

# what a PAL

## PAL PROGRAM PROMOTES AWARENESS FOR BREAST CANCER, WOMEN'S RIGHTS

The Peers Accepting Learning and Sharing program has been running the annual "Pink Week" fundraiser to raise money for breast cancer research every year since teacher **Richard Cowles** became the sponsor in 2011. This year, the PALS program raised \$1,200, exceeding the \$800 raised last year.

The increased revenue was due in part to Peg-A-Pal, where students could pay \$1 for three water balloons to throw at the PALS. PALS stayed after school all week to fill up approximately 1,200 pink water balloons, which went quickly between the baseball players eager to practice their aim and those eager to toss a balloon at narcotics detection officer **Tony Andrew** when he decided to join in on the action during the last day of Pink Week.

"The Peg-A-Pal station was a great way to get everyone out of the school during lunch and join together for a great cause," junior PAL **Adrian Zabka** said. "My favorite part was buying water balloons for the people who didn't have money. It was fun to see other people having fun, while getting a laugh as they pegged my friends."

Another important part of Pink Week was showing your pride for "Pink Out Day," the Thursday of Pink Week that coincided with the annual rivalry game against LBJ. Senior PAL **Natalie Murphy** headed a group that sold all kinds of pink trinkets, such as bandanas, temporary tattoos, "Mac Pink Week" visors and lots of other pink goodies.

"We knew people might forget to wear pink, or not own pink clothes but still want to be a part of the support for cancer survivors and

fight against breast cancer, so the trinkets gave people a way to express their support and raised money, which we got to donate," Murphy said.

The PALS didn't only sponsor Pink Week. The group also continued the tradition it started last year by raising awareness for International Women's Week, March 7-11. In the main hallway by the office during the week, the PALS put up a "Wall of Notable Women," and during lunches encouraged students to add women to the wall that were important to them.

The PALS also started a new tradition for International Women's Day. On Tuesday, March 8, the PALS hosted a panel discussion during eighth period in the MAC, with representatives from Kuros, Allies Against Slavery, Girls Will Be and Well Aware discussing women's issues and social change, and how students can help in their community.

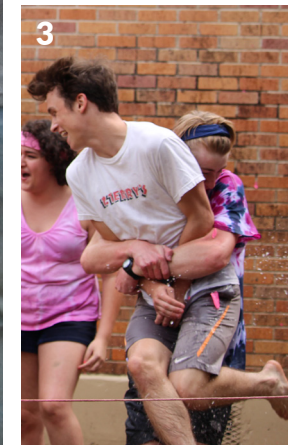
"Talking to people after the event, I think everything that was said stuck in their head, and made them want to do something about the problems that were mentioned," senior PAL **Yolanda Marquez** said.

Along with all of the community events, the PALS host at McCallum, they also work with students in local middle and elementary schools, which is what many students say is the most fulfilling part of PALS.

"PALS provides us with a unique opportunity in which we can visit younger students," junior PAL **Ignacio Morones** said. "We get to hang out, talk and play with them and be a positive role model, which they may not have had before. It is amazing to see the impact that a little time with a PAL has on these kids' lives."



**READY, AIM, FIRE!** PALS, along with other MAC students, line up to film a video for the AISD Police Department, where students threw balloons at narcotics detection officer **Tony Andrew** while fellow officer **John Pickford** shot the video. "It's fun to see the entire community joining together to support a common cause, such as Breast Cancer awareness," junior **Rachel Wolleben** said. Photo by **Nadia Freeman**.



**THINK PINK**  
1. Senior **David Ruwwe** and **Addy Hernandez** pie principal **Mike Garrison** during the Pink Week pep rally. "It made me feel like I was in charge instead of him," Ruwwe said. Photo by **Julie Robertson**.  
2. Senior **Emma Matus** gets soaked with a bucket of water by senior **Haruka Gerald** to celebrate the end of Pink Week. "It's so rewarding to get to do fun activities with the people I love, all while giving back to the community," Matus said. Photo by **Madison Olsen**.  
3. Senior **John Carson** holds up junior **Jackson Akin** to block a water balloon in the "Shooting PAL-ery", held at lunch during Pink Week. "I loved the [Shooting PAL-ery], because even though we were getting soaked it was super fun and all for a good cause," Akin said. Photo by **Madison Olsen**.



**GIRL POWER**  
PALS, who wore purple on International Women's Day, add the names of their loved ones to the Wall of Notable Women. "[The Wall of Notable Women] was a great way for everyone to share important women in their lives with others," senior **Mara Vandegriff** said. Photo by **Alana Raper**.

**LIVING IN HER LEGACY**  
Principal **Mike Garrison** adds his mother's name to the Wall of Notable Women during lunchtime. of International Women's Week. His note read: "Rose Marie Garrison - mother of 10 children - five of which are educators! Still going strong at 86." Photo by **Dave Winter**.



## IN THEIR SHOES PALS PARTICIPATE IN BLIND AWARENESS DAY AT TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND



1. Walking with goggles to simulate being partially blind, senior **Dominic Curry** takes a lap around the track at the Texas School for the Blind's Blind Awareness Day (B.A.D.).  
2. Senior **Ben Hernandez**, wearing goggles to simulate tunnel vision, attempts to make a sandwich. "I've always respected visually impaired people, but spending a day in their shoes made me respect them even more," Hernandez said. "Seeing someone without eyesight take on a challenge is inspiring and moving."  
3. PALS were also taught how to read and write in braille during the event.  
4. Senior **Luis Alvarez**, blindfolded, learns to walk with a cane. "The whole time I was scared because I didn't know what was around me," Alvarez said. "But the kids who go to the School for the Blind put me first and helped me walk, even though they had to look out for themselves too." Photos by **Richard Cowles**.