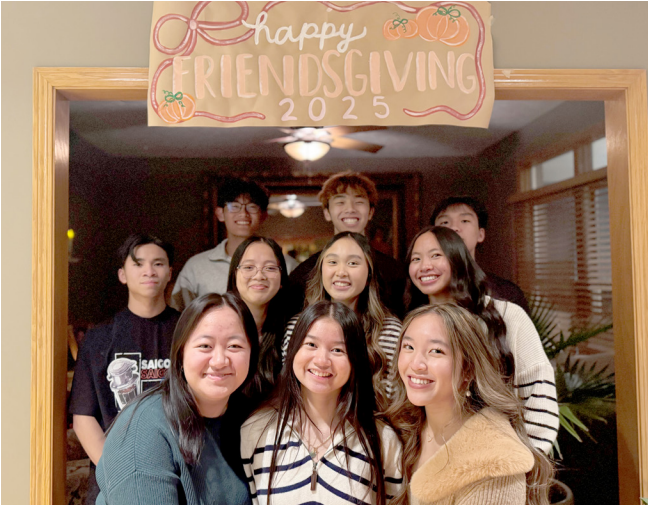


Holiday traditions vary among students

MELLISA NGUYEN
Staff Writer

The calendar might mark the same holiday, but some students' traditions at home look very different. Many students build their holiday season around traditions their families repeat every year. While some share similar routines, others have completely different traditions from their classmates.



Friends celebrate Thanksgiving together. "Friendsgiving is my favorite tradition," junior Cece Pham said. Photo by V. Tran

For a lot of families, Thanksgiving is the first chance to repeat the traditions they look forward to all year. For many, those traditions begin with food their families make. "We have turkey, ham, collard greens, mashed potatoes and mac and cheese," junior Kaphuki Donato said. While a lot of families serve the traditional American Thanksgiving meal, some families have their own traditional foods they eat. "We bake fish every year," junior Gabriel Lian said. Sophomore Minh-Thien Trinh said that she has a mix of both Vietnamese and American cultural traditions for the holidays. "This year we are doing traditional Thanksgiving side dishes, then we will have a Vietnamese main dish like mien," Trinh said. For some, Thanksgiving doesn't stop with family; many also celebrate with their closest friends. "We have Friendsgiving every year and it's the best and my favorite tradition we have," junior Cecilia Pham said. While many students spend the day celebrating a big dinner, some skip the holiday altogether. "We don't celebrate Thanksgiving," junior Vy Mai said. "It's just not really a big tradition around my house." Once the leftovers are gone, Christmas traditions take over. "In the morning, my parents make their coffee and get their timer ready, and then all of us kids will sit on the

stairs so we can't see the Christmas tree, and they film our reaction to the Christmas tree," junior Leah Christline said. Many students follow similar routines, such as opening presents in the morning, but some Christmas mornings look a little different. "We always go to Mass on Christmas day and then around like noon we have a party, so we don't open presents till 1 p.m.," junior Maily Nguyen said. For some families, the celebration starts early with opening presents on Christmas Eve. "On Christmas Eve, we have a big dinner, sing songs, open presents and go to midnight Mass," Lian said. Once Christmas is over, students get ready for one last holiday moment. Many celebrate the New Year by having parties and staying up to watch the ball drop at midnight, sometimes lighting sparklers to celebrate. "We all stay up and watch the ball drop," Christline said. For one student, New Year's comes with an extra celebration. "My birthday is the next day, so we celebrate our birthdays and New Year's," Pham said. Others like to keep the night quiet but still see the New Year as a fresh start. "We just hang out me, my siblings and my parents," Trinh said.

Art fundamentals students create coil vessels with clay

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Staff Writer

In the semester class Art Fundamentals, students do more than create two-dimensional art—they get to build coil vessels out of clay during the ceramics unit. Coil pottery is a method of hand building pottery where a potter forms a base, walls and style by combining clay coils. Students build upon skills learned earlier in class and apply them to create their ceramic pieces. "It's three-dimensional, and some students can do things on a three-dimensional level that they can't do two-dimensional," Art Fundamentals teacher Laurie Rodaway said. "So, for some students, that's just easier. And we're not making anything sculptural—we're making something we want. Sometimes it's just easier because it's something that you touch, and you feel around it, and it's got depth to it." Ceramics gives students a different type of learning experience when it comes to different forms of art. "Obviously you're learning about the tools and techniques and how clay works as it goes through the evaporation process and what you can do with it at certain points," Rodaway said.

"Also organization and classroom protocols are important too because when you've got 25 students in a classroom, you have to know how to do things in an orderly way." While students enjoy the creativity of ceramics, they also learn that it comes with challenges. "My favorite part about making a vase is carving out the design," freshman Vy Nguyen said. "But smoothing out the coils was the hardest part, and I learned that ceramics take a lot of time and effort, so you need to have patience." For freshman Frannie Werner, the most challenging part was trying to make her work look perfect. Along the way, students discover lessons beyond art techniques, especially confidence. Rodaway encourages her students to trust themselves as they work through mistakes. "I would say mostly their own self-confidence and just trying to help when they need some guidance," Rodaway said. "These are things that everybody can do, but sometimes people just don't trust themselves to do it." Art Fundamentals doesn't only offer ceramics, it gives students far more than one project to be proud of and it offers a space to explore new mediums, grow creatively and discover the world of art.



Freshman Francesca Werner builds her coil vessel. "The most challenging thing about working with clay is trying to make it look perfect," Werner said. Photo by A. Vu

Opinion: In school suspension program needs improvement



GABBY AUGUSTINE
Staff Writer

In school suspension at Pius X is used to reprimand students during school hours throughout the day to redirect them toward better choices. It is held in the office or room in the library with a substitute teacher. Suspension can be a valuable tool to help guide students who make choices that can be troubling for their future.

On the other hand, in school suspension can also be an ineffective, stressful workload for the students. While isolated one-on-one for the whole day with a substitute teacher, the student is to complete schoolwork and lessons on how to change their behavior. Throughout the school day with the substitute teacher, there are videos and lessons the student must complete to remind the students why such factors may be bad choices for them to make. While the lessons in suspension may teach students about better life choices and how to better themselves, the students have little to no freedom. Controlling the student's day and determining when they get to work on their schoolwork can stress these students out. What is accomplished well is giving the students an adult at Pius X who mentors them with encouragement and accountability.

All students have different ways of learning and changing habits, but making every student who Pius X punishes for their behavior spend time with a substitute all day in a room may not be effective to all students. When Pius X decides to suspend a student, the guardians have a choice to request setting up a meeting. Speaking about the problem the student has can help the student and the family be more aware of the problem so they can work on it. Suspension during lunch and study hall would be a better alternative instead of ISS all day because students will get to spend time with a substitute teacher to learn about how to improve on their actions but this still allows for students to stay in their classrooms to learn with the class and their teachers instead of learning with a substitute teacher.

Straight From the Bolts: What's your favorite part of the holidays?

ALICE HILGERS & AN VU



"Getting to spend time with my family."
-Tavie Wunderlich, freshman



"Not going to school."
-Reese Taylor, sophomore



"Christmas break and not going to school."
-Maddox Easley, senior

Lincoln Pius X

Gabrielle Augustine