

Third quarter drags on for staff and students alike

Revised calendar means longest third quarter in NT history

by Bella Geroulis

Among the many issues that the recent construction to New Trier has raised, possibly the most difficult burden for students and faculty is the lack of days off in order to complete the three year long remodeling of the school.

The construction has jeopardized the days off throughout each semester in an effort to complete the process as soon as possible. This makes the 2016 3rd quarter to be the longest quarter

in New Trier history, with almost no days off and a few national holidays being disregarded.

The days off in the quarter act as a much needed break for many students and staff. The ability to relax on those days is among the many other reasons why students feel so strongly about their necessity.

Junior Jordan Smith said, "School is constantly my main focus, and I always feel like I'm giving it my full attention."

Smith isn't alone. Students in all grades said that President's Day gave them something to look forward to during their heavy school week.

Teachers see and feel the burden of the more rigorous school year

as well. They often use the days off school to prep and plan for their classes. Shao-Yun Guo, a first year mathematics teacher, described the school year as tiring and "difficult every day even for teachers."

Guo even sees the changes in his students. He said, "You can tell when students are tired and when they just need a break. Student health is very important and should be taken seriously."

Student health is already a huge concern at New Trier as many students make academics their top priority, and often forget to take a break now and then.

Guo went on to mention the idea that days off aren't just a party,

but some offer religious and cultural importance. Recently, rather than get the usual day of for remembrance on Martin Luther King Day, New Trier offered different discussions about race and current social injustices.

There was much debate within the community of whether or not holding school on MLK day was appropriate, but it was due to the construction that a full school day was in fact held.

Despite the many difficulties and controversies that have come along with the extended third quarter, many Trevians can look past the quarter and find the benefits from the fewer days off.

Because of the rigorous

construction schedule, the 2016 summer has been extended to three months, rather than the usual two.

Sophomore Kelsey Ortega said, "It's worth it in the end to have the longer summer rather than a few days throughout the year."

The construction is supposed to be completed in 2017 and the school hopes to return to a regular schedule again by next year.

While the quarter is shortly coming to an end, the question still stands of whether or not the construction is hindering student and faculty's success and if the ends truly justifies the means.

Gettin' jazzed up



Jazz 1 ensemble performs at the annual New Trier Jazz Fest | Trevia

Musicians congregate at NT for day of jazz

by Anastasia Maragos

The 33rd annual New Trier Jazz Fest allowed a full day for students to share their love of the art form.

41 middle and high schools from Wisconsin, Michigan and Illinois filled every room and hallway of New Trier. The students traveled to the fest for the opportunity to show off their jazz chops but also to learn new skills.

The Jazz Fest events included performances by the visiting ensembles, clinics run by esteemed jazz musicians and, in the evening, a concert showcasing the New Trier Jazz 1 ensemble and the Chris Potter Big Band.

For the day to run smoothly, a lot of work had to be done beforehand. Emiel De Jaegher, senior and Jazz Fest student director, had many responsibilities: moving music equipment, knowing the room assignments for each visiting school and making sure that the student volunteers worked together.

"The key to the success was not working fast, but working smart," De Jaegher said.

Nic Meyer, Jazz Music Faculty Director, said as a result of the students' hard work the day went well.

The major element the students did was make the "guests feel that they were welcomed and wanted here," Meyer said. Once the logistics were settled, the day went as planned.

The educational component of the "fest" were the clinics, which gave jazz students the opportunity to grow in their musicianship.

During the clinic, the clinician gave constructive criticism to the students on their playing. Some of the concepts they taught included how to count "swung" jazz rhythms.

They also gave tips to help the students improve their jazz improvisation.

But most importantly, the clinicians taught the students the importance of expressing their musical story.

Meyer said that the visiting schools come to Jazz Fest primarily for the clinic opportunities. "We ask

schools to not bring their top band but bring their younger ensembles."

The idea behind this was to give younger students exposure to these musical learning opportunities which they wouldn't have received until they were in their school's top ensemble.

After the many clinics and performances by the visiting schools were finished, the New Trier Jazz 1 students prepared for their performance. The Jazz 1 students played in the Gaffney auditorium to a sold out crowd of 1600 people. The audience was comprised of the student volunteers, members of the community, parents and the Chris Potter Big Band.

Jazz 1 performed a concert filled with songs that showcased different types of jazz music. They played "There's a Boat Dat's Leavin' soon for New York," by George Gershwin, which harkened back to the more traditional style of jazz.

They also played an Afro-Cuban number called "Guajira Dubois," by Brian Lynch.

Michaela Ritchie, a junior trumpet player in Jazz 1, felt that her performance was enhanced because of the seniors in Jazz 1. "Because of the seniors' confidence, I felt confident in our bands' ability to play with the energy and preciseness required to put on a good show."

Tyler Anderson, a senior and a tenor saxophone player in Jazz 1, said, "I performed with people I've known for years, some since middle school. That performance is the most memorable one of my life."

The Chris Potter Big Band played after the Jazz 1 performance. Potter, a saxophonist, has been described by the Down Beat Jazz Magazine as "one of the of the best musicians around."

As Potter played, the Jazz 1 students had their eyes glued on him as he effortlessly moved his fingers about the keys in improvisation.

At the end of Potter's hour-long performance, the audience rose to their feet to give him a standing ovation. De Jaegher said, "Potter's performance was both interesting and mind-blowing. His music is very contemporary and harmonically complex to a whole new level."

Meyer said, "If the band

Trevapalooza, where freshmen stick out like well-dressed thumbs

Many upperclassmen enjoy dances, but freshman aren't quite so sure yet

by Charlie Burton

After name changes and months of planning, New Trier hosted the first ever Trevapalooza on Feb. 20, 2016.

