

Dance team holds kids clinic

The varsity dance team will be hosting a kids clinic on Wednesday, Feb. 10. The children who attend the clinic will learn a dance that they will perform during the North vs. Roseville High School basketball game Friday, Feb. 12.

The idea to host a clinic was inspired by Coach Leslie Genest's previous coaching experiences. She put the responsibility of running it on the team so they can earn the money themselves. Genest sees the clinic as benefitting the team in two ways.

"It's a really great fundraiser for the team. It's a great way to earn money for camp, gear and potentially competitions if the team wants to compete," she said. "It's also a good way to engage in other potential future dancers for the dance team and again the idea of being a role model for the community."

With her years of dance experience, sophomore and second-year team member Fiona Byrne will be choreographing the dance for the children.

"I like working with kids a lot so it will be really fun to get to teach them

and kind of be silly but also teach them something fun, and hopefully they have a good time," Byrne said.

Freshman Shella McNamara is excited for the clinic because of her love for youngsters. She is looking forward to working with them and gaining teaching skills.

"(I) like working with kids and seeing how much they can pick up from (the team) trying to teach somebody else the dance," McNamara said.

Byrne hopes the clinic will expand the dance team for the future.

"I hope that the kids really just have fun and hopefully some of the middle schoolers—especially the eighth graders—will consider trying out for dance team next year," Byrne said.

The dance team will teach the children to do basic dance moves and skills like leaps and turns. They will get experience performing for an audience while they dance.

"The best part is when the little ones actually go out and perform," Genest said. "They are so excited and proud to dance in front of the crowd."

By Allison Lackner & Caitlin Bush



ABOVE: Dance team performing their pom routine Friday, Jan. 29 at the North vs. Stevenson High School basketball game.

Journalism and environmental programs receive grants

The journalism and environmental science programs have each been selected to receive \$1,000 from Michigan State University's Knight Foundation, a program aimed at student newspapers to help them learn how to properly cover the outside world.

"We wrote a proposal back a few months ago to see if students in environmental science and journalism program can work more collaboratively with studying water quality of the Great

Lakes Watershed and disseminating the results in a more effective fashion," environmental science teacher Christopher Skowronski said. "Water quality is a central topic to society and is a cornerstone of the environmental science curriculum. We asked the Knight (Foundation) for the grant to assist with resource acquisition."

The foundation only grants the money to three high schools throughout the state. Another goal of the foundation is to help promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) learning. The grant the foundation gives is a way to simultaneously encourage environmental awareness and improve communication throughout high school publications.

Journalism students will work with two mentors, Nancy Hanus, the director of digital strategy at Crain's Detroit Business and Michael Happy, the digital director at Fox Sports Detroit's website.

"The money should be used to see through the ideas put forth in the proposal that earned Grosse Pointe North the grant," Hanus said. "So whether it's to facilitate trips to do water testing or to access reports or to pay for an interactive platform to present the data that is gathered—it should be something that goes toward the project."

Senior Olyvia Shimko, an officer of Students Against Environmental Violations (SAVE) looks forward to getting additional funding.

"I think that the grant is great, and this grant is going to be very profitable and we're gonna get a very round idea of what environmental science is," Shimko said. "I hope that they would utilize that (the grant) in having labs and show students a new perspective in learning."

By Erin Kaled & Asia Simmons

Jimmy John's sponsors athlete of the week

North athletes now have the chance to receive something priceless when they deliver their A-game. With help from Jimmy John's, coaches can nominate a player from their team for Athlete of the Week. Honorees will receive a free sub card. The first winners were senior basketball players Mitchell Zacharias and Emily McPharlin.

Zacharias found out about the news from a friend and was excited to be one of the first winners.

"I think it's a great idea," Zacharias said. "It'll get people to play better, play well. Now they have something to look forward to after the games are over. So, I think it's a great idea."

The Jimmy John's logo can be seen on the turf's scoreboard during some fall games. Now, the company is in the gym to promote its subs during winter sports, too.

"(Jimmy John's) are a sponsor for us on our scoreboards, and so they look for other opportunities to sponsor our school, and this was the idea they came up with," Athletic Director Brian Shelson said.

Shelson is working on putting a bulletin board by the gym. Jimmy John's will be contributing to its backdrop that will showcase the current Athlete of the Week as well as smaller photos of the athletes that have received it throughout the year.

Coach Ron Kochan chose Zacharias because of his demonstrated leadership and his ability to watch the ball in tough situations.

"Well, I mean, first of all, he's averaging 20 points a game on the season," Kochan said. "He's shooting a very high percentage."

Jimmy John's Freaky Fast Athlete of the Week

See the Athletic Office to claim your free sub!!!!

Emily McPharlin Mitchell Zacharias

WWW.GPNORTHATHLETICS.COM

ABOVE: The Jimmy John's Feaky Fast Athlete of the Week poster featuring Senior Emily McPharlin and Senior Mitchell Zacharias.

Kochan believes that this new weekly reward gives more than just motivation to athletes.

"It's a good way to recognize all athletes for all their hard work they put in," he said. "I mean they put in so much time and effort into what they're doing, and it's a good way to give recognition."

By Emma Brock

CALENDAR

STUDENT COUNT DAY
Wednesday, Feb. 10

PARENT CLUB MEETING
Wednesday, Feb. 10 from 7-9 p.m. in the Union

MIDWINTER BREAK
No school Monday, Feb. 15 to Friday, Feb. 19

CLOSE-UP TRIP TO WASHINGTON D.C.
Departs Sunday, Feb. 21

BAND AND ORCHESTRA BOOSTER
Tuesday, March 1 from 6-8 p.m.

SPORTS EVENTS

FIGURE SKATING
Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 4 p.m. at Port Huron

HOCKEY GAME
Home on Thursday, Feb. 11 at 5:30 p.m. against Regina High School

GIRLS BASKETBALL
Thursday, Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. at Romeo High

BASKETBALL GAME
Home against Roseville High School on Friday, Feb. 12 at 7 p.m.

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