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Students look to different sources to inspire their community service. Last month the BLS Junior Classical League (JCL) used the Halloween season to provide them with ways to give back to the community.

Connie Chang, part of the JCL leadership triumvirate, helped to organize three Halloween related service events in which over 60 JCL members from classes I though VI participated.

According to Connie, the JCL, with the support of their faculty advisor Latin Master Catherine Foley, has expanded its community service outreach this year.

“All BLS JCL is focusing more on community service this year,” stated Connie. “The state and national organizations put an emphasis on service and recognize schools with strong programs.”

The JCL expanded its Halloween UNICEF collection, with 64 students collecting over $685. In addition the club participated in two projects coordinated by the Eastern Service Workers Organization.

Jennifer Lam, Hyei In Yoo, Kelly Huang and Connie volunteered to chaperone children from low-income neighborhoods as they Trick-or-Treated in West Roxbury.

In addition, the students picked up pledged packages of food from designated houses, visiting over 50 homes to get candy for the kids and food for needy members of the community. “It was fun and rewarding, but exhausting,” said Connie.

Senior Sisters, Seaside Service!

Did you know that you can participate in a fun and rewarding community service opportunity while you are at your favorite summer vacation spot?

That’s exactly what Class 1 students Megan and Sally Gillis did last summer, volunteering at Wellfleet Preservation Hall on Cape Cod.

While in Wellfleet, working and enjoying the sun and fun, they decided to look for some volunteer opportunities to fulfill their graduation requirement and give back to the community where they have spent many family vacations.

“Our father attends events at Preservation Hall,” said Megan, “so I went on their website looking for volunteer opportunities.”

Soon the sisters were selling tickets to events, waiting at fundraisers and serving refreshments at the film festival.

“Everyone there was very nice and appreciative. It makes you want to volunteer more,” commented Megan about her experience. “It was tiring volunteering after working all day, but I would probably do it again because it was fun and rewarding.”

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Wolfpack Volunteers Coordinate Food Drive for Rosie’s

Over 1300lbs of non-perishable food was donated by BLS students and staff during the 9th annual Wolfpack Volunteer Thanksgiving food drive.

The organization’s 10 member Executive Committee, led by President Olivia Chung (Class II) and faculty advisor Ms. Ada Wong, worked tirelessly throughout the month of November to collect, sort, and organize the boxes and bags of goods that were donated by members of the BLS community.

Even though the drive was shortened by Super Storm Sandy, publicity and support provided by homeroom teachers was excellent according to Olivia. “There are several homerooms that always collect a lot of donations and the 7th and 8th grade homerooms were well represented.”

The food collected was donated to Rosie’s Place, a sanctuary for poor and homeless women located in Boston’s South End. The food drive formerly benefited another organization, but started donating to Rosie’s two years ago because of a connection between the BLS community and the women’s shelter.

While most of the donations are things like canned vegetables, soups and boxes of pasta, there are some unique items that the students come across when they are sorting and packing the donations, including some oversized bottles and cans and even Russian candy bars.

In addition to the food drive, the Wolfpack Volunteers will hold a Valentine’s Day fundraiser and a Food Festival later in the school year.

According to Olivia, “There are some unique items that the students come across when they are sorting and packing the donations, including some oversized bottles and cans and even Russian candy bars.”

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