

Community Service Opportunities in Winter Park

By Ahana Manchanda and Sophia Fletcher

Community service is a core aspect of Winter Park High School. Through this students are able to engage in the community outside of school and meet the requirements for applying for the Bright Futures Scholarship. Given the significance of community service, it is important to know where to begin. One of the most common questions asked among students is how do they know if an activity is even a service or not? Where would they find these services and how do they record them? Overall these questions can be answered online on the Winter Park High School website underneath the tab 'Student Services' and then "Community Service Info". Here, students can find the proper documents needed for community service, such as a proposal form and a service log as well as an entire document of the various community service opportunities available in Winter Park and Orlando. Students can also reach out to staff and teachers like Ms. Mora, Mr. Blackmon, and Mr. Brielmaier who can give students critical information on what is necessary to complete said service. You can find these teachers in rooms: Ms. Mora (109), Mr. Blackmon (262), and Mr. Brielmaier (377).

Another common question students ask is, "How many hours do I need?" Students need to meet a 75-hour requirement to be applicable for Medallion scholarships, and a 100-hour requirement to be applicable for the Bright Futures Scholarship. Teachers like Ms. Brice, the organizer of the BETA club, have the perfect response to plan your hours. She suggests that students should do a minimum of 10 hours per semester over the course of their four years. It gives them 80 hours, which leaves them with 20 hours to complete over the summers. Many students also prefer to complete their service hours during the summers since they have more time on their hands.

Ms. Mora, the college and career counselor, goes on to inform us that it is vital to note that many scholarship donors want to see community service hours on students' applications and resumes, as they want to see what you are doing to help your community. There are various service opportunities offered by different organizations and clubs at school itself, such as Key Club, Beta Club, and National Honor Society. Food banks, homeless shelters, virtual opportunities to play games with children who are in care, spending time with hospital patients, and volunteering at museums and libraries in Winter Park are only a few of the opportunities available to students in Winter Park wishing to lend a helping hand to our community.

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Ms. Kurz: The only teacher at Winter Park with her own day of the week

By Jackie Beattie and Mikey McCamy

If you know what Kurzday is, then you are likely one of the many students who have had the opportunity to learn from Ms. Kurz, one of the wonderful IB English teachers at Winter Park. Eleventh graders of the past and present gush about her and her teaching. She cares for her students like no other and goes above and beyond to ensure their success. The method in which Ms. Kurz runs her classroom lets her students know they can count on her to gain knowledge and build positive relationships with her. She is a true student advocate.

Ms. Kurz always knew she wanted to work with kids, but she "wasn't ready to go into teaching right after college." She worked in both the Entertainment Department at Disney and the Film and Photography Department at Discovery Cove. However, she found her true calling while working in the Child Life Department at Arnold Palmer Hospital. Ms. Kurz states, "that was when I realized that I had a real passion for working with kids." After substitute teaching at a few schools, she was hired at Winter Park and knew she was doing what she was meant to do.



As previously mentioned, Kurzday, which occurs every Thursday, is one of the many components of Ms. Kurz's teaching that enhances her students' learning. The origin of this tradition dates back to her second year of teaching when, unintentionally, her students made the "T" of Thursday look like a "K." "When I came back and expressed my frustrations with my students, they tried to ameliorate the situation by saying that they thought I deserved my own day and that we should celebrate it weekly," she says. The following week she stood outside her classroom with a bucket of candy and wished them a "Happy Kurzday" upon entry. Ms. Kurz said, "it was meant to be silly, but somehow it caught on." It's been going strong for sixteen years; all her students love it. Katherine Little, eleventh grade, specifically expressed her love for both Ms. Kurz and Kurzday. "It always brightens my day when I see her," exclaims Little; she appreciates the thoughtfulness behind the gesture but loves getting the candy too.

Ms. Kurz is a lover of reading and teaching, two activities in which she excels. Her favorite novel is *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austin, a true classic! To those who don't have a passion for reading yet, Ms. Kurz truly believes that "there is a book or author for everyone," so give it a chance.

A Student in Community Service - Amelie Halon

By Scarlett Griffin

As a high school student, personalized and accessible community service opportunities can be hard to come by. Amelie Halon, a 10th-grade Pre-IB student at Winter Park, shares one of her personal interests and how she is using that to help her community.

Amelie has a profound interest in the environment which is directly reflected in the community service she does. Community service can be even more effective and rewarding when aligned with one's personal interests or passions. Amelie shows a perfect example of this when she stated that her service on nature works for the team at the Orlando Science Center makes her feel that she is “..making a difference by showing others what they can do to protect the planet.”

Not only does Amelie enjoy taking initiative and leadership in her community through nature, but she also has fun while doing it. Amelie says that in her endeavors with the nature works team at the Orlando Science Center she has found much enjoyment in “..taking care of the animals and helping to teach kids about why and how they can protect the environment.” Through this community service, Amelie has built an abundance of important life skills including “team-building skills,” “leadership skills,” “..and problem-solving skills as well.” Working with a team of peers has helped Amelie build these skills, another essential factor for the greater effectiveness of one's community service.

