

## fca club works to get students out of their comfort zone to build friendships

Silence covered the room as the group sat on the gym floor. Some bowed their heads toward their hands and others looked around. The song "Overcame" by Jeremy Camp played throughout the varsity gym. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes club connected all of the students in the room, athlete or not. **Coach Jimmie Green**, one of the teachers in the club, participated in the club by praising along the students and teaching them about the power and love of Christ.

"It was made a long time ago to bring athletes together and for them to know it is okay to be a Christian while being an athlete," Coach Green said. "A big thing in FCA is integrity. It holds us accountable."

"We are a growing union of Christians. We don't want some we want all."

MR. JIMMIE GREEN

Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) represented coaches and athletes in the mission for Christ. The FCA valued integrity, serving, teamwork, and intelligence. Junior **Lauren Wilke** helped with FCA by participating and teaching in the club.

"It's definitely brought me out of my comfort zone and has pushed me to expand beyond the cliquishness of school and meet people," Wilke said. "It has pushed me away from being hypocritical with my faith."

The club appointed one individual from each sport team captain for FCA. Coach **Terry Short** supported the students at the school in FCA and believed that everyone can help and support each other.

"I feel that as a Christian, students need to see that there are Christian teachers around the school and that if they need to talk to anyone, there are people here," Coach Short said. "It's important for students to meet other students from around the school with the same problems they have and to know that there are others around them to support each other."

"We are a growing union of Christians. We don't want some-we want all," Green said.

By Hannah Pikey

### TEAM LEADER

In the varsity gym, **Coach Rod Nutley**, prays with FCA members before sharing a Bible story with them. "My favorite thing is sharing my faith and Christ with the students and athletes," Nutley said. FCA met on Mondays at 7 p.m. and allowed students a place to share their faith and have fun.



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### EAT, PRAY, FCA

Bringing everyone together for the meeting, **Kacie Rombach**, 11, leads them in prayer. "I love that people can feel free to talk about their faith and how FCA brings us closer to God," Rombach said.

### A DEEPER CONNECTION

Enjoying the name game, **Lindsey Harris**, 11, and **Braxton Thomas**, 12, participate in the first FCA meeting of the year. "We were playing so everyone would feel comfortable enough to share their faith," Harris said. "It was a deeper way of getting to know each other. We identified each other by our scars rather than the things we liked."

### PRaise AND HONOR

During worship, **Brittany Duffell**, 10, sings her favorite songs. "I was singing because they play really good worship songs," Duffell said. "I like how FCA is full of students who can relate to each other. They all have the same perspective of high school and they understand more than adults do."

## rodeo



HILLARY BROWN PHOTO

### RIDE TIME

At the first barrel, **Shandee Foster**, 10, competes on the horse. "I felt relieved because I didn't hit any other barrels," Foster said. "I like barrel racing because not a lot of people do it, and it gives me a lot of adrenaline. People don't realize how much goes into it. It's a lot more than just sitting on a horse."

### WAVE ON BY

Riding through the parade, **Brook Black**, 12, waves. "I was representing our team as queen and president," Black said. Black barrel raced, goat tied, and had meetings for the rodeo team at the Cowboy Church. "My team and I are really close, almost like a family," Black said. "I like competing."



TAPANGA PERRIN PHOTO



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### GET DOWN

After gently setting the goat down, **Irelyn Sullivan**, 11, ties three of its legs together in hopes not to hurt the animal. "I like spending time with friends and learning more and more about it each time I go out and do it," Sullivan said.

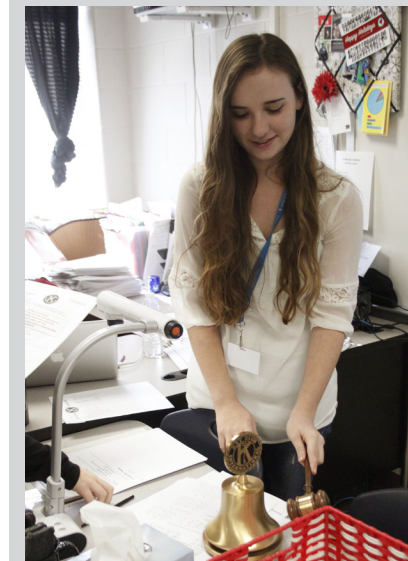
### TIENG CHUPACABRA

**Jessica Young**, 12, ties the goat named Chupacabra at a rodeo practice at **Shandee Foster's**, 10, house in Rendon. Shandee and Brook Black, 12, helped teach other team rodeo members how to rope and tie goats.

## key club



NATALIE SCIFRES PHOTO



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### GIVING BACK

Helping out with Toys for Tots, **Allison Bao**, 10, carries out donated toys to a recipient in need. "I felt like a good person because she couldn't afford presents for her kids, and I wanted to help give her kids the Christmas experience." Key Club participates in Toys for Tots every year. "I joined key club to help out with my community," Bao said. "My favorite part is helping people in need, because others aren't as fortunate, and it's important to give back."

### A RINGING START

At the start of the meeting, **Haley Hines**, 12, rings the official bell to alert the members that it's time to stand for the pledge. "I love the opportunities key club provides for its members and the ability we have to give back to the community," Hines said.

## key club gives back

A room full of talkative Key Clubbers sat in front of President **Haley Hines** after school. Hines brought the weekly meeting to order by ringing a bell and asking members to stand and recite the Key Club pledge. Members took their seats again and the meeting began.

"OK," Hines said. "Today's meeting is going to be real short since we're distributing the toys for the class adoption."

Key Club has sponsored the Adopt a Child program, where low-income families from the First Mansfield Methodist Church were selected by the Common Ground Network to receive help giving their children a normal Christmas. Names of the families, information about the children are distributed to fourth period classes who wish to participate in the program. These classes then buy Christmas presents for the children. Key Club picked up and organized all the presents and ran the distribution day.

**Ms. Burkett** introduced them to a young woman with two toddlers hiding behind her legs. The women lead the Key Clubbers to her car, where presents were packed.

The women blubbered a thank you to the members, trying to corral her children into her car before they could see a tear slip down her cheek. The Key Club members returned to the school and waited for the next name.

By Haley Hines