

FHN Interact Club Means Business

Every Monday at 7 a.m. when most high school students are going to school, a group of Forest Hills Northern High School students are already in a meeting. They are members of the FHN Interact Club, sponsored by the Grand Rapids East Rotary. The club, launched at the beginning of the school year, has 25 members, who were recommended by FHN faculty. The Interact Club adopted two initiatives or local organizations to “adopt” this year and help them fulfill their mission—In the Image and End It.

In addition to assisting the goals of the two nonprofit organizations listed above, the students worked with Rotary mentors in small groups on writing marketing and business plans they presented to the organizations.

Charlotte Mathias, FHN junior said, “Participating with this club really helped us see the different environments people come from and the needs they have.”

In the Image links new and gently used clothing, housewares, furniture, and appliances with people in need. End It is a coalition of world organizations leading the fight for freedom from slavery including bonded labor, forced labor, and human trafficking. The FHN students designed and sold End It T-shirts, produced a video, and participated in Shine a Light on Slavery Day.

“These students are really amazing,” said Catherine Jacobs, Rotary club adviser. “We really didn’t know what to expect and have been astounded by their passion and enthusiasm all year long.”

Making a difference in the community has been the impact of this group, and Stan Moeggenborg, Rotary president agrees with Jacobs. “We have worked on many initiatives over the years and are ecstatic with our decision to launch the Interact Club at Forest Hills Northern. These kids are fine examples to us on how to make things happen.”

FHPS Students Garner Multiple Awards in National History Day Competition

Forest Hills Public Schools once again had an excellent showing at the National History Day state finals. Winning teams had students from Northern Hills Middle School, Northern High School, Eastern Middle School, and Central High School. The teams and individual students competed in one of five categories: website, documentary, exhibit, paper, or performance. The top two teams in each category and division advance to the national finals of National History Day held in June at the University of Maryland. The third place team serves as an alternate should another team be unable to attend the national finals. The following students will represent Forest Hills in Maryland.

Northern Hills Middle School State Finalists

Junior Group Documentary

Cartography: The Industry That Formed America; Winning students: Molly Fanning, Lauren TerMaat, Hazel von Maur, Olivia Wolfe

Junior Individual Documentary

A National Blessing: Hamilton’s National Bank; Winning student: Elizabeth Mathias

Junior Group Website

Nikola Tesla: Equal in Achievement and Imagination; Winning students: Jeffrey Consolla, Benjamin Griffith, Maxwell Paradiso

Junior Group Exhibit

The Evolution of Basketball: From a Game to a Sport; Winning students: Tyler Jansen, Jacob Meyer

Junior Individual Exhibit

The Accidental Invention; Winning student: Ethan Jansen

Junior Group Performance

(Third Place / Alternate for Nationals)
Radium: The Discovery of One of the World’s Most Dangerous Elements; Winning students: Gabriela Cesario, Elise Kirkwood

Northern High School State Finalists

Junior Group Documentary

A Moon-umental Exploration; Winning students: Dylan Chung, Ellie Katz, Chase Morello

Eastern Middle School State Finalists

Junior Individual Documentary

The Last Continent: The Story of Amudsen, Scott, and the Exploration of the South Pole; Winning student: Ingrid Votruba

Junior Individual Paper

Encountering, Exploring, and Exchanging New Ideas: Revolutionary War Communication; Winning student: Claire Parish

Junior Individual Website

Globalization: The Impact of the Columbian Exchange; Winning student: Lisha Chadda

Junior Individual Documentary

(Third Place / Alternate for Nationals)

From Exploration to Exploitation: The French Fur Trade in the Great Lakes; Winning students: Jill Pierangeli, Natalie Robbins

Junior Individual Paper

(Third Place / Alternate for Nationals)

The Irish Encounter: A Forgotten Force; Winning student: Kyle Korte

Central High School State Finalist

Senior Individual Website

Mike Gorman: Exploration and Exchange in the People’s Fight for the Mentally Ill; Winning student: Dorris Dagama



Northern Hills Middle School students Hazel von Maur, Olivia Wolfe, Lauren TerMaat, and Molly Fanning, along with Brent Miller, NHMS teacher, Spanish Immersion challenge social studies, were among the entries chosen to advance to nationals for their group documentary, “Cartography: The Industry that Formed America.”



Tyler Jansen and Jacob Meyer along with teacher MaryBeth McMahon, will participate in the national event with their exhibit, “The Evolution of Basketball: From a Game to a Sport.”



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