

Interact Club promotes 2019-20 projects



Brock Kennedy/The Bagpiper

SENIOR AINSLEY TABOR, PRESIDENT OF INTERACT CLUB, AND JUNIORS GRACE THRASHER, JADE COXON, AND BROOKE ELLIS, OFFICERS, meet in the library on Monday, Aug. 5 to discuss their plans for the year.

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Senior Ainsley Tabor, president of the Interact Club, strolls into the library for the first officers' meeting of the 2019-20 school year. Setting her pile of books down, she greets the other officers, including juniors Jade Coxon, Brooke Ellis, and Grace Thrasher.

The Interact Club is a philanthropic organization and club to promote community service at FC. While they will not have a meeting for new members until Sept. 10, officers had a club meeting this month to discuss their plans for the year.

"The Interact Club is a club sponsored by Rotary International, which is a community service organization for adults in the community, and they do charitable acts. The Interact Club at Floyd Central is basically just a unit of that, but for high school students," said Tabor. "We focus on community service, but we also have an aspect of cultural awareness and diversity at our school, so making people not just help the world they live in, but learn about it, the different cultures, and the people they can interact with. Hence, Interact Club."

The Interact Club plans on involving themselves in three different types of community service projects throughout the

year. These activities include international, national, and community projects. These projects focus on supporting and guiding the different communities that they are involved with.

"Our community project is going to be anything from, [say,] our first project is getting school supplies for local schools in our community as a way to help supplement students who may not be able to buy school supplies," said Tabor. "A national one would be, for example, sometimes we like to donate to charities such as American Vet Dogs, which likes to donate for veterans in our country, stuff like that. An international, usually we do Purple Pinky Day

and Heifer International, stuff like that."

Purple Pinky Day, also known as World Polio Day, is hosted on Oct. 24 every year to raise the awareness of polio and polio vaccinations. People stamp their pinky with purple ink to support the cause and efforts of polio vaccines.

Another effort that Interact Club supports is the issue of world hunger. The club collaborates with Heifer International, who raises money to buy food and supplies to give to other countries in order to help reduce the level of people who are affected by this epidemic.

"We do this one fundraiser, it's called Heifer International,

and you raise money to send animals to other countries so that the other people will have a food source," said Coxon. "It's the idea that if you give a man a fish, he's not hungry for that day, but if you give a man a fishing pole and you teach him how to fish, he's set for his life."

Previously, Interact Club has had two events each year, including one to support the national community and one for international communities. This year, officers hope to change that and do more local projects as well. Throughout the year, officers are planning an event every month or so.

"Our first project is a school supplies drive. Fairmont is one of the lower-income elementary

schools in our district, so we're going to hopefully get them the school supplies that they need to help out their kids, maybe make things easier on parents [and] families," said Thrasher.

Interact Club requires a lot of organization and preparation in order to have a successful year. Officers had meetings this past month to plan out their projects, make posters to promote the club, and prepare for the year ahead.

"This year, we're really trying to emphasize getting people [in], just awareness in general, because most people around the school don't know what Interact Club is and what we do for the community," said Tabor.

The Interact Club is an outlet for any students to learn and experience different cultures and help people around the globe. This is one of the many reasons why many students like Coxon enjoy participating Interact Club.

"For me, it's about helping the people in other countries. We do this one fundraiser called Heifer International. You raise money to send animals to other countries so that the people will have a food source..." said Coxon.

Any student that decides to become a part of Interact Club can feel like they are able to help the community, but for Thrasher, being an officer makes her feel like she can make more of an impact on the world around her.

"I like [Interact Club] because it helps me feel like I'm making a difference. I think by being a leader, I can contribute more of myself and help organize other people and lead people to it," said Thrasher.

Ellis thinks that Interact Club can aid students in realizing that

some people have harder lives than others, especially around the world.

"Interact Club has really opened my eyes to not only the issues worldwide, but it has also given me awareness to the issues in my community..." said Ellis. "Interact Club is important to me because it gets a large group of people together to be a part of something bigger than themselves."

Tabor said that Interact Club helps FC become more open-minded to other cultures and gives students an outlet to help the people around them.

"I feel like [at] Floyd Central, a lot of people don't know a lot about the world around them. That's not necessarily a bad thing, it's just a lot of people aren't exposed to that, so it's a way to experience other cultures and stuff. I have a lot of friends who are multicultural and a lot of friends who are exchange students. It's always fun to have a place to learn about that but also to give back to the community..." said Tabor. "I love community service, and it's just a great outlet to not only help people in my community but my country and around the world. Having an impact like that is insane, and I love being able to do stuff like that."

Coxon said that Interact Club is important because it allows all of us to be more diverse people, just by being informed about the world around us.

"If we can, in our country, have an outreach to other countries, then Interact [Club] is not just about the philanthropic part, it's also about exploring other people's culture," said Coxon. "Then, we ourselves become better people, and we are able to add new ideas and thoughts to our community."

Interact Club 2019-2020 School Year Events

Aug. 2019: School Supply Drive: Check around the school for boxes to donate new or barely used school supplies.



Sept. 10 2019: Interact Club has their first meeting.



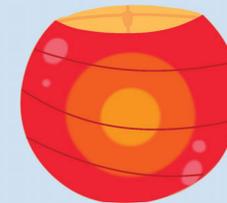
Oct. 24, 2019: Purple Pinky Day and World Polio Day: Interact Club will host a fundraiser and stamp students' pinkies with purple ink to show support for polio vaccines.

Nov. 2019: Interact Club will be hosting an event or fundraiser dedicated to Veteran's Day.



Dec. 2019: Interact Club is planning a cultural around-the-world winter holiday event to show FC students how other countries celebrate other holidays.

Jan. 2020: Interact Club will be doing an event with Chinese New Year and how important the holiday is to people around the world.



Source: Senior Ainsley Tabor, Interact Club president

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