



Cosmopolitan Club



By: Tamar Ingber



Mixing it up! Although **Gabriel "Mateo" Villamizar, 9**, and **Ayakee Matsui, 9**, are of two different ethnicities, they joined together and smiled. They took a moment out of their time and said, "Cheese!"

Peace, love, and happiness. **Soo Cho, 10**, **Ruth Cho, 10**, and **Evelyn Seo, 11**, flashed the universal sign of peace. Cosmopolitan Club joined together for a Thanksgiving celebration, where the main theme was uniting all of the members own cutoms to the great uniting factor: Living in America.

How do new students to this country learn what a Thanksgiving dinner is like? Or other American customs? Cosmopolitan Club. **Mrs. Janene Chavis**, an ESL teacher, is the sponsor for Cosmopolitan Club.

"It is important for students not only to learn the language, but also learn the culture," said **Chavis**.

Most members were new to America and the club's lessons assisted them in a smooth transition from bombardment of new traditions to a more gradual facing of customs.

"It wasn't a huge deal, but the little things we did do were fun," said **Gabriel Villamizar, 9**.

The club was not meant to be a giant commitment, only a helpful guide to a few

new ways.

One of the club's greatest accomplishments was their Thanksgiving feast. Like most years, the majority of students brought in a tasteful treat from their homeland; however, this year had an even greater emphasis on diversity.



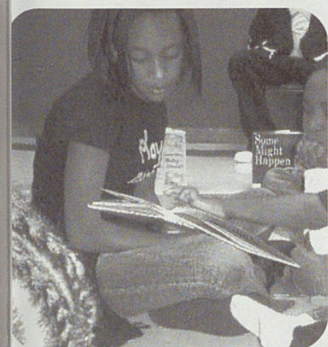
Speaking from the heart. **Mrs. Janene Chavis** inducted many of her Cosmpolitan Club students into National Honor Society. When students were inducted, many had **Chavis** as their sponsor because she had made such a difference in their lives. Cosmopolitan Club allowed new students to become great assets to the school.



Operation Give Back



By: Jaime Orent



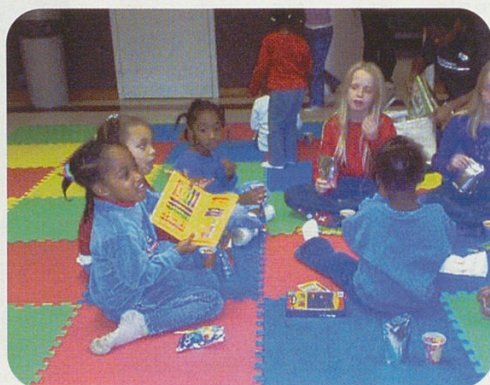
Reading at an early age? **Tia Ware, 9**, read to a young girl. "I think it's something truly special that these kids are so excited to learn," said **Ware**.

Children of various ages, genders and races attended the Thursday afternoon readings further emphasizing the club's mission to support diversity. "Promoting diversity at such an early age will also help children incorporate it into their everyday lives by the time they become adults," said **Phillips**.

Operation Give Back was a community outreach program focused on the Hazelwood Community. On Thursdays you could find the members of this club spending their time reading to the young kids at the Hazelwood Community Center. "For one hour a week we have the chance to help these

kids, showing them learning is fun and worthwhile, and I think that's great," said **Dorese Langston, 11**. The hour spent with the kids is all about interaction. "If you get these kids interested in reading at any early age, they'll still have that interest by the time they're our age," said **Myisha Phillips, 11**.

The goal of the club was to foster learning and education through fun readings and activities. Operation Give Back hopes to reach out to even more communities in need in future years. "These are our youth, tomorrow's future, and it's our job today to help them make it," said **Langston**.



Katie Van Heidrich, 9, hugs **TeeTee Washington**, age 3, at one of the readings. OGB really emphasized interaction between the children and the club members.