For those like Amelie, with a strong initiative in taking care of the environment, a multitude of different options for volunteering can be found on the Orlando Science Center website. Just visit osc.org, click on the support tab, and you can find youth-oriented opportunities for volunteering under “Become a Volunteer”.

Whether you are interested in nature or another topic, there is always a community service option available. Providing tutoring, cleaning up a beach, helping little kids, working with animals, whatever it may be. Just be sure, like Amelie, that your community service is in alignment with your personal interests and passions!



IB Tunes—The best recommendations from the best students!

Octopus' Garden—The Beatles; Maddie Visconti

When You're With Him—Axel Gabi; Ella Jones

All Too Well (10 minute version) - Taylor Swift; Aaron Blatnoy

Beauty Behind the Madness—The Weekend; Ananya Marwah

Oh My God—Adele; Jayna Shah

Album: The Life of Pablo—Kanye West; Dylan Lim

Don't Change—INXS; Lesley Roberts



The Extended Essay

By Ava Loar

Of all the requirements for IB, it is common for students to dread the process of writing their extended essay the most. From developing a complex yet narrow question to finding appropriate sources, there are many components that make an extended essay frightening. According to some seniors and IB alumni, however, there are ways to make the extended essay simpler and less stressful.

Aleksandra Panic, alumni from the class of 2021, says accomplishing tasks on time is the “best recommendation” she can give to students in the process of writing their extended essay. Many other seniors who will graduate in 2022 mentioned procrastinating as a major mistake to avoid. William So recommends spending 5 minutes on a weekend or break to make a “work plan” to set yourself up for success. He also recommends reaching out to seniors who are almost done or are in the process of writing their extended essay, and says that any senior would be “glad to give you some pointers” and make the process far simpler.

Every senior and alumnus that was interviewed said that they had an interest in their topic prior to choosing it for their extended essay. For example, a graduating senior in the class of 2022, Darcy Zobel, said that she chose her topic because she “liked the subject of English” and “knew a lot about the specific book.” Aleksandra Panic said she chose her topic because of her family background and said that she found the topic that “really interested” her because of it. Most people start writing their extended essay during the summer of junior year, but Darcy Zobel says she would recommend “starting your EE as early as possible. Because the senior year is so busy, having a solid EE draft” would be the “best recommendation” that she could give any upcoming IB student.

In all, with the tips from people who have already written their extended essays, the process of this crucial step towards your IB diploma becomes simpler and less scary with only a few simple steps.



Skills for IB Success

By Deanna Davis

Now entering a time where studies, exams, and college consume life, one can start to lose themselves in the process. The stereotypical statements about IB students being overachieving perfectionists can take a toll as studies begin to come above health. Luckily, the IB program allows students to pick up skills along the way and adjust to be successful.

Since joining the IB Program as a coordinator and teacher, Mr. Blackmon believes that the program itself has changed his views on life. Seeing the potential of students, he believes that the program “really hones a student’s ability to critically think.” Mr. Blackmon also suggests that the program has allowed students to “take an introspective look at who they are.” With these skills acquired from the IB program, it becomes apparent to students that balance and critical thinking, two of the IB Learner Profile Traits, are needed attributes to come out of the IB Program successful.

Chloe Ubanan, a sophomore, speaks on the tolls the IB program has taken on her. She says that “Being in IB has made me a little overloaded with work.” Balancing school, 2 clubs, and chores at home has become quite stressful for her. But Chloe came up with a solution in case things get too hectic for her to handle, “I stop whatever I’m doing for a few minutes to relax.” She does this in a variety of ways such as, playing guitar, reading, or even as simple as eating a snack. Although pressured by her high expectations, she uses critical thinking skills to find ways to keep her balanced and to maintain her mental state.

Even though students can face some difficulties in the IB program, critically thinking and balancing your plate is key to keeping a great mental state and to become successful in the program.

Film Review: Elf

By Maddie Clark and Bridget Gizzi

With the holiday season upon us, holiday movies are playing and streaming everywhere. The only problem with this is: which to watch? We at the IB Newspaper decided to review one of our favorite holiday classics: Elf.

There are many reasons why people around the globe adore this film. Former Digital Video Production student Molly Ryan has a high regard for the movie and told us what stood out for her. She raved about Elf being one of the “greatest holiday classics ever made” when we asked her how she felt about it. Ryan claimed that “It is funny, entertaining, and it puts me in the holiday spirit.” She continued on to say that she “would recommend this movie to anyone who is looking for a good laugh!”

Another WPHS student, Kindell Welker has tons of positive feedback. She says “the movie excels in



costumes because they are very realistic and portray the characters in a very fitting manner.” Welker couldn’t help but go on about the brilliance of the film from the content to the actors chosen for the roles. She stated, “The choices of actors in the film makes it as great as it is. Without Will Ferrell, it would lack the hilarious nature of the movie.” She claimed with cheerfulness that Elf is one of the best Christmas movies and everyone should go watch it!

