

Class of 2017 carries on longstanding tradition

New Trier throws its 23rd annual Winter carnival

by Jesse McCauley

For the past 23 years, New Trier has opened its doors to children of all ages in the name of Habitat for Humanity.

Children eagerly rush to participate in festivities like bozo buckets, human bowling, and bracelet making just to name a few of the over 40 activities that the senior class put on.

"When I was a little kid I always looked up to the seniors who were running the carnival, so it was very weird to be on the other side of that," Senior Erin Miller said.

"I don't feel like I'm old enough to be that girl that little me looked up to."

Now, she's the big kid running the booths. She and the rest of the Barraza advisery ran the "wedding chapel" booth, which involved kids walking down the aisle that they created. The seniors then read speeches and hand out ring pops and marriage certificates.

"I liked how excited they were, and it was fun to feel like we were helping them have a good time," Miller said.

Tim Hano ran a broom ball booth with the Howe advisery. At first, there weren't many kids who



Seniors Erin Miller, Margot Bergonia, and Chloe Brass all help run a wedding chapel during the carnival | Caras

showed up to the booth, but after Tim and a friend went advertising in the hallways, a big line formed. The seniors then engaged in a competitive and fun game of broom ball with the kids.

"It was fun running the booth because it made me feel like a little kid again. Interacting with the kids

made me feel grown up, but young at the same time," Hano said. Hano remembered how much he admired how the school was able to create an event like this back when he was in seventh grade.

Sophie Lieberman also remembered her excitement as a kid. "To get to go hang out with all

the cool high school kids was the best thing ever. There were so many fun games, and I felt like New Trier was the biggest place I had ever been to," Lieberman said.

Lieberman is in the Heidkamp advisery, and they ran a fortune telling booth, in which seniors told fortunes through a crystal ball and

fortune tellers. Lieberman, running the crystal ball, seemed like a real psychic to the kids. She even guessed a kid's birthday on the first try. The girls advisery had fun with the kids.

"I felt so old being on the other side off the carnival because it was such a tradition as a kid seeing all the 'older kids' and now that was me," Lieberman said.

The carnival itself took a great deal of planning. Posters and t-shirts were made to promote the event. Each advisery also set up and decorated their room.

After school the students and staff, including senior adviser chairs Susie Paunan and Chris Pearson, made sure to turn the school into an inviting carnival.

Paunan and Pearson both agree that the carnival is a great way for the community to get involved not only to help a cause, but to interact with each other.

Both of the adviser chairs were very pleased with the seniors in how they interacted with the kids this year.

"The seniors were amazing. They step up every year. The energy was fantastic and the kids' faces just lit up as they entered the door," Paunan said. "At some point those kids will be the ones leading the event."

"We always here from parents about how their kids are so excited about the opportunity to spend time with the high school students," Pearson said.

Meaning in music tuned out by pop hits

In light of the Grammy's, does music need to be more than just entertainment?

by Tia Rotolo

As a political revolution sparked in 2016, music became one more facet for the outcry for social justice.

But with the increasing importance of the message, mere sound and production struggle to stay on the same scale.

A few months ago, I was looking at Pitchfork Magazine's top albums of 2016.

I scrolled through the long list of politically-charged albums. A Tribe Called Quest's "We Got It From Here... Thank You 4 Your Service" took its place at number 7.

The comeback album brought Tribe from the depths of silence to speak on the current state of the country as prejudice remains present and community has the power to keep us together.

Chance the Rapper's "Coloring Book" took number 6. The album won the Grammy for Best Rap Album of the Year as an independent work.

Chance's structured use of gospel music translated his own faith, especially in struggling with love and drugs.

The most important thing the album did was bring positivity back to rap music without sacrificing the importance of the message.

Then my scrolling came to a sudden stop. At number 5, to my horror, was Kanye West's "The Life of Pablo."

I was shocked. West's album was, at most, decent. The best part of the album, arguably is the production, specifically its use of samples. From Nina Simone to Pastor T.L. Barnett, West's interlacing of other tracks was done wisely, bringing something fresh to rap, if you even want to call it that.

But even if the album had a few good singles, it did nothing compared to the importance of the albums surrounding it.

This is exactly where I found fault.

