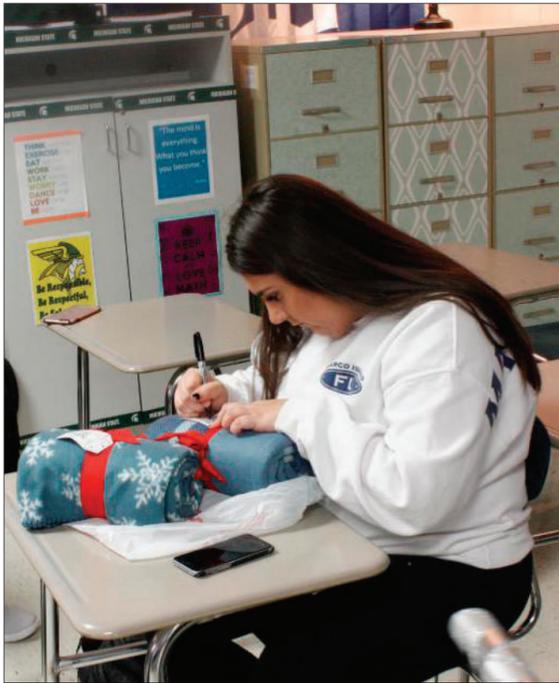


Season of giving

Students wrap, deliver presents for Adopt-a-Family

By Gowri Yerramalli
BUSINESS MANAGER



SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER | Junior Nicole McCormick packages and secures the gifts. "I felt honored to be given such a different experience and happy to have a chance to help out a family in need," McCormick said.

PACKING AND LABELING | Junior Eva Ciaramitaro labels presents for her family. "It is always a really cool experience and gives the best feeling—knowing you've helped someone else," Ciaramitaro said.

Eleanor Martinez



Two years ago, freshman Eleanor Martinez was introduced by a family friend to Ski High, a program at the War Memorial that takes teenagers skiing every Friday during the winter season. She got on a bus and drove an hour to a Pine Knob Ski Resort. It was here that she hit the slopes in a pair of skis for the first time.

Martinez has since become a big fan of the sport, especially at Pine Knob.

"I'm not that talented at skiing, but I guess I (can) do some tricks," she said.

Some of her "tricks" on her skis include jumping over little hills in the snow, but showing off her skills isn't what she enjoys most about skiing.

Martinez has made a winter tradition out of taking a day trip with her friends to the slopes when they have the time. Martinez enjoys a certain Ski High trip at the beginning of the year, where everyone can bring a friend. To her, Pine Knob is the perfect place for students to mingle and ski, even for beginners.

Sam Salisbury



For sophomore Sam Salisbury, few things are superior to spreading the gospel. One of those things is the Big Chill, a religious retreat. For one weekend in the dead of winter, Salisbury spends his days in Holland, Michigan forming close bonds with peers who share his faith and devoting himself to worship.

While at home, Salisbury dedicates himself to church involvement. On both Sundays and Wednesdays, he leads a youth group at Grace Community Church, which he regularly attends.

For Salisbury, Sundays bring an opportunity to do what he loves: spending time with those in his church community. One of the ways Salisbury does this is through charity. Grace Community Church partners with several local charities, and Salisbury participates in many of their joint events.

"We have partners that help feed people who don't have the food and tutor kids who are learning to read," he said. "I really love it."

Molly Bunker



After witnessing this year's election and the challenges it brought, Senior Molly Bunker decided that she would one day make her mark in the world of politics.

"I want to fix some of the things I've seen and set them right," she said. "I want to bring politics back to the people"

To Bunker, elections should be focused on the best interests of the people, not the special interests of the rich who make up one percent of the United States population. One of her main goals for the future is bringing the election back into the hands of the American public, and out of the hands of big businesses.

After meeting with congressmen and representatives from Michigan on the Close Up trip to Washington, D.C., Bunker realized that this goal was well within her grasp. She recently got accepted to the University of Michigan, where she hopes to study government and political science.

