thanksgiving Day Food Drive, encouraging students to bring non-perishable goods for those in need.

Then it worked with the Humanitarian Club to organize another canned food drive, which kicked off in early December.

This month, Leo Club also helped the Avon Grove Lions Club in their annual Christmas tree sale outside of Sweet Peas in Jennersville.

Members made holiday cards for residents of the Luther House, and, alongside Avon Grove Char-



-Photo courtesy of Anna Butler

Avon Grove High School and Charter School Leo Club members volunteered at the Luther House.

ter School Leo Club members, volunteered at the senior home.

"We do a lot for the Luther House," club advisor Mrs. Auerbach says. "It's low-income so not only do we volunteer there, we also donate supplies that they wouldn't be able to afford."

Chelsea Kneeder, a member of Leo Club, recently organized an Animal Shelter Drive. Students can bring in pet food, toys and other supplies which will be donated to the Brandywine Valley SPCA.

"This season is all about giving to those who don't have much," said Kneeder. "Helping out with the Shelter Drive will really change those animals lives. It doesn't matter how big or small the donation is, anything helps."

What is next for Leo Club? "Once springtime comes," Mrs. Auerbach explained, "and the weather gets warmer, we'll start doing roadside cleanups off of local highways."

AG CLUBS

Cancer Society provides hope

By
Olivia Kunitsky
Staff Writer

High school is about being apart of experiences that you will always remember with people you will never forget.

Helping the world while doing this is even better.

Cancer Society is a humanitarian club at Avon Grove that sends all of its profits to the B+ Foundation.

This organization gives financial support to families that have children with cancer. It also funds childhood cancer research.

This foundation was founded in memory of Andrew McDonough. He was a 14-year-old from Wilmington, Delaware who was diagnosed with AML Leukemia 48 hours after he had played in a soccer championship game.

He was diagnosed on January 27, 2007, and he wasn't expected to make it through the night.

Miraculously, he fought cancer for 167 days and passed away on July 14, 2007.

His father, Joe McDonough, founded the B+ Foundation to help others that are in a situation similar to the one his family had been in. Carly Bergstein is the B+ Program Director.

The officers of Cancer Society are seniors Lindsay Arnold, Holden Campagna, Grace Carr-Harkins, Jared Finch, Meredith Haas, Roni Reisinger, and Abby Welcher, and juniors Abby Suplee and Olivia Weiler.

"It's special to know that I'm giving back to a cause that hits home for me. My grandfather and a very close family friend have been greatly affected by cancer," officer Meredith Haas explained.

This year, the club plans on doing a breakfast in January at the Sawmill Grill in Oxford to raise money for the B+ Foundation.

For the upcoming holidays, they plan to do a toy drive, which they stated was very successful for their club last year.

Near the end of the last school year, they did a zumba-athon that also raised money for the B+ Foundation, and they may plan on doing one again.

"Zumba was so uplifting, kid-friendly, and fun. It also raised a lot of money. The founder of the B+ Foundation, Joe McDonough, came. It was an awesome night," commented Haas.

It was an awesome night indeed; the event raised around \$2,000.

AG CLUBS

Mural creates color for social awareness

ART SOCIETY FROM PAGE 1

Some students find the pressure in the project even if it's their second year. Avery Slezak stated, "I've never done anything like this before, and there's a lot more pressure with doing something new."

Many artists find a new challenge astounding but startling at the same time. The pressure put on by painting a child perfectly is a lot, but many Art Society members are up for the challenge.

Some may say that four months to do a project like this may be too long, but the Memory Project is not all that Art Society is up to. Along with this project is a mural in the cafeteria.

The mural in the cafeteria is a brand new one, started by Art Society members Olivia Noga and Ally Connelly. The message behind it is, "What makes you feel alive?"

That is a question that not many high school students may ask themselves, and that's exactly why it will be the new mural inspiration. To make it interactive, the members have put up submission boxes so that people could answer the question.

"We are doing it so people can get to know those around them," Connelly exclaimed.

The submissions will be incorporated into the mural itself,

where the words will be placed under each block of artwork. Each block will be a 12-inch by 12-inch piece of paper where every member will put their artwork on top.

The mural in full will be an infinity sign of the seasons. The first season will be winter and it will feed into spring, then summer, and then fall.

"I like the color feel and I want something impactful," Ms. Martorello said about the mural.

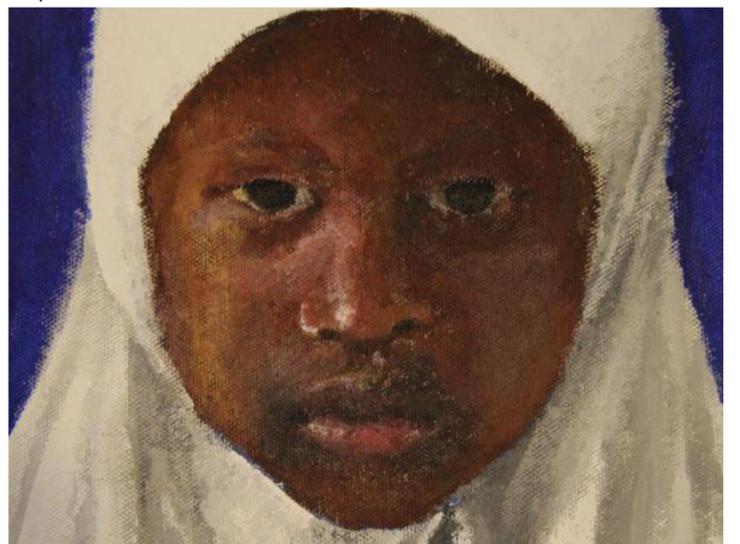
Together, the Memory Project and the mural in the cafeteria has brought the Art Society even closer, and they hope they are making a positive impact on the world.

"It is nice to know we may be helping those around us," Ms. Martorello said.

The Art Society raises money every year for people and organizations with their art. The impact is what makes art worth it.

Through the Memory Project, the mural, and the annual art exhibition, there will be much money to raise, and more art to pump out.

Art Society will work every day as a team as they brush their paint on the canvas for the young children in Haiti, and hopefully the thoughtful portraits will bring a smile to at least one child's face.



-Photo courtesy of Ms. Martorello

Avery Slezak worked hard on her first 2016 Tanzania memory portrait. This year members of Art Society will create portraits of Haitian children.