

# Pullman High School Clubs Find Success within the Confines of the Pandemic

*Samantha Schertenleib, LMS/PHS Assistant Principal*

Last year, the pandemic removed the “typical” high school club and activity experience. Few clubs and activities met at all and those that did, gathered over Zoom. Fortunately, this year has brought a welcomed return to the typical club and activity experience and our 36 clubs and activities are in full swing.

Three of our advisors; Johanna Brown, Audrey Woodard, and Liv Craine would like to share some of their clubs’ successes with you.

**Pullman High School Knowledge Bowl** is having a great season! We have a team of 24, the largest in the Inland Northwest League and both our top Varsity (Cptn. E. McCubbin, I. Frye, C. Johnson, A. Fu, E. Clark, & V. Lin) and top JV (K. Hampson, E. Du, L. Mooney, J. Tang, & N. Haugen) remain undefeated. We have two more district meets before regionals in Spokane in the spring. (Coach: Johanna Brown)

The **PHS Black Student Union** has spent the fall discussing issues of inequality and microaggressions in schools. For November’s Native American Heritage month, they wrote and posted a Land Acknowledgement for the school to use to remember the history of the Palouse people. We welcomed in Charice DeGuzman, MS, MHCA, MHP, DCR, to talk about the stress and mental health difficulties that young people of color face. Currently the club is working on hosting and producing a series of podcasts and activities to honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other human rights activists. (Advisors: Audrey Woodard & Johanna Brown)

The **PHS Computer Science Club** is roaring into action! We are currently preparing to attend the Eastern Washington SkillsUSA in computer programming. We have about 20 students in the club coding in Java, Python, and C. This spring, we hope to go to the WSU Crimson Code and welcome Kenji Yamamoto from Schweitzer to help us see what programming in industry is like. (Advisor: Johanna Brown)

The **PHS Science Bowl** Team has had 5 years of making it all the way to the national competition! We are currently preparing for regionals which will be held virtually per the US Department of Energy. Two seniors are hoping to place at nationals, Euan McCubbin and Yiqing Du and lead the team in various other national competitions which PHS will be hosting or attending such as the National Chemistry Olympiad (hosted by University of Idaho Department of Chemistry!), USA Biology Olympiad, and the F=ma Physics Olympiad Exam. (Coach: Johanna Brown)

**Youth in STEM (YIS):** YIS is in its second year, and has already grown exponentially. YIS is a student-led effort to bring STEM outreach activities to students at the PSD elementary schools. So far this year, YIS students have planned events making slime and investigating the five senses, building boats and investigating buoyancy, and

explored evolution and bird beaks. We have partnered with Kamiak and Sunnyside and look forward to reaching the other PSD schools soon!

**Knitting Club:** Knitting Club has only just started, but the president, Olivia King, has partnered with the Community Action Center to donate scarves for this winter season. So far we’ve had two meetings with both experienced and brand new knitters working together on projects. The scarves are coming together.

**Math Team:** The Math Team is running full steam this year! We have had an awesome influx of new freshmen members. Members have so far competed in one international competition (Caribou Cup), three nationwide competitions (American Math Competition, Arete Labs Math Madness, Rocket City Math League), and one Washington-based competition (Math Is Cool). Some of our students earned medals at Math Is Cool (Aditya Bose-Bandyopadhyay) and both teams placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the region.


**Environmental Club:** The Environmental Club has passionately been working on environmental issues both large and small this year. We have carved pumpkin homes for squirrels and painted bird houses, as well as worked on acquiring grants to support the school district in moving to electric vehicles. Our current project is working with TRES to bring plastic bag recycling to PHS. The group is also working with the coordinator of the Jefferson Elementary Community Garden, in hopes of planting and maintaining vegetable beds in the spring.

As you can see, our PHS students are finding success from art club to yearbook. They are once again being given the opportunity to grow and work toward success in their areas of interest. As our school year progresses, we look forward to sharing more of their successes with you.

PULLMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT PRESENTS


## HIGHLY CAPABLE PROGRAM INFORMATION NIGHT

This event will be held virtually.



There will be videos posted to the district website on Tuesday, March 1 that will explain the program and referral process. The videos will be viewable by the public until Friday, April 1.