By Sofia Ketels



DELIVERING GIFTS | Junior Nora Smith loads the car with presents to be delivered. "The experience meant a lot to me. I'm someone who likes to use my advantages in life to help people who don't have them," Smith said. "It's nice to know that I can give Christmas to a family in need of it because Christmas is such a special time and everybody deserves to celebrate."



"WRAPPING" UP LOOSE ENDS | Juniors Autumn Sear and Josie Ciaravino wrap presents for their class's family. "I loved it because it felt nice to be able to provide for families that are less fortunate," Sear said.

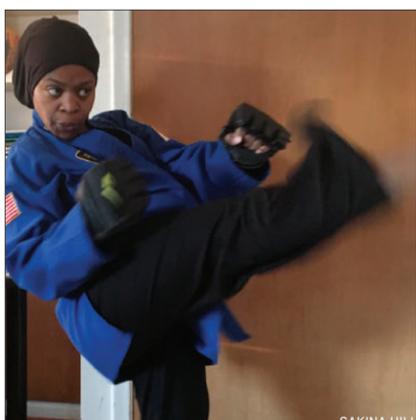


CHRISTMAS SPIRIT | Junior Abby Kanakry tapes some wrapping paper together to cover her presents. "It was a lot of fun," Kanakry said. "You never really realize how much you have that (could) help another person and I'm really happy our class decided to do it."

FIVE MINUTES WITH

Special education teacher Sakina Hill

By Rory Angott
INTERNS



READY TO FIGHT | Special education teacher Sakina Hill performs a front-snap kick in the martial arts form Tae Kwon Do. "I was a huge Bruce Lee fan. I had an older brother, and we used to watch his show that would come on regular television on certain nights," she said. "After that, I wanted to learn how to do it. I didn't like just any martial arts films, I would only really cling to the Bruce Lee movies."

Because of a childhood full of late nights watching Bruce Lee movies, special education teacher Sakina Hill has dedicated herself to training in martial arts throughout her life.

"I was a huge Bruce Lee fan. I had an older brother, and we used to watch his show," she said. "After that, I wanted to learn how to do it."

Hill started her martial arts endeavours with Kung fu, which she saw as a "just-in-case" way to defend herself. But while living in Detroit, she had to use it.

"I used it not so much as a sport, but as a way of saying 'I have this just in case I need it,'" Hill said. "I grew up in Detroit during the time it was very dangerous, so I actually had to use it once on a person who was stalking me."

Hill now has branched beyond Kung fu to explore different styles of martial arts.

Lately, she hasn't been able to train, but she plans to resume after she's had her baby. When

she does, she will train in a different form.

"I'm concentrating on Aikido, which is a form of martial arts you can use even when you're getting older, and your joints are getting stiff," she said.

Because Hill has trained for most of her life, she sees it as less of a hobby and more of a form of art.

"In the back of my mind, I was like 'this is a form of defence,' but now, to me, it's more of an art I want to use forever," she said. "I started taking classes, and it just stuck with me, and I started exploring a whole bunch of different styles."

Even as a mother of four with one on the way, Hill finds time for training. She plans on continuing martial arts for as long as she can.

"I will never leave martial arts," she said. "It's a hobby that I'll keep until I'm old and grey."

IF I COULD TRAVEL ANYWHERE

I think it would be ... Mecca for Hajj during the Hajj pilgrimage because first, it's an obligation for me as a Muslim and second, because I wanna do it before I die because it's also the place where the first house was built or rebuilt by Abraham. It's got religious significance where the Ka'aba is in Mecca. So, I would like to visit it but during the ceremonial time, which is Hajj.

PETS

Yes, I have a lot of pets. My favorite one is our hamster, Charlotte. She's adorable, and we have a cat named Lucy. She is a character, she's all black, she's about fourteen years old, she's like obese and she has a disorder but that's okay. And then I have a turtle, and I've had that turtle for about ten years, and she's like huge. She was a little tiny thing, now she's bigger than my face, and that's it for now.

FAVORITE ACTIVITY

I like rollerskating. I do more rollerskating during the break than I do during the regular school year because I like to go on the weekends.