

PEOPLE WITH PASSION: ACTIVISM AT PV

by Ingrid Hofmann '21

As generations grow up, they tend to form their own ideas about society and take action against the ideas they perceive as wrong. Generation Z is no different. With a broad number of topics to be passionate about, activism within today's youth is on the rise.

A defining part of Generation Z is activism, and the youth of today are using their voice to talk about whatever cause they are passionate about. Through social media, marches, writing, and countless other forms of protest, Generation Z activists are sparking international conversations and igniting change across the globe about the issues they care about.

One prominent area of activism within the youth is gun violence. Following the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School was the creation of the national Never Again Movement. The Never Again Movement advocates for tighter gun regulations and restrictions in order to prevent future gun violence. And in the spring of 2018, PVHS had its own chapter, known as March for Our Lives.

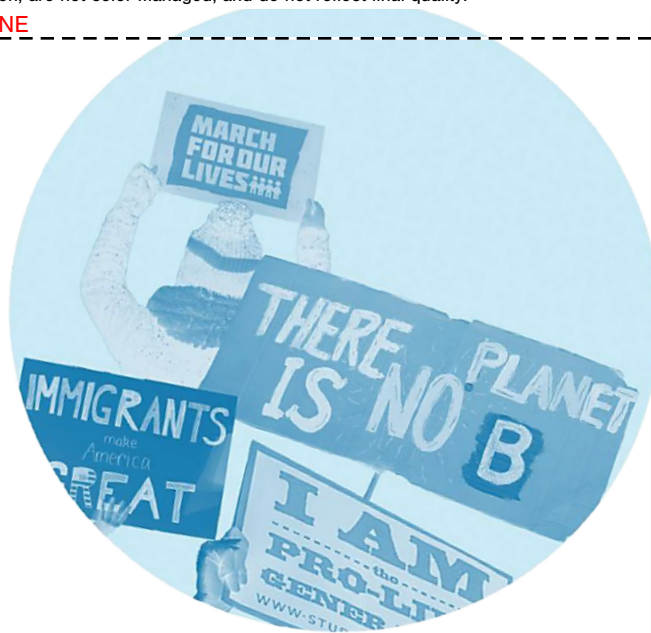
Junior Muskan Basnet, who joined as a freshman, says, "I joined March for Our Lives because, after hearing about the Parkland shooting, I

realized that a shooting could happen anywhere in the US and I wanted to raise awareness about it. Never Again aimed to raise awareness and make a change in regards to gun control in America." Basnet also said that "By keeping ourselves educated on current issues, we were able to have discussions and plan events that got attention. This way people who are not involved in March for Our Lives also knew what was going on around the country and what they could do to help." Although Pleasant Valley's chapter of March for Our Lives no longer meets, the national organization is continuing to make headlines and fight for change.

However, Never Again is not the only Pleasant Valley organization that aims to make a change on a broader spectrum. PV's Girls Learn International group, commonly known as GLI, meets every other Tuesday at 3:30 in room 289 to discuss current events and topics such as internalized racism, human rights, and LGBTQ+ rights.

Led by juniors Emerson Peters and Muskan Basnet, GLI attracts members from all backgrounds. Peters says, "We discuss a range of topics and our members include all genders! GLI also facilitates fundraisers and community actions to better education and human rights standards. Leading GLI is such a great experience because I can learn with others," Peters went on to say, "I'm not a human rights expert but sitting down and learning something so that I can explore it with all our members is a great way to learn and take action as a group."

Another group at PV is working towards a greater cause as well: the environment. Environmental Club meets the opposite Tuesdays of GLI in room 4 at 3:30. Environmental club is led by senior Margaret Huang and junior Allison Suen and discusses various topics such as sustainability, clean water, and various other ways that people can help the earth. In addition to the discussion, environmental club participates in various volunteer activities throughout the year such as tree planting, t-shirt and



water bottle sales, helping out at the botanic center, and many more activities.

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environment because there is so much to learn about it, and when you think you've learned all there is about something, there is always something else to learn or a new problem that will arise." Suen went on to comment about her passion for the club, saying "And when you join a club where everyone is in love with the world we live in and they all want to try their best to protect it, it makes my passion soar even more."

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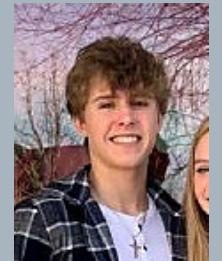
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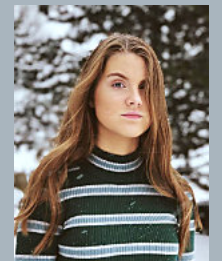
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CHASING DOWN THE DREAM

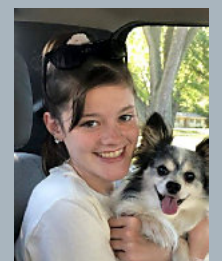
PV students dream big, knowing hard work and determination can get them anywhere. Here's how these Spartans are chasing their dreams.



Carson Albrecht '22
"To achieve my dreams I think: life is too short, don't sweat the small stuff."



Dana Johnson '22
"A dream I've accomplished is learning a really cool tik tok dance."



Nora Zimmermann '23
"I dream to be a choir teacher. Music education provides so many opportunities to students and it's something I'm really passionate about."



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