Both Tribe's and Chance's album spoke about important issues. The albums following West's included Beyonce's "Lemonade," Frank Ocean's "Blonde," and Solange's "A Seat at the Table," all of which took their position on issues of social justice in one way or another, specifically commenting on the reality of being black in America.

I couldn't grasp how "The Life of Pablo" could be compared to the other albums. The others used their platform to add dialogue regarding the current state of our country and West avoided it all together.

Then the Grammys forced me into a similar dilemma. Adele won over Beyonce for best album, potentially another example of how the Grammys have failed black artists (see Macklemore's win against Kendrick Lamar in 2014 for the most supreme example of Grammy injustice). It also failed my notion that music had to have an important message to qualify as "good."

Adele's album, "25," featured her strong, chilling vocals on ballads about love and time. But Beyonce's "Lemonade" did something. It gave people confidence and empowerment.

It spoke, honestly, on what it means to be a black woman today. It brought realism to the institution of

marriage and the hurt that comes with the unfaithful.

Even Adele knew that.

She could barely accept her award without graciously thanking Beyonce for the masterpiece that was Lemonade.

"And this album for me, the Lemonade album, was so monumental and so well thought out and so beautiful and soul bearing. You are our light. The way you make my friends feel and the way you make my black friends feel is empowering and you make them stand up for themselves," Adele said in her acceptance speech.

Despite the matter of opinion of which album was better, there's no contest that Beyonce's album was more important.

So where is her award?

When does the message overpower the medium of sound, vocals, and production?

Music isn't necessary to the political climate in America. Yet, when observing music through history, the best and most popular music usually has had meaning bigger than the struggles of the average person.

The majority of memorable music of the '60s and '70s spoke against the state of war in the country, praying for peace and equality and sparking revolution for change.

The '90s rap scene gave honest accounts of life in the inner-cities of America's largest cities, telling a narrative that hadn't yet been explored. The honesty of experience had resounding effects.

This is the potential of music.

2016 isn't the first year where music has had the power to inform and change, but as music remains a voice to the marginalized and a facet of the political revolution, it requires more than just a thoughtful listen.

Andrew Milne recognized for outstanding teaching

New Trier health teacher receives Midwest Teacher of the Year award

by David Heiman

This February, New Trier Kinetic Wellness teacher Andrew Milne won the Midwest Health Teacher of the Year Award.

This award followed Milne's win for the Illinois Health Teacher of the Year Award.

"I initially applied for this award because the time felt right for me to be considered for the award," Milne said.

"I first applied for the Illinois Health Teacher of the Year and I needed to write about myself and get references from other teachers in the school."

After winning the Illinois Teacher of the Year, Milne asked for the Midwest Health Teacher of the year. "For that, I needed another written piece about myself and also get more references from the teachers in the school" stated Milne.

"When I won the first award, I was on the committee that votes for it. Since I was in the running, I had to step out. When I found out I had won the award, it was very exciting for me to be recognized by the health teachers in Illinois."

When Milne found that he had won the second award, it came as more of a surprise to him,

"For the Midwest Teacher Award, they just sent me an email and it dropped into my mailbox. That was a surprise to me, I felt proud when I won it and I wasn't really expecting it."

For the National Award, Milne will be in Boston with his wife, brother, and sister-in-law. He is excited to share this award with them because of how prestigious it is.

"To qualify for the award you have to be a health teacher and at least 50% of what you teach must be in health," Milne said.

A teacher also needs to be a member of the state organization, IAPERD, and to reach the national level, has to be a member of the national organization, as well, Milne said.

With being a member comes access to advocacy for your subject, publications, and other benefits that motivate teachers to be a member of the organization, Milne said.

Milne is not the only teacher to win this prestigious award at New Trier. Kinetic Wellness teacher Jason Dane won the award in 2012. Andy Horne also won the National Health Teacher of the Year Award just last year. Lucy Reiner of the dance department won the Midwest Dance Teacher of the Year Award in 2005.

"We're surrounded by so many good teachers and because of the nature of New Trier, if you win an award the teachers don't really talk about it. There are so many award winners among the teachers, whether it be awards like mine, or state medals or state trophies, New Trier is just filled with teachers who accelerate in so many areas, which is why this is such a great school".

The National Health Teacher of the Year Award is being announced Mar. 17, during the 4 day conference that starts on Mar. 14.