

IN BRIEF**Interact holds coat drive**

Interact Club will hold a meeting after school Thursday, Nov. 16 in the cafeteria to collect socks and winter boots donations for Big Family, which services foster children in need in Michigan. The items from this year's project will be donated to a girls academy in Detroit.

Freshman Esha Kumar is a member of Interact Club and plans to participate in the sock drive. Kumar said she wants to give back to her community because she feels she is privileged enough to do so, it will help her become a better person, and it isn't difficult to participate in such activities.

Interact Club president Eva Ciaramitaro said it is necessary to give back to the community and those in need.

"These kids need some of the most basic things, some things we may even take for granted, such as socks," Ciaramitaro said. "If this is something so little that could make a difference, then I felt the need to give."

French week returns early

French week festivities started a few days early thanks to the French Club. Since there were no classes Nov. 7 because of elections, they kicked off celebrations the Friday before to assure that five days could be dedicated to French culture.

The club sold French t-shirts and crepes during both Friday lunches. French teacher Pamela Foster wanted this French week to be applicable to all students, regardless of the language they take in school.

Sophomore Marta Bacon, a member of the French Club, said it is important to spread awareness of French culture around the school because learning about different cultures is something everyone should be a part of.

"By taking part in French week, they automatically know more about the French culture," she said. "They themselves are more cultured, and people need to know about other parts of the world. There is more to knowing than just the

New coaches for girls varsity hockey

Following the retirement of longtime coach Joe Lucchese, English teacher Emma Huellmantel is working alongside head coach Casey Quick to train the girls varsity hockey team.

Quick has a USA Hockey Certification and is qualified to train all levels of girls hockey. He has resided in Grosse Pointe his whole life and played hockey for North in the 80s.

Assistant coach Huellmantel coached field hockey last year. "My hope is that with the introduction of new coaches, the team is quickly able to adapt to our styles," Huellmantel said. "We don't have a whole lot of depth in the program right now, so we're hoping to get a few more players in the future so our team can be a little bit bigger."

Holiday parade

The 42nd Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade is on Friday, Nov. 24 and will be hosted by The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce. This year, the parade is called A Fairytale Christmas.

Jenny Boettcher, the president of The Chamber of Commerce, said the organization is looking for 60 students to hold banners in the parade. She added it will be about an hour long and starts at 10 a.m. The parade will take place on Kercheval Avenue and begins on Lewiston Road and ends on Cadieux Road.

Students interested can email info@grossepoinchamber.com or call 313-881-4722 to help out.

Photography club meets

Photo Club held its first meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 1. Meetings are on Wednesdays from 3:05 to 4:05 p.m. in art teacher Lisa Warren's room.

The objective of the club is to promote creativity through photography. Warren said students don't have to be in an art-related class to join. She added that joining the club can help students in photo classes.

"They have access to Photoshop on the computers and can work on any assignments from class or (build) their personal photography practice," Warren said. "I can provide them with ideas for photo shoots or techniques to try, but the club is mostly driven by what the students want to work on."

Warren said students should bring their own camera.

"It's helpful to bring your own camera. We have some cameras that can be used, but only limited supplies," Warren said. "The more people that have cameras, the easier it is for people to take pictures."

Student council elections

On Tuesday, Oct. 31, the Class of 2021 Student Council held their first election. Because of the low amount of nominees, the council is small compared to other classes. It consists of only five senators instead of eight.

Freshman and senator Stephen Barstys said he isn't worried about the low amount of councilmembers.

"I don't think it will really be an issue," Barstys said. "We have a lot of competent people on it and it will be OK."

In addition to this, voter turnout was also low. Barstys said turnout is an important factor because it gets different social circles to vote. He added that he hopes more students participate next year.

By Syeda Rizvi & Sydney Semack



SHAKE IT | The Gearheads team dances to show their spirit at the robotics competition at Bloomfield Hills High School on Nov. 11. "The girls on the team, the people who are going to be on the drive team, have been practicing on weekends, together, just going through the team movements that we'll need to do in competition," junior Ritika Pansare said before the competition.

Gearheads participate, place in female-oriented invitational

By Colin Haroutunian
INTERN

Since August, the Gearheads team #1189, including junior Ritika Pansare and senior Michelle Bridges, trained for a female-focused and steampunk-themed competition at Bloomfield Hills High School on Saturday, Nov. 11. The team finished in 24th place.