For some students, this time of year is a fun event that they look forward to, but others have mixed feelings about Trevapalooza and dances as a whole.

"Every year it seems as if something goes wrong," says junior Rachel Cohen, "Whether it is finding an after party or figuring out who to ask, it always provides unnecessary stress."

Despite the stresses of planning a theme, juniors and seniors tend to be more relaxed about it because they have gone to the dance before. On the other hand, freshman have no idea what their night may entail.

"The dance was a lot more fun this year than others," said junior Matt Mulhern, "plus, I got down on the dance floor."

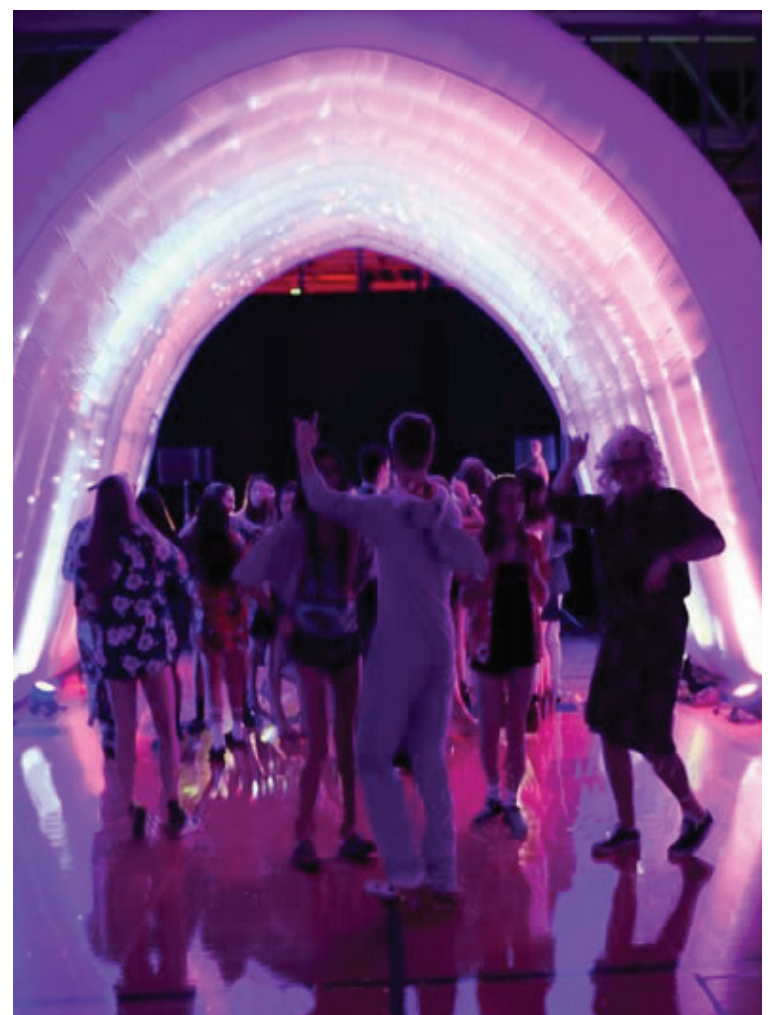
"I'm the most worried about little details," said freshman Kelly McNulty, "I don't know when we should go to the dance or how long we should stay."

McNulty also claimed that she was worried about seeing upperclassmen at the dance because freshman are not accustomed to them at the Northfield campus.

But all in all, Trevapalooza is about having a good time with your peers. "I am more excited about the dance than worried," said McNulty, "The most important part is that to have fun with your friends and not worry about details."

Two days later McNulty and Kann were not disappointed, "I had a blast," said Kann, "honestly, the best part of the night was the dance itself."

Other juniors had the same opinion as Kann, "The dance was a lot more fun this year than others," said junior Matt Mulhern, "plus I got down on the dance floor."



New Trier seniors and juniors rocking out at Trevapalooza | Stuart-Rodgers

Most juniors and seniors had the same reaction about the dance, while younger kids had a more difficult time getting loose at the dance.

"It was uncomfortable trying to do anything at the dance," said sophomore Mason Smith, "especially because we have to dress up, it makes it obvious that I am an underclassmen."

Talking to upperclassmen compared to freshman and sophomores, the responses were the same as every year. The upperclassmen had a good time not only at the after party, but also at the dance while underclassmen's favorite part of the night was the after party.

One of the biggest issues with asking a date is how quickly the process happens. Cohen describes this anarchy-filled week as the "wave:" the moment where many people in the school lose their mind sprawling for a date.

"I asked my date during the wave," said Cohen, "It was annoying because I hadn't thought about who to ask, but I didn't want to be left dateless."

Senior Joe Graves chose not to participate in the madness, "Dances just aren't my thing," said Graves. "I

would rather stay home and go to an after party than waste two hundred dollars on a dance."

Dances do come at a cost.

Taking into account the bus, costumes, and tickets to the dance New Trier students spend around a hundred dollars for a night of fun.

But junior Ryan McGuinness says it is all worth it, "It's better to go because school dances are something everyone should experience. I mean, where else can you party with your entire school?"

One of New Trier's traditions for Homecoming and Turnabout that is different from other schools is that junior and senior groups have a theme. So upperclassmen have another added worry making sure they order their costumes in time for the dance.

With the changing world as well, some students have difficulty making sure that the themes are appropriate. "Our group came up with two ideas and the school said no to both," said junior Matt Kann, "we wanted to do cowboys and indians, but the school wouldn't let us. And since I already bought my costume, I wasted sixty dollars."