

South Asia Club

Tanvi Rao ('22), who is the vice president of South Asia Club, said the pandemic has been an inhibiting factor this year as it has been difficult to ensure that club meetings could occur consistently.

Rao said ensuring everyone is aware of the major South Asian holidays has been a success.

"What's really great this year is we've been recognizing more holidays in Islam, Hinduism as well as Buddhism," she said. "We always try, in case there's a holiday coming up, to put it in the announcements so that people can hear it because a lot of times it isn't announced."

Ultimately, Rao said the South Asia Club aims to create a sense of community in all of its meetings, which she said she hopes has left a lasting impact.

"We have a lot of the student body who identify as South Asian," she said. "We also have people who don't identify as part of the community come enjoy being in that energy, in that room and learn about whatever we are talking about."

Student-Faculty Disciplinary Board

The Student-Faculty Disciplinary Board is a student-led panel consisting of grade representatives that offer guidance to the High School Administration when a student violates the Code of Conduct.

Owen Humphries ('22), co-president of the SFDB, said the board's primary aim is to advocate for students.

"The purpose isn't to judge students or determine what they've done wrong and what their punishment should be, but it's more to get their side of the story and try and advocate for them to the administration," he said. "It's trying to look for solutions and consequences that provide a learning opportunity rather than just a punishment."

Furthermore, Humphries said a decrease in disciplinary cases has been especially gratifying this year.

Ultimately, he said the SFDB has had a major focus on creating a greater sense of community between students and teachers.

"I would say that the predominant impact, especially over the past few years, at least hopefully I would think, is just kind of moving kids away from feeling isolated and feeling like they can't go to their teachers," he said.

Eastern Asian Cultures Club

William Iorio ('22), co-leader of the Eastern Asian Cultures Club, said the pandemic hindered the club from accomplishing everything they wanted.

"I would have liked to achieve more than we did," he said. "We were planning on having a movie night or something like that earlier this year but we weren't able to do that, same with like the Lunar New Year celebration, so that was really disappointing."

Nonetheless, Ellic Lowe ('22), the other co-leader, said she emphasized the impact of the work East Asian Cultures Club participants are doing with the Asian Literature English elective's reading list.

"With the new Asian Literature teacher, we sort of diversified the book range a bit and helped to narrow it down to the theme being... the diasporic life of people as immigrants," she said.

National Honor Society

National Honor Society is an organization dedicated to recognizing those who exemplify the four pillars of leadership, scholarship, service and character.

Isabella Muri ('22), president of the NHS, said the organization is currently a significant part of her academic life as it allows her to actively ensure that she is giving back to the community.

"It's become a really big part of being a senior, especially now that I'm graduating," she said. "What's on the forefront of my mind is really thinking about what legacy I'm gonna leave behind at the school even once I'm gone. The National Honor Society is one of the most purposeful avenues through which I can leave something meaningful behind."

Muri said she appreciates that the NHS values student efforts to bring the High School community together cohesively.

"I love that it's student driven," she said. "That's a really important part of having clubs at a school because students are the ones attending the school and being part of the organizations."

Community Action Council

Despite the setbacks that have arisen due to the pandemic, Evelyn Snizek ('23), one of the four leaders of the Community Action Council, said the council has managed to preserve student involvement.

"It was a bit more difficult to lead any projects... but we still managed to do things like the Giving Tree," she said. "A lot of our projects involve drives or collecting either like food, money or other resources like clothes and stuff, so that's really like getting the community involved."

In addition, Snizek said the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine has inspired several people to partake and engage in the council's projects.

"It's amazing to see how many people have wanted to do stuff and get involved, and so we led a bake sale and raised a bunch of money for the Disasters Emergency Committee's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal," she said. "It's been really amazing to kind of all come together to help one single issue."

Jewish Affinity Group

Ariel Blavatnik ('23), a co-leader of the Jewish Affinity Group, said one of their achievements has been organizing gatherings and events for Jewish holidays.

"What we did for Holocaust day was quite important," he said. "Some people don't know the history behind big celebrations, but I think spreading that news and spreading the history has been our biggest agenda."

Blavatnik also said the group's meetings have had a "profound impact" on its members.

"I think it's about the quality of our meetings," he said. "All of our meetings, I think have been really engaging, and everyone's happy to be there, and we always share food and share stories."

