



A Fresh Start

ELA teacher Sindt takes on role as PALs director

After the retirement of last year's ELA and PALs teacher, teacher Andria Sindt decided it would be a unique opportunity to take on the role of teaching the Peer Assistance and Leadership (PALs) Excel class.

"The curriculum is very different with its focus on team building and service," Sindt said. "It is also very student-directed and offers participants more ownership."

Eighth grader William Howe thinks Sindt did a good job so far.

"It's pretty good now, but I would want to get involved outside of school more," Howe said.

Eighth grader Griffin Davis thinks that the PALs could show the incoming seventh graders who they are.

"I think [Sindt] really embraces the mentoring," Davis said.

Eighth grade PAL Heather Wolle likes being able to work with other students and help them.

"[Sindt] knows what she is doing and gives us good advice," Wolle said.

Sindt has never taught PALs before and would make some changes for next year.

"The first year doing something new is always challenging," Sindt said. "Next year I hope to better link group building exercises to the work the PALs are doing outside our classroom. I hope to be able to create a more constant schedule and offer more opportunities for service. I would also like to begin working toward incorporating peer mediation into the curriculum."

Eighth grader Amy Shreeve likes that Sindt is fun, but she gets stuff done.

"We're booked almost every day of the week," Shreeve said.

Sindt will continue to mentor PALs in future years, making improvements and changes each year to the changing class.