

black student union

celebrating culture through education

By: Sarah Ganson



Stand up and speak out. **Dorese Langston, 12**, spoke in front of over 50 people at the Black History Month celebration. There were many speeches given to help educate the audience about Black History.

The object of BSU was to foster pride and positive self-esteem, and to provide support for the everyday concerns and needs of African-American students. The contributions of African-Americans to society were highlighted.

Black Student Union, BSU, was a club that celebrated African Americans traditions and culture, while giving students an opportunity to meet their peers. BSU was not only for African Americans, anyone could join.

"Black Student Union is really fun and I don't feel awkward that I am white," said **Rebecca Jahn, 10**.

BSU was popular for being open to so many students. It was one of the most diverse clubs in the school. BSU holds many events throughout the year, from bake sales, to Kwanzaa celebrations.

"Black Student Union gives all people great knowledge in Black history," said **Jiara Wilson, 10**.

Mrs. Gretchen Washington, the club's advisor, has helped the students make this a very fun club, while giving something back to all the members. With her upbeat personality, club meetings were fun, but got down to business.

"Black Student Union gives pride in being black," said **David Bortz, 10**.

Each year they celebrated Kwanzaa and taught their peers different cultures that most are not used to.

"I love teaching other students holidays I celebrate and share those experiences with them," said **Dorese Langston, 12**.

A new tradition was celebrating Black History Month. To celebrate members from BSU would tell random facts to the student body over the P.A. system to enlighten students about Black History.

"It is fun to see that every student benefits from this club," said **Washington**.



Move to the music. **Joe King, 9**, **Ashley Smith, 9**, **Derrick Noblz, 11**, and **Tiara Graove, 10** danced an African dance to celebrate Black History Month. They danced moves that were from African tribes and that were danced to celebrate.

sweet

sweet just like candy

By: Katie Daniels

Sycamore Women's Excellent Ensemble of Trebles otherwise known as the group SWEET, is made up of only girls. These beautiful ladies met twice a week, every Tuesday and Thursday at 2:30 p.m. in the choir room.

As a student directed group, **Annie Sluka, 12**, and **Jennifer Brunker, 12**, were known as the leaders of the group. Hand-picking the music and directing the girls at practice, were just a few of their responsibilities as the seniors of the group.

"It's better student directed because you get stuff done but you get to have a better time," said **Sluka**.

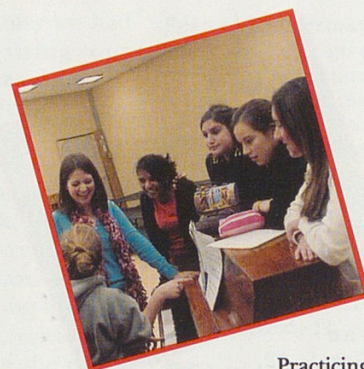
The girls of SWEET performed at various choir concerts, and also outside of school during the holiday season.

"I love being in SWEET, it's lots of fun and I love the girls," said **Jessica Burke, 11**.

For the ladies of SWEET, practicing was the favorite part of being involved in the group.

"SWEET is really fun because we bond, get closer by singing, eating food, and talking about boys," said **Marisa Ellison, 11**.

With their enthusiasm for practicing and their love for singing, this group of girls was unstoppable.



Practicing played a key role in SWEET's amazing performances. Meeting twice a week kept the girls up on their music and gave them a chance to catch up with each other. Practices weren't just for practicing, it was also a social gathering of friends.