

Interact

Rotary District 7305



DECEMBER 2024



Just a reminder that cards for our “Cards for Veterans” program are due by Saturday, December 7. Cards can be sent to or dropped off at Mark Barnhart’s residence at 505 E. Pittsburgh Street; Greensburg, PA 15601. Any questions, please contact him at 724-396-5078. As of this writing I have received cards from North Allegheny, Brentwood, Ligonier Valley, Derry Area, Laurel Highlands and Marshall Middle School and Carson Middle School.

TRIVIA

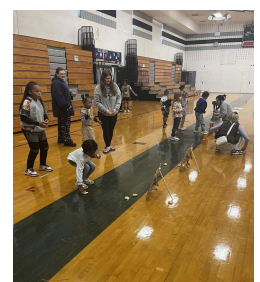
CHALLENGE

This year’s Trivia Challenge will be a little different! The Challenge will be held on Thursday, January 30, 2025 in person from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Jeannette Senior High School (February 5 will be the snow date).

This year it will be a double-elimination tournament rather than a single-elimination tournament. Each team may consist of not more than three contestants plus one alternate. There is no entry fee and there will be prizes for the winning teams.

Categories of questions include: Pop Culture, Rotary Knowledge, Sports, World History and Science. A link for registering your team was sent to all District Interact Advisors. **The deadline to register is Thursday, January 23.**

Greater Johnstown Interact Club stayed very busy in October! They started off the month at Rotary’s District Conference, Attended GJES’s Family Engagement Night, participated in Trunk-or-Treat Downtown, read to the Preschoolers at Morrell, passed out candy at the Trojan Trick-or-Treat, participated in GJYLs Trunk-or-Treat, and finished off the month with our annual PumpKid Patch at GJES with the Kindergarten Class!





Bethel Park Interact again this year participated in the South Park Shops Annual Trick or Treat Event! They had a blast as always



Members of the Thomas Jefferson High School Interact Club collaborated with the Pleasant Hills Rotary to pack boxes for

Operation Christmas Child. The combined effort of the two clubs packed over 300 boxes to be donated to children in need. Members of both organizations enjoyed spending the afternoon working together to make this initiative a success.





Mother of Sorrows
School



Welcome

Mothers of Sorrows School in Murrysville is the newest Interact Club in Rotary District 7305. WELCOME!!



The first annual Montour Turkey Trot, was held on Saturday, November 8th, and it was a resounding success! Hosted by the Montour Interact Club and Student Council, the event drew over 130 participants to the Hilltop for a morning of fun and giving. With options for everyone,



from a challenging 5K to a leisurely 1-mile walk and even a 100-yard "Tater Tot Dash" for the little ones, the event was a hit. The beautiful fall weather provided the perfect Hilltop backdrop for the event, which ultimately raised the total fundraising efforts to nearly \$3,000 for the KDKA Turkey Fund.

"Taking on an event of this magnitude takes a lot of people working together, but in this case it made a big impact!" shared Dr. Katie Mercadante, Student Council Co-Advisor. The Montour Interact Club and Student Council look forward to hosting the Turkey Trot again next year, continuing the tradition of giving back to the community during the holiday season.






We had an amazing night volunteering for this year's Bethel's Bounty hosted by the Bethel Park Community Foundation!



The Greater Johnstown Interact Club helped to observe Hunger and Homeless Awareness week in November. In the United States, 37.2 million people live below the poverty line. 580,000 Americans are homeless on a typical night. 44 million Americans are at risk of suffering from hunger. And 1 in 6 children in the U.S. live in poverty.



**The Leadership
of Rotary
District
7305
Wishes you
a safe, healthy
and blessed
Holiday Season**

Interact 

GJSD Interact Club District Wide

HUNGER AND HOMELESS AWARENESS WEEK
NOVEMBER 18TH - 22ND

HUNGER AND HOMELESS AWARENESS

Hygiene Drive


- Toothbrushes
- Basic Cotton Gloves
- Toothpaste
- Protein / Granola Bars
- Socks (all sizes)
- Crackers
- Chapstick
- Gallon Zip-Lock bags

1 IN 8 AMERICANS FACES FOOD INSECURITY AND HOMELESSNESS.

All donated items will be made into Blessing Bags for the homeless within Pennsylvania and surrounding areas.

Who can I give my donations to?