Even with so many other holiday movies, Elf rises above the competition, showcasing the fun loving spirit of this season in a comical, yet charming fashion. So, if you have not had the pleasure of viewing 1 hour and 37 minutes of pure joy, gather some friends, pop some popcorn, and cozy up. It sure is one for the books!

What is ROTC?

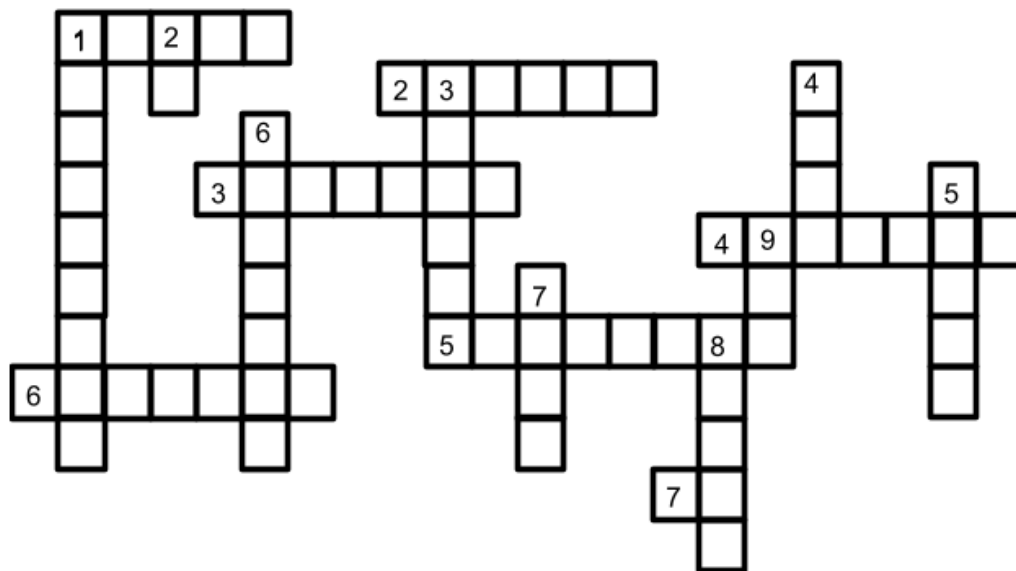
By Dickson Colado

The ROTC, or Reserve Officers’ Training Corps, is a nationwide program that prepares kids for their years after high school. First Sergeant Tim Grier states that ROTC “teaches resilience, leadership, and individual development.” One might think there are qualifications for ROTC, but First Sergeant Grier says, “There are none because prerequisites close it off,” which would mean they get to help fewer students. It is a very welcoming program that has many benefits, but applicants need to know that they will have to have discipline and respect in order to make it through the program.

Across the U.S, ROTC holds many branches, like the Army, Navy, Air Force, and the Coast Guard. This is to resemble the real military and its branches. There are also subsections of each branch in ROTC, like the Marines or Aviation, similar to the real military, however, Winter Park only has the Navy branch. In the courtyard, you can see them doing a “weekly inspection to test general ROTC knowledge, see if uniforms are on properly, and get cadets used to doing things under stress,” says First Sergeant Grier. Another interesting thing First Sergeant Grier said about ROTC is that they have “guest speakers and recruiters” come in to



teach students about the military and encourage them to. First Sergeant Geier states that there is a ranking system in ROTC and students “earn rank through the program.” Some are promoted through testing or leadership. ROTC student Dylan Clunan says “everyone starts as a cadet, then moves to seamen, and can go all the way to cadet captain.” When asked what he wants to do after high school, Clunan says he wants to go into the Navy after graduating college and then he will “work to fly unmanned aircraft systems.” Clunan is part of the aviation program in ROTC, which is why he wears a black flight suit instead of the uniforms that can be seen worn every Wednesday. Clunan thinks the program is extremely rewarding and can help many people for life in general through the lessons that would be taught to them.



ACROSS

1. What is needed for a Reading Day
2. Mrs.Ponti's Presidential Husband
3. IB English Candy Day
4. Molitor _____
5. GOLO's language
6. IB Teacher who loves Orlando City
7. Dreaded Essay for IB

DOWN

1. Mrs.Rengel's Reading Checks
2. Mini-IB Projects
3. Every teacher has too many of these
4. Synonym for assessment
5. G in GPA
6. Lifesaver for tests
7. Valedictorian = #1 Class _____
8. Thing that every IB Student lacks
9. Head_____

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Crossword Answers:
Across: 1 Quiet, 2 George, 3 Kurzday, 4 Matters, 5 Spanish, 6 Fottler, 7 EE.
Down: 1 Quizzipoo, 2 IA, 3 Emails, 4 Test, 5 Grade, 6 Quizlet, 7 Rank, 8 Sleep, 9 Ache.