

Tech producers bring musical set to life

Students work behind the scenes to produce musical props

By Sarah Wietecha
ASSISTANT EDITOR



ABOVE: “We add spatter to it to add speckle marks to it, then we put it on the wall and then myself and a couple other people we go across and we put cracks in it and divots. We started this about a month ago, but we do other shows too.”

LEFT: Techie Adam Ferkovich paints bricks onto a wall for the *Secret Garden* set. “The theme of the *Secret Garden* is nature taking over the modern era. It’s a nature revolution. So, we’re going with very industrial-like themes that are slowly degrading and a former glory. We’re watching nature take over as the show unfolds, lots of steel, lots of brick, but everything is very diluted. Nothing’s new. Everything’s older, a little bit past its prime, rusted and cracked.”



ABOVE: GPPSS employee Christine Karpinski helps paint the set for the musical. “I love seeing everyone’s hard work come together as one complete show,” Karpinski said. “It’s kind of gratifying seeing everything pay off.”



ABOVE: For people interested in theatre design, Wayne State University offers an excellent program. “There are a number of people that come through here that go on to being stage managers, working in lighting design,” Ferkovich said. “Some have actually come back here to continue helping with this.”

FACES IN THE CROWD

Teddy Prokop

Being a member of the Boy Scouts of America goes beyond selling popcorn and earning badges. Freshman Teddy Prokop makes a difference in the community, and his goal is to become an Eagle Scout.



“Being an Eagle Scout is the last rank. It is the objective,” Prokop said. “There isn’t much difference. It’s just like a Boy Scout is trying to become an Eagle Scout. Once you’re an Eagle Scout, you’re kind of done after that.”

To earn the honor, Eagle Scouts must complete a certain amount of community service, including things like memorial ceremonies and food drives. Boy Scouts also keeps Prokop busy with unique events.

“We do campouts once every month of the year, and we do a week at summer camp,” he said. “There is also other camps for older scouts, like I am doing this 80-mile hike in New Mexico this summer with my Boy Scouts. It is a backpack trip.”

Jennifer Wiederkehr

Americans don’t typically use malaria pills or get yellow fever or typhoid shots. But junior Jennifer Wiederkehr had them all before her trip to Africa.



In summer of 2012, Wiederkehr, her mom and her aunt spent two weeks in Kenya.

“My mom had always dreamed of going to Africa and stuff, like going on a safari,” Wiederkehr said.

Although the trip was an opportunity of a lifetime, Wiederkehr had some frightening experiences.

“There was a couple times at this one place where we had to stay in this big tent, and next to us there was a hippo at night, and it was making really weird noises,” Wiederkehr said. “My aunt told me that is could knock down the tent, which was scary.”

Not everything was terrifying, though. Wiederkehr and her family stayed at the giraffe manor.

“In the morning, giraffes came through the windows, and we got to feed them and stuff.”

Hunter Levick

Rather than ringing in the New Year with friends and watching the ball drop, freshman Hunter Levick spent his New Year’s Eve in surgery, getting his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) reconstructed.



Levick tore his ACL during his first basketball game as a Norseman.

“There was like two minutes left in the game, and I did this one move,” Levick said. “After that, I just couldn’t feel my knee anymore, and that is when I knew something was up.”

As expected, Levick’s surgery came with pain.

“The three days after the surgery, that is when I felt a lot of pain. After that it was just a lot of physical therapy, and now it takes me out of baseball and basketball for a full year.”

By Trevor Miecowski

FIVE MINUTES WITH Long-term substitute Allison Dunn

By Billy Moin
EDITOR

When she’s not grading essays and teaching vocab, long-term substitute Allison Dunn is navigating her way around the bow and arrow.

Dunn recently took up archery and has been taking beginner-level lessons at the War Memorial sponsored by Our Global Kids.

“I never went to a summer camp, so I feel like I really missed out on the classic horseback riding, archery sort of thing,” Dunn said. “It seems like everyone has done it in their life, and I have never done it, and it just seemed different.”

For Dunn, there are several appealing aspects to archery.

“I like that (it) is not typical, and not a lot of people do it, so I feel kind of like I am doing something unique to me,” Dunn said. “I like that it is a sport, but I can catch my breath during it, and I like that it is really easy and simple to see how quickly you are advancing. When you have a target you can see every single time, you can see if you are getting better and closer and it is not just baby steps.”

After about a month’s worth of

weekly lessons, Dunn said she is confident she could already teach the sport to someone else. However, that does not mean archery is easy.

“There are so many things you have to keep track of at once,” Dunn said. “You kind of have to remind yourself to maybe practice two or three things before you take on more ... because if you adjust your hands half an inch, it is going to change the (path of the) arrow by like five inches, and so you have to be very precise in that situation.”

At the moment, Dunn’s class is focusing on having consistency in their sets, or the groups of arrows they shoot. Their goal is keep their three shots within a small grouping, aiming for precision instead of the bullseye. According to Dunn, attaining consistency is crucial before trying to shoot for the middle.

As she is still new to the sport, Dunn isn’t sure how capable she will be. However, she hopes to stick with it.

“I basically like to try new things until my beginner’s luck wears off and move on to something else,” Dunn said. “I hope eventually, even though my beginner’s luck runs out, that actual talent kicks in.”



ABOVE: English teacher Allison Dunn currently uses a compound bow but hopes to transition to a recurve bow in the future. “There is lots of different styles and the compound bow is the only one I have used,” Dunn said. “I just want to see if it is more comfortable for me to try something else.”

DREAM VACATION

My dream vacation is probably Patagonia – hiking in Patagonia (Argentina).

PAST JOBS

My first job ever was to pass out candy canes on the Holiday Trolley that ran from the Village to the Hill — so that was pretty serious. Let’s see, I tutored the athletes at (the university of) Michigan, which was pretty awesome because some of them are like celebrities. And let’s see, substitute teaching that is very eclectic. I don’t know that is pretty (much) it for cool stuff.

SPECIAL TALENTS

I did win the teacher dance-off at my old school. I don’t like to brag about it, but it is pretty much my only claim to fame. Oh, and I can solve a Rubik’s Cube.

SPORTS WHEN YOUNGER

I did track when I was in high school. I was a sprinter and a pole vaulter, and I did all the other regular stuff until I was 6 like everyone else did, and then they realize they are not going to be a professional.