Furthermore, Blavatnik said the group places emphasis on inclusivity.

"Everyone is welcome, regardless of being Jewish, non-Jewish," he said.

# Student-led groups discuss *community* impact

As the 21-22 academic year comes to a close, student group leaders and members reflect on their influence on the ASL community.

Sophia Bateman | Staff Writer • Ella Friel | Staff Writer

Welcome to the Clubs Fair

Peer Tutoring Center

Tanvi Rao ('22), a co-leader of the Peer Tutoring Center, said the center's biggest accomplishment has been the work it has put into attracting more students seeking academic support. She said her primary goal has been "encouraging teachers to actually direct students towards the Peer Tutoring Center."

Moreover, Rao said the center has helped both tutors and students alike.

"It allows students to feel like they're not the only one struggling in that particular subject," she said. "It helps the entire High School feel more comfortable in making those mistakes in class and recognizing that it's okay to be wrong and that it's okay to also ask for help."

Students of Color Affinity Group

Perry Chen ('23), a member of the Students of Color Affinity Group, said the group's meetings are held in relaxed environment where participants "share things without worrying about being judged by what we say."

Furthermore, Chen said the meeting where the affinity group invited faculty members who identify as people of color had the biggest influence on its members.

"They really let the students know that they are there when you need them and ... let the students feel more safe and really make friends with people who understand their culture or their background," he said.

As a result, Chen said the meeting had an impact on himself.

"I also met a teacher who was really nice, and we sort of share the same culture," he said. "It was really nice to get to know that teacher and talk about where we came from and what we love about our country."

Chen said affinity groups are essential because they allow students with similar experiences to create connections.

"It is in these clubs where people actually resonate with you and know what's going on," he said. "It is a safe place where we can share our beliefs."

Every Mind Matters

Emma Symonds ('23), who is the leader of the Every Mind Matters club, said the club is "centered around mental well-being and positive psychology" and was founded at the start of the 2020-21 school year.

Symonds said she enjoys that there is a consistent group of attendees as it fosters a stress-free space for students.

"We have a lot of dedicated members who come every time, which is a result of us having a happy environment where everyone feels comfortable and safe," she said.

In addition, Symonds said she appreciates the level of sincerity within the group discussions and members' ability to connect across grade levels.

"You get to meet a lot of people from throughout the High School that you wouldn't really interact with otherwise, on a much more personal level," she said. "We have very genuine conversations."

Commonground

Ysabel Rasetta Moini ('23), an editor-in-chief of the culture and art magazine Commonground, said her objective is to bring individuals together who share artistic interests such as art, fashion and design in addition to fostering an environment that harnesses creativity. She said she is fascinated by the variety of artistic perspectives and directions one can take with art.

"I think it's amazing the way that you can take a theme, and you can translate it into how you interpret it," she said.

Rasetta Moini said the publication also provides students with the opportunity to demonstrate leadership and initiative.

Further, Rasetta Moini said she enjoys connecting with people from different age groups who have shared goals and interests, which she said breaks the grade-level hierarchy in the High School.

"There are cliques, there are groups, there are divisions, but when you have a club that is solely based on interest, and anyone can join, I think it brings people from all different groups together," she said. "It takes away this line between 'Oh, I'm older than you, I'm better than you, I'm not going to speak to you.' It takes that away and puts people in a place where we're all equal."

Neurodiversity Club

Sara Fakhry ('22), who is a co-president of the Neurodiversity Club said there are many neurodiverse students in addition to students with academic accommodations within the community.

As a result, she said the Neurodiversity Club hosts a week designated to raising awareness in the High School.

Moreover, Tyler Ketchum ('24) said the purpose of this week is to cultivate a community of people together for "social and educational benefits."

"The idea is to bring the community of neurodiverse people and neurotypical people, that is people with things like autism, ADHD, dyslexia, etc. and those without, together," he said.

Arab Affinity Group

Sara Fakhry ('22) said amid the political polarization due to ongoing conflict that impacted many Arab members of the community, the Arab Affinity Group was created as a space for students to speak to each other in a safe and compassionate environment last school year.

Fakhry, who is one of the Arab Affinity Group leaders, said members often discuss the impact of current events occurring in the Middle East.

She said the affinity group provides a place for Palestinians and Arabs to "talk about what was happening in the Middle East" with an emphasis placed on Lebanon, Palestine, Israel and Iran.