

# the NEW TRIER NEWS



## Student body comes together to celebrate Trevian pride

School holds pep rally for the first time in 20 years

by Claudia Levens

After 20 years, the New Trier pep rally was triumphantly revived last Monday, Oct. 2, for Spirit Week.

In addition to shorter regular periods, the day brought two 50-minute periods where advisories in either group A or B trickled into the buzzing chaos of the Gates Gym, where they participated in various activities including 'Under the Sea' themed games that pitted students and staff against each other, and singing the fight song.

Student Activities Coordinator Stacy Kolack, who spearheaded the organization of the event, said "momentum has been building over the last few years for a bigger event—something bigger than the smaller pep assemblies we've been doing these past years—that brings together the whole school."

Even with the division of groups A and B, the rally achieved a scale that has not been seen at New Trier in a while.

Not only was there a DJ, and shirts launched into the stands, the rally also included performances from the Pep Band, Cheer and Dance



Green Team assistant captain James Snyder pumps up the crowd at the pep rally | Pearlman

teams, and fundraising for hurricane relief.

"We're always looking for more ways to get the student body involved in events at New Trier," said Student Alliance President senior Jacob Imber, "we figured that now was as good a time as any to make this happen. This seemed like the best way to get everyone excited about homecoming."

Though many, like Imber, considered the pep rally a spirited and worthy event, others questioned its purpose or saw it as a nuisance.

Junior Eileen Wolff noted that it was quite overwhelming and

overcrowded, though she stated that she was indifferent to having another next year.

Junior Ridah Chhotoo agreed. Having transferred to New Trier this year from Niles North, Chhotoo observed that in comparison to the pep rallies there, the crowd was much less engaged. "It felt like we were just watching people do things. It didn't feel as spirited." She also liked that Niles North's homecoming pep rally was always at the very end of the day the Friday before the dance.

Imber agrees on one hand that there are aspects to improve upon for coming years, such as

smoother transitions and more crowd participation. But as this was their first time organizing something like this, it was ultimately a way to bring the school together. In this sense, to Imber, "it was absolutely a success."

In fact, planning a school-wide event that attempted to unite the entire school required the unification and combined efforts of numerous clubs and organizations at New Trier including Pep Club, Tri-Ship, Green Team, Girls Club, Student Alliance, Pep Band, Dance Team, Cheer Team, High 5 Choir ALPS Leadership students, and four student mascots.

"Girls Club members were

split into three groups," said Mia Sampson, a Girls Club Officer who also participated in the event. "Officers were told to hold up signs, other members fundraised money throughout the crowd for the hurricane, and others participated in the games."

"It took a lot of people to make it happen," said Kolack. "Not only did they have a massive load to organize and prepare, but since there were only three weeks from the first day to Spirit Week, many groups began planning as far back as last spring, and some even worked over the summer."

Just moments before the start of Group A's period, there was a power outage. "It was definitely a challenge" said Kolack, "but eventually it came back on and everything was fine."

A feedback survey was sent out to advisers earlier this week to get a sense of how the pep rally was received and what could have been improved. Nothing has officially been announced as to whether this will happen again next year.

"It really feels almost like a milestone for New Trier," said Kolack.

"I feel like there's so much school spirit, but it's all so separated to a specific department, team, or club. It was nice to bring that together."

## Students question effectiveness of new printing app

New app Uniflow designed to address last year's printing problems

by Jasmine Gonzalez

After years of failures in the printing systems that resulted in stacks of wasted papers and frustrated students, the IT department has implemented a new AirPrint system.

With QR codes hanging all over the library and an undeletable app on the iPad, it's difficult not to notice the changes.

While AirPrint is practical in that, theoretically, students can wirelessly print from any of the many printers located throughout the entire school, it is not very helpful if it is constantly crashing.

*By nature people are resistant to change, and technology changes faster than anything else*

Last year, multiple faults in the AirPrint system resulted in piles of uncollected papers in the library printers at the end of the day.

Although the old system was straightforward and easy to use, it simply did not work very often.

Daniel Schaibly, hardware and software engineer for the school,



The new printers in the library feature QR codes that can be scanned to print faster and easier | Pearlman

explained "The main reason for [the implementation of the new printing system] was our old system was not actually a system developed by an established company, but rather a homemade fix created by the New Trier Technology Department to fill a school-wide need."

The old system was inconsistent and unreliable because all of the printers relied on a single Mac Mini that served as a makeshift AirPrint server when connected to the student wireless network. The tech department programmed the computers to advertise all of the school printers as AirPrint printers, something that Macs are not designed to do.

"As you can imagine, this was pretty clunky and there was a lot of

room for error," said Schaibly.

Uniflow, on the other hand, has proven to be much more reliable. It works in conjunction with the servers that are already being used to deploy printers to the school computers. In other words, Uniflow is system specifically made for printing to the library.

As of now, the students that have learned how to use the printers have reported only a few minor bugs. The IT department is actively working to fix these bugs, and encourages students to contact the help desk if they continue to experience problems.

Librarians have also taken on the responsibility of teaching confused students how to use the new system.

As librarian Susan Peterson explained, for the students who

are actually aware that there even is a new way of printing, it is not necessarily more difficult, but is "just a new kind of learning." After all, most sophomores already have to learn when transferring to the Winnetka campus. Librarians have incorporated lessons on Uniflow into the sophomore library orientation.

For upperclassmen, adjusting to change can be difficult and slow. For seniors and juniors who had already adapted to the old way of doing things, adapting to a whole new system can not only be difficult but an inconvenience.

"It's one of the big challenges every IT department faces. By nature, people are resistant to change, and technology changes faster than anything else," said Schaibly.

Despite this, students are learning to adapt. Once they get past the initial struggles, "they're pretty independent and you see a lot of students helping each other out once they learn for themselves, which is really nice," said Peterson.

Although there seems to be a general aversion to learning to do things the new way, students do seem willing to adapt. "I like how fast it prints because you don't have to wait for a connection," said Senior Lisa Gong.

Junior Abbi Baran added that, although the new system is much faster, that is only when using an iPad.

For students using a laptop, "it's really challenging and you're better off just logging on to a desktop which can be pretty inconvenient," she said.

Regardless of the learning curve, it is undeniable that Uniflow is better for the environment. As Peterson explained, "paper waste has gone down a lot since you no longer have students going printer to printer leaving behind stacks of paper because by the time the printers would actually work, they were long gone."

While it may not have been a very welcome change at first, students and librarians seem to agree that Uniflow has made printing much more convenient.