- JHS - Baylee Seminsky
- JMS - Heather Lavelly
- JES - Melana Simms
- Central - Michelle Taylor
- Park Ave - Alyssa Breedlove





This past fall, the Jeannette High School Interact Club held their annual slime fundraiser. Students purchased tickets for a chance to slime an interact officer or a school administrator. As a club they raised \$900 to go towards a local family who recently lost their mother to cancer. The money will be used to purchase Christmas gifts for the children and provide their family a Christmas Meal.

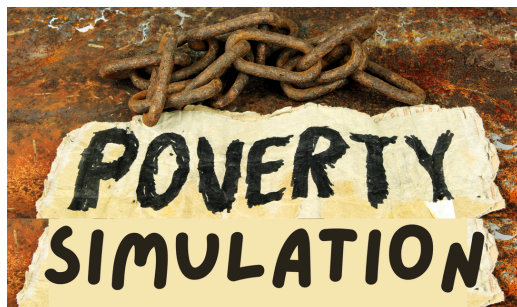


The Laurel Highlands High School Interact Club is spreading holiday cheer by launching two impactful initiatives aimed at making a positive difference in the community.



Angel Tree Campaign Has Just Begun: A Special Thanks to the Uniontown PetSmart for their incredibly generous donation of 50 adorable stuffed animals. These cuddly gifts will be paired with presents for local elementary students as part of our Angel Tree campaign. Each child will receive a stuffed animal in addition to their gift, bringing joy and warmth during this holiday season. We truly appreciate Uniontown PetSmart's support in making the holidays extra special for these young students. It's truly the season for caring!

The club also recently completed its annual Cards for Veterans Campaign, creating handmade Christmas cards for distribution to various Veteran Medical Centers in Southwestern Pennsylvania. This year, the students crafted 65 heartfelt cards, each carrying messages of gratitude and holiday cheer. These cards will bring smiles to the faces of veterans who have selflessly served our country. A big thank you goes out to everyone who contributed to this project. Your efforts will surely brighten the holidays for those who have given so much.



Coming on April 10, 2025





On Thursday, November 21, Greater Johnstown Interact Club attended Westmont High Schools bocce ball tournament with the JHS Bocce Ball team. The tournament was a fundraiser for Toys for Tots.



INTERACT CLUB'S
DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT
GRADES 8 - 12 | NOV. 26TH

WANT TO WATCH?
GET TICKETS FOR INTERACT CLUBS SCHOOL-WIDE DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT!
TICKETS ARE ON SALE DURING ALL LUNCHES FROM NOV. 12TH TO NOV. 20TH FOR \$2 EACH.
SPECTATORS GET TO PIE AN INTERACT CLUB OFFICER WITH THE ADDITIONAL PURCHASE OF A \$5 PIE TICKET.

PLAY, WATCH, PIE

\$20 PER TEAM - 10 PLAYERS EACH
BRACKET PLAY. 1 ROUND ELIMINATION. TEACHER SPONSORS PERMITTED.
SIGN UP AND REGISTER FOR TEAMS IN MS. SEMINSKY'S ROOM A201!
REGISTRATION DUE BY NOV. 19TH!

Benefiting Build-A-Chair

Our dodgeball tournament will be on November 26th. The funds raised will be going towards Build-A-Chair, a Rotary foundation that works towards building wheelchairs in Tanzania!



Officers decorated our Christmas house in Central Park in Downtown Johnstown in preparation of Light Up Night!



We hosted a District-Wide Hygiene drive for Hunger and Homelessness Awareness week (18th-22nd), all donated items will be made into blessing bags for the homeless.



Michelle Bailey from Build-A-Chair made a surprise visit to the Dodgeball Tournament!



Bethel Park Interact recently sold Fresh popcorn only \$1 with the proceeds supporting the Bethel Park Interact Club community service projects



The OLSH Interact Club joined with the other district clubs in the Christmas shopping project to support children in Ukrainian orphanages. Last year our club members shopped individually using their own money, but this year, the club took a different approach. Using \$400 from their treasury, members worked together to sponsor four children and make the experience a lesson in budgeting and empathy. Partnering with Kohl's in Robinson, students shopped strategically to stretch their funds, learning firsthand how much it costs to provide winter essentials for a child in need. The project turned into a powerful experience. "We all grew so much from doing it this way," said a club member. "It taught us not just the financial realities but also the importance of coming together to make a difference."

At the Rotary District 7305 Conference, OLSH students delivered their carefully selected gifts and connected with Ukrainian seminarians via Zoom, hearing heartfelt gratitude for their efforts. This project reminded everyone involved that



service is about more than giving—it's about learning, growing, and making an impact across borders.



Remember that Saturday, December 7 is the deadline to turn in your cards for "Cards for Veterans".

