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A Middle Schooler's Guide to the NT Carnival

In addition to the preschoolers scouting for candy, middle schoolers join the New Trier Carnival crowd in the hopes of impressing their future classmates on Feb. 20.

Junior high students are usual attendees of the carnival, hanging around food booths with their cliques. The patter of Uggs and the shine of iPhone screens are just a few of the countless sights and sounds of the preteen generation.

"Wearing New Trier gear and skinny jeans was a common trend," explained junior Addie Turner, who attended the carnival when she was in junior high. "Many [girls] would also wear a purse because it made them appear older."

The attire may also include makeup, in hopes of making the student seem more mature when compared to their fellow classmates.

The majority of middle schoolers will also attend

the carnival in groups of friends, arriving after the initial start of the carnival. It is also common to meet other friends at various booths and other sections of the school.

"It was cool to go into the side hallways and hang out," shared junior Claire Baisley.

But nevertheless, it is not uncommon for middle schoolers to get lost in the Winnetka campus halls. "I didn't always know where to go," said Turner. "I was always too scared to ask a senior for directions."

The reason for attending the carnival is that preteens aspire to be like the high schoolers. "I always felt that I was so old because I was hanging around all the teenagers," shared Baisley.

But not all tweens follow the crowd. "I would just be myself," said fifth grader Sophie Bartels. "I don't need to try to look cool."



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2015's Booth Diversity

Each year, the senior class hosts their Winter Carnival to benefit Habitat for Humanity. The evening is filled with inflatables, games, and food. The activities range from the classics like beanbag toss, face painting, and musical chairs to more unique events such as a Harry Potter battle and life-sized Candyland.

This year's Winter Carnival has more than fifty activities lined up, not counting the different types of food that will be set up in the Stage Gym. There are activities to suit everyone's tastes, whether it is jewelry making and fingernail painting, Guitar Hero and Mario Kart, or ping-pong and a climbing wall. With so many options, there is no one opinion on what activity is the all-time favorite. Kids love all the different activities, which is what makes Winter Carnival so successful. So get your family's opinion, and bring them to Winter Carnival, tonight from 5:30 to 9 pm. Admission is free, game tickets can be purchased around the building, and all proceeds go directly to Habitat for Humanity.



The Advisery Booth-Assignment Dilemma

Before the endless smiles and infectious laughter, New Trier seniors, with the help of their advisers, work hard to construct their booths for the 20th annual Winter Carnival on Feb. 20.

For the past 20 years, the NT Carnival has been raising money for the senior class service project. This year's charity is Habitat for Humanity, whose goal is to repair and build houses all around the globe.

Each advisery chooses one booth to run. All members of the advisery must agree on their booth choice. Options range from food stands to ping-pong games. This year, there are over 52 booths and activities located throughout the carnival. Senior adviser Kevin Bond explained that each booth is placed in either a classroom or gym depending on what the activity is.

Every advisery submits three booth choices and the Habitat for Humanity board selects a booth for the advisery. Sadly, not every advisery gets the activity they requested.

"We ended up picking a different booth," said Bond.

"One of my advisees remembered an activity from when he was a child. Our advisery decided to choose that one."

Many of the booths are built to appeal to young children and middle schoolers, as they are common attendees of the carnival each year.

"The most difficult part [of Winter Carnival] was finding an activity that multiple age groups might like," shared Senior Menley Denham. The goal of every booth is to make sure each visitor has a great time.

In addition, seniors must set up and run their chosen activities. "It's a lot of work to set up," explained Bond. "Advisees must work in shifts to successfully run the booth."

From 5:30-9:00 p.m. the seniors manage the booths for the entire fair and try to gain as many participants as possible, and then they disassemble the booths at the end of the night.

"We want [the attendees] to have a great time and remember the carnival for many years," said Bond.