The objective of the competition, which the team has competed in since 2014, is to score the most points using one robot. Pansare said that while it is an off-season event mainly for the girls, it provides experience for the whole team. To prepare for the theme of the event, the team worked on both technique and team movements.

"(The team has) been practicing picking up the gears and delivering them, and having someone pick them up

and put them where they need to be," Pansare said.

Junior Christopher Fong helped the female team in their meetings by providing support and plans on how to better operate the robot.

"We've been meeting on Thursdays and Saturdays to prep for the girls drive team to practice setting up the robot, talk about strategies and how a robot operates, how it functions," he said.

Bridges is the team's safety captain, and she thinks the team is well-prepared for the event because of the practices they've been holding. She said the team has enhanced their safety committee and has a strengthened leadership, alongside a greater understanding of the events.

Since prior competitions, they have also changed how they prepare for the season and how they setup the robot, between the designing

and planning processes. Bridges also said the team has been better prepared for competitions than previous years.

"I believe that we have a stronger safety committee. We have stronger captains on the team" Bridges said.

"At competitions, I help set up, I make sure everyone has safety glasses. I give safety presentations to the peer administrators."

Pansare noticed the progress the team has made since her first year. She said that by receiving multiple awards for safety and spirit and reaching state finals last year, the team realized they could perform well in other aspects, besides the robot portion.

According to Fong, the team demographics have changed, too. The amount of female members has increased from around 15 percent last

year to 30 percent this year.

"This year, we have really been trying to push more girls to be involved in a STEM-related activity—more specifically, the Gearheads robotics team," Fong said. "We've been trying to push that out."

Even with these advancements and their boost in morale from making it to state finals last year, Pansare said the team can still better themselves. However, the team's progress is noteworthy nonetheless.

"We've definitely improved, not just with our robot, I think our team in general in terms of its organizational structure and the communication," Pansare said. "I've seen an improvement."

Contributing: Arzoo Chhaya, Nadia Fama

Open house offers families school tours



PUTTING ON A SHOW | Senior Michal Ruprecht and alumus Ben Swilinski perform a science experiment at last year's open house.

By Katelynn Mulder
PAGE EDITOR

Last year freshman Lucy Tranchida was deciding between going to Regina High School or North. Tranchida said that the opening house held by North was a big influence on her final decision.

"I was looking for a school with many opportunities, and I was on the bridge of going to Regina and North. Regina felt isolated to me, and not a lot of activities and opportunities,"

Tranchida said. "There were way more kids at North, and more friends you could make and people you know. Everyone is close by and knows each other, and there was way more opportunities

and sports and activities and a bigger variety of stuff."

With the latest open house having occurred last Sunday on Nov. 12, the building was once again open for students and families in the community to come and take a look at North.

One aspect of the open house is a tour lead by students in the National Honor Society. NHS advisor and counselor Milissa Pierce said that she has helped with the open house in the past.

"We have NHS students who are doing tours and they will visit all the big main parts of the building—Innovation Lab, the science wing, they will see our media center, the library," Pierce said. "They

Pierce said that the goal of the open house is to invite the community to see what goes on at North.

"It's an opportunity for students who have not previously been at North to visit and to talk to teachers and students and tour the facility," Pierce said. "It's also an opportunity for students who are new to district or families who are new to the district to families who have previously sent their students to parochial private schools and are considering whether or not to send their kids to our district."

Pierce said that her favorite part of the entire open house is seeing the families and students after they have taken a tour of North.

"That's the best part because (the tour guides) are giving them the bird's-eye view of what goes on here and (the families) are usually animated and excited to tour. To me that is kind of my favorite part, seeing the families come back after the tour," Pierce said. "And also seeing those students who might be a little tentative or nervous about coming. You know their parents are making them go on this tour or whatever, and sometimes the students just feel very excited and happy when they come back from the tour."

Science teacher Susan Speirs has been participating in the open house since the district first started the event. On the tour, visitors will be taken to her classroom SCI-102. "I love to meet the families, be part of the dialogue with families and potential students about selecting a school, and watch our North students shine in their leadership roles as tour guides," Speirs said via email.

By Syeda Rizvi & Sydney Semack