

## ALWAYS THANKFUL



Artwork by Bridgette McAllister '16

## We're All In this Together

### *The Fall Women's Encounter*

By Emily Jewett and Ashton Stowell

It was the start of something new.

Thirty-eight junior girls, nine senior leaders, and seven adult leaders, including moderator Stacy Baker gathered at St. Benedict's Lodge for the Fall Women's Encounter last weekend.

Senior rectors Kim Knudtson and Kennedy Sundberg led the retreat, often impersonating "High School Musical" characters Troy Bolton and Chad Danforth. The "we're all in this together" theme of "High School Musical" was perfect for the candidates' journey to find self, God, and others.

The theme was also fitting because it

helped the juniors to "break the status quo, by allowing them to grow in friendship, strengthening old and forging new ones.

"We've all grown spiritually together and we're more united as classmates," junior Malia Adee said.

The retreat was a time to get away from the stress and difficulties of everyday life, especially in the natural beauty and serenity of the McKenzie River. The weather was crisp and pleasant, with no rain or windstorms affecting outdoor activities.

Leaders of the encounter had been preparing for the three day weekend for nearly two months.



The 2015 Fall Women's Encounter. Photo by Toni Cooper