

Third annual White Dress Project sale underway

White Dress Project's sale of graduation dresses for charity takes place March 18

by Darcie Kim

This March 18 will mark the third year of the White Dress Project, a recent tradition that gives students the opportunity to purchase gently-worn graduation dresses in order to relieve the financial burden of buying an expensive gown for graduation.

This year the sale will be in the EPI Center from 10:00 am-1:00 pm.

This project was started by sisters Jordan and Isabelle Machlin in 2014 when Jordan was shopping for her own graduation dress.

Machlin realized that some girls, even in a predominantly wealthy district, could still struggle to find an affordable, yet beautiful dress for graduation.

Currently, the three senior co-heads are Ally Bailey, Camryn Wilneff, and Jenna Bloom. Though the event is usually held within the third quarter, the project is a year-long commitment.

"There are definitely high and



Parents and students browse the selection at last year's White Dress Project in the EPI Center | **White Dress Project**

low seasons depending on the date of the sale and graduation. We really get in crunch time at the beginning of the school year, and it amps up a little bit more in January," said Bailey.

Currently, the White Dress team is preparing for the upcoming sale.

"Once we finalize the date of the sale, it's really more about advertising and getting the word out so people

know what the project is and how they can get dresses," says Wilneff.

The dresses are brought to Zengeler Cleaners in Hubbard Woods where they are dry cleaned, wrapped, and hung free of charge. Girls who have dresses they wish to donate are free to drop them off at any point in the year.

While the dresses received

are of high quality and value, the White Dress Project sells them for a maximum of \$75. The lower prices are around \$35-50, but all of the dresses are in good condition.

"I would say the majority of the dresses are in the \$75 range because the dresses are all wearable and in great condition. If they're in poor condition we just don't use it or try to

sell it. We get dresses of all sizes and styles each year, and they all fit the criteria for graduation," said Bloom.

Last year 37 of the 59 donated dresses were sold, and the project raised \$2,500.

Every year, the proceeds from the sale go towards a charity of the co-heads' choice. This year, the money will go to Save the Children, a charity dedicated to giving less fortunate children basic educational needs, such as school supplies.

"I think they chose this organization because it provides needs for education to kids in the Chicagoland area, so it has a lot of local impact," said senior adviser chair Susie Pauman.

While organizing the project this year has had minimal problems, the co-heads are currently looking for students who are willing to continue the project in future years with dedication and purpose.

"Right now it's just us three, but next year we're looking for any incoming sophomores, juniors, or seniors to take over the project. It's a great service project," said Bloom.

The email address for The White Dress Project is thewhitedressproject@gmail.com.

SB100 bill restructures public school disciplinary measures

SB 100 bill passes to reform discipline structure and keep kids in school

by Mack Guthrie

Last year, Illinois passed a new law restructuring school disciplinary rights and restrictions.

Public Act 099-0456, or SB 100, was created to reform schools discipline structure to keep more kids in school, and to provide access to school services while students are suspended.

Many of its reforms have already existed for years at New Trier, minimizing the effect the bill will have on the school.

"If it's a safety issue for either the student or the safety of other students, the reality is, we still operate as we would have before the law," said Scott Williams, Assistant Principal for Student Services.

Williams has worked in the school's discipline system for over a decade, both as assistant principal, and previously, as the sophomore boys advisor chair.

SB 100 bans the use of zero-tolerance policies and disciplinary fees or fines, though Williams said students are still held responsible for property damages.

Because New Trier has never used these systems, the bill was not an issue to implement at New Trier.

The bill requires that any students suspended for more than four days must have access to "appropriate and available support services."

Out-of-school services which should be provided include "counseling and academic support services," according to the Illinois Principals association.

The new law mandates schools to have exhausted all other disciplinary options unless there is



Illinois state house, where bill was signed this past year | ilstatehouse.com

an imminent "threat to the school safety or a disruption to other students' learning opportunities" which shall be determined on case-by-case basis by the school.

One junior shared their experience with in-school suspension. "I showed up to the small room that was by where the guards hangout and I sat in there all day doing my homework."

Although it was intimidating at times having to remain silent and not use any electronics the junior said, it was a better experience than they expected.

"The guards were actually really nice and still let us say hello to friends and made sure we ate," the student said. One fond memory the student had was when a security guard was making hot chocolate and offered some to students.

Research from the Federal Department of Education has found that out-of-school suspensions, and often subjective zero-tolerance policies, are disproportionately used on minority students and those with disabilities.

As a result of this, SB 100 requires that school disciplinarians follow both SB 100 and disability laws.

The Illinois Principals

Association said that as a result of the law now requiring that schools exhaust behavioral interventions, "school authorities will be under increased scrutiny to exhaust such interventions prior to imposing exclusionary discipline."

Some research has shown that out-of-school suspensions can be harmful to students learning.

"Students simply did not progress toward anything beneficial during their time away," said Stephanie Malia Krauss, a social worker and founder and CEO of Shearwater Education Foundation.

The junior said, "I would definitely agree it was a better environment [than home] because it made it seem not as bad as out of school. The junior added "I could ask questions if needed."

An anonymous sophomore agreed, saying, "I probably would not have done any work [if I was] at home."

Williams could not comment on the benefit students may yield from an all-day suspension, but said, "There are consequences for behaviors, and the determination of which one, whether it be in-school or an out of school detention is based on the threshold our suspension policy outlines."

New Trier sophomores win \$55,000 on Wheel of Fortune

Sophomores and best friends Ben Sklansky and Zack Larson won \$55,000 and a trip to Hawaii

by Jessa Snower

Sophomores Ben Sklansky and Zack Larson won a \$55,000 prize on a recent episode of the Wheel of Fortune.

On Feb. 28, the episode of "Wheel of Fortune" had a "teen best friends week."

Zach and Ben were part of this week which included teens who are friends competing for prizes of cash, vacations and shopping sprees.

Sklansky completed a survey that was an application for the show, and then was asked to come back for an audition.

He was watching the show when he decided he might as well apply to be featured. Later, he was told to bring a friend, so he chose Larson.

Sklansky said, "I was shocked that they called me to audition, and when they called us to come out and actually film the show, I couldn't believe it."

Before going on the show they prepared by playing the iPad version of the game.

Many kids might underestimate how much work goes into the production of game shows.

Larson said, "There is so much that goes on behind the scenes and during the show that nobody notices. Like the lights, how many cameras there were, and having an audience was a bit nerve racking in the beginning of the show."

He also noted that he felt more comfortable as the show continued.

Sklansky said, "Being on the show was incredible, I didn't expect there to be so many things going on behind the scenes like makeup and all that."

Regarding the prize money

Larson said, "I'm planning to save most of my earnings, and put some into college. A little luxury as well but most of it will be put into my future."

Sklansky bought a Dodge Challenger with some of the money and plans to put the rest of it towards college.

The prize was \$55,000, and a trip to Hawaii.

The application they had to submit consisted of personal questions including age, name, phone number, and other standard questions.

Another part of the application is a video portion. The contestant will upload a video online of why they think they would be a good contestant.

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Although the selection process is said to be random, the video is what could set a contestant apart from others.

Over a million people last year sent in an application for a chance to audition for Wheel of Fortune, and fewer than 600 people were selected to be contestants on the show.

Wheel of Fortune is a puzzle game where the contestants first spin the wheel to see the value of money they will get for guessing the correct letter to the puzzle. They can choose consonants, or can buy vowels for \$250.

The letters are placed on the board, and then, similar to hangman, contestants guess the complete phrase.

Sklansky and Larson won most of their money in the final round. Their winning phrase was "during the break," which earned them \$34,000.