

# AR RAINBOW REBELS

by Gabe Gutierrez

Every Monday, Ms. Delana Martin's A-2 room is still bustling long after the school day has ended. Chit-chatting, doing crafts, or planning on-school events, the Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) is in swing from 3:30PM to 4:30PM.

Ms. Martin describes GSA fondly as "a place for education; to learn about our community; and a place for people talk through their issues in terms of things that they're struggling with" as well as a way "to meet other friends that are supportive." Its doors are open to all A.B. Miller students, whether they're queer themselves or just want to show support.

GSA has been going "so far, so good," according to Ms. Martin.

She states, "We have an average of anywhere from 35 to 40 students who come to our club meetings on a weekly basis." She's very proud of how active the club has been on campus. "We've been having tables throughout the year to bring awareness about different days [of commemoration]," she shares.

One such day was Bisexual Awareness Day. Freshmen club members E and Alex [last names here] designed a purple flyer, listing the club meeting hours and a hotline number. During lunch, members handed out the flyers and candy to students. "The experience was great, I loved seeing people being interested on these topics," commented sophomore Ashely Lopez Cabrera, "The students had great reactions [and] I had fun interacting with them." For the first event of the year, it went fantastically well.

The next campus event was National Coming Out Day. A table with a huge poster was set up in front of the cafeteria, and students were encouraged to write positive messages or color in the decorations that Ms. Martin had drawn. Afterwards, it was hung in front of the cafeteria windows (where it was promptly torn down; GSA is more necessary than one might first expect).

Most recently, GSA participated in the Health Awareness Fair, organized by various groups partnering with peer-leading. Next to the Planet Fitness table was the club's set-up, giving out stickers, rainbow ribbon pins, and a brochure full of useful hotlines, club info, and district contacts. "We also have new brochures that the school district has made for us that we can provide for students that need resources," Ms. Martin explained. Apart from the brochures, many students came back twice to get more stickers. This event was the was the best so far, with the most student participation. All of the GSA events, however, have been an important part of visibility on campus, which likely led to some of the new members this year.



One of these new students is Helen Gonzalez, a sophomore who just joined the club this year. "I joined GSA because I wanted to feel more accepted, I guess you can put it," she explained. Despite not being in the club for long, she commented that she "does feel happier and just more comfortable being myself."

A returning member, Ashley Lopez Cabrera, noted that "we are all more talkative than through a computer last year." She "recommends that other students should join if they are comfortable with it" because "we don't want to pressure others to join."

The seniors this year are very thankful that their last year is in-person. Reflecting on all their years in GSA, senior Remmy Mata expresses, "It feels amazing especially because I get to see the underclassmen come in and see how they express themselves and are more proud of their identities each year." They shared that they "stuck with the club so long because of the atmosphere they created in the club. You always felt welcomed and everyone was always super nice." Mata "gained knowledge of different identities plus [their] own along the way" with GSA. For members like Mata that will be graduating this year, they have a new surprise at the end of the school year. "We now have—for seniors that graduate and are part of the club for the entire year—they get a rainbow sage for graduation, so that's pretty cool," Ms. Martin reveals.

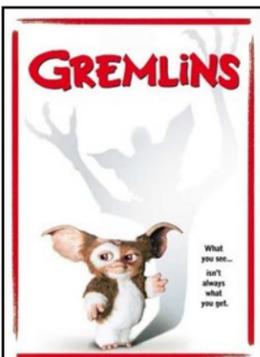
Ms. Martin wraps up saying how she's grateful that GSA is "a place where we accept and love everyone." She smiled, "I think that at the end of the day, you'll for sure meet a friend here at GSA."



*Not So Xmas continued.*

Christmas movies are usually delightful, but this particular movie gives Christmas movies a kick of festive fear.

**Iron Man 3:** Marvel's *Iron Man 3* is fun to watch as it is set during the Christmas season while Tony Stark fights off the Mandarin. For all the Marvel fans out there,



*Iron Man 3* is the perfect action-packed festive film to watch during the holiday season.

**Little Women:** *Little Woman* tells the story of the four young and independent March sisters as they each dream of the life they want to make for themselves set during

the Civil War. The film features various winter scenery and sets a cozy atmosphere surrounded by love and family.

**Mean Girls:** Although *Mean Girls* is not a Christmas movie, it follows the main protagonist, Cady



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