

By: Allison Bell

“American Sign Language is a beautiful and unique language.”

-Brittaney Gardner, 12

## ASL Club

ASL club met once a month, but its signing didn't stop there. Many of the members were also involved with St. Rita's School for the Deaf.

“I really enjoy teaching dance at Saint Rita's,” said **Tiffany Stepp, 11**.

Many also took the sign language courses offered. President **Kelly LeBuhn, 12**, vice president **Brittaney Gardner, 12**, secretary **Andrea Smith, 12**, and treasurer **Allison Bell, 12**, were the board members who made everything possible, with the help of **Ms. Maggie Cobb Wessling**.

“I feel being president gives me a chance to help change the negative views that people have about ASL club and allow people willing to learn the chance to try,” said **LeBuhn**.

Many looked forward to these ASL meetings.

“ASL is a fun experience where I can meet new people and learn a lot more about the deaf culture,” said **Brian Sensibaugh, 11**.

The most anticipated meeting of the year is always the movie day with St. Rita's.

“The best meeting is the day we get hang out with the St. Rita students. It's cool to be able to talk to deaf people my age,” said **Nicole Fischer, 12**.

While the underclassmen could look forward to more years, the graduating seniors greatly missed ASL club and always remembered their experiences.

“ASL has been an awesome experience for me. I've had so much fun the past three years and I would never choose another language,” said **Nina Laybourne, 12**.



“My favorite part of sign language is talking with your mouth full,” says **Arielle Lavigne, 12**, as she sits with her friends **Allen Streck, 11**, and **Amberlee Blust, 10**. Food was a big plus in ASL club, and all meetings started off with conversation and some time to eat. The members took turns bringing in different varieties of food so every meeting had something different.

Club members watch intently as one of their fellow members signs. Because signing was the main form of communication between deaf people, it was practiced regularly during these meetings. Many enjoyed being able to talk across the room without yelling.



**Christen Corcoran, 10**, and **Elizabeth Henning, 10**, are busy making gingerbread houses during one meeting. Every meeting had a planned activity that the members looked forward to. “After we finished making our houses, we got to eat them which was almost as fun as making them,” said **Corcoran**.



## German Club

“German club ist toll,” said **Michelle Johnson, 10**, before a meeting. German club was a very active club with enough activities that anyone found something they loved.

The club traveled to Fairview Elementary, a German bilingual school in Cincinnati, where it was totally immersed in German. There, the members set up a visit and took classes, in German, with the students.

“I love coming to German club because we all have fun, do a lot of different things, and have food,” said **Quinlan Porter, 12**.

German club also celebrated *Fasnacht*, a German holiday similar to Mardi Gras.

The club held its annual traditional Swiss Fondue meeting, with both chocolate and cheese available.

During Oktoberfest, the club danced the chicken dance, learned how to polka, and sang German songs. This was a well liked activity throughout the members.

“Oktoberfest was so much fun. There was so much to do and I will never forget learning polka,” said **Terhi Reponen, 10**.

Although they sang German songs and spoke in German, this club was open to anyone that was interested in German culture.

“Only girly men don't come to German Club,” said **David Barnard, 12**.

**Emily Peter, 11**, and **Terhi Reponen, 10** converse in German. Most of the conversation in this club is in German. After the year, the students greatly improved their fluency.



“My favorite part about German Club is how much we get involved in the culture.” -**Emily Peter, 11**