Questions? Please contact us at:  
 ✉ Email: [instructionalprograms@psd267.org](mailto:instructionalprograms@psd267.org)  
 ☎ Phone: (509) 332-3144



# Empowering Our Students to Be Themselves

*Amanda Tanner, School Board Member, District 5*

I am thrilled to share with our community an opportunity being offered for our Lincoln Middle School students. A newly added extracurricular club, the Gender and Sexual Awareness (GSA) Club. This club creates a safe space, where everyone belongs. They welcome students who identify as LGBTQIA+, as well as their straight allies, and any other students who want to learn more or participate in a supportive community. The club, advised by LMS Teacher Madison Dissmore, aims to have conversations about identity, gender, equal rights, and social issues that are important to middle school students. In addition, they explore history and activism, and discuss personal struggles and successes in a nurturing, accepting, and safe space. This helps our students develop the ability to build connections and community, at a time when they are truly starting to experience some independence.

Some of the specific things the members of the GSA club are doing is learning about LGBT+ history, and talking about queer media in films, shows, and books. They also play games and discuss how they can help make Lincoln Middle School a friendlier environment for themselves and other LGBTQIA+ students. Students in the GSA Club also have the opportunity to provide feedback on trainings for the adults who work with students to teach them how to be better allies. A typical GSA meeting, which is led by students, can vary depending on what the students want to focus on.

Sometimes they are working towards a specific goal, like a food drive, or learning about neopronouns (a neopronoun is a gender-neutral pronoun which doesn't carry any kind of association with a particular gender, such as they, sie, or ze). Other times, the students just want to hang out in a safe space, make new friends, and be themselves. Ms. Dissmore has really allowed for the students to have the leadership and control over the club. The club is currently focusing on partnering with the Builders' Club to organize a food and supply drive for Inland Oasis.

The way I learned about the GSA Club, is by the student members presenting to the School Board at our meeting on December 8, 2021. I was so inspired and impressed by these young people. They were very well spoken, confident, and excited while communicating to a screen full of adult faces during our regularly scheduled zoom meeting. I would invite anyone that is interested to view this portion of the recorded meeting on the Pullman School District YouTube channel. The students start talking at about 18 minutes into the meeting.

I appreciate Ms. Dissmore, and LMS Principal, Cameron Grow, for supporting our students in new and evolving avenues. In these unprecedented times, I am grateful that there is a focus at our middle school on teaching kindness and belonging. It is so important to give our students, at every age, a voice. In this diverse world, they can teach us so much.

*The opinions expressed in Board Reports are those of individual school board members and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or views of the board as a whole or of Pullman Public Schools.*



**CHILD FIND 2021-2022**  
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING

**Who?** Children - Birth through 5 years of age who are living in the Pullman School District. If your family is living in a temporary situation, you may contact the district in which you are currently staying for a screening.

**What?** This screening is an opportunity to identify, locate, and evaluate children who might have a disability and to address potential concerns.

**When?** Friday mornings during the 2021-2022 school year:

- August 20
- September 3
- October 1
- November 5
- January 7
- February 4
- March 4
- April 1
- May 4

All screenings will be held at the Community Child Care Center/Head Start building at 530 NW Larry Street, Pullman, WA

For more information or to schedule an appointment please contact:  
Pullman School District's Instructional Programs Office at 509-332-3144

The Pullman School District Board of Directors and the Pullman School District shall provide equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities programs without regard to race, religion, creed, color, national origin, age, honorably-discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation (including gender expression or identity), marital status, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, participation in the Boy Scouts of America or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. The district will provide equal access to school facilities to the Boy Scouts of America and all other designated youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society. District programs will be free from sexual harassment.

The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Civil Rights Coordinator and Title IX Coordinator, Assistant Superintendent, (509) 332-3144, and Section 504 Coordinator, Director of Special Services, (509) 332-3144, 240 SE Dexter Street, Pullman, WA 99163. Applicants with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations in the application process by contacting the Personnel Coordinator at (509) 332-3584.



**ENROLLMENT NOW OPEN**  
for 2022-2023  
ENROLL ONLINE TODAY!

**REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR ENROLLMENT**

- ✓ Documentation of Student Age
- ✓ Medically Verified Certificate of Immunization Status or Certificate of Immunization Exemption
- ✓ Ages & Stages Questionnaire (Kindergarten Only)

Please visit our website to enroll your student or for more information about enrolling your student for the 2022-2023 school year at [www.pullmanschools.org/enrollment](http://www.pullmanschools.org/enrollment)

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