

# Do creative asks live up to their name?

by Jeremy Lee

A full two months or more before school dances even take place, students rush to ask their dates. Once the first person asks, there's typically a ripple effect.

New Trier spirals into a frenzy. In early September, boys scramble to figure out which lucky person they will ask to Homecoming. This year, girls rushed to ask their Turnabout dates as early as December before winter break.

The way in which students ask their dates involves a complicated set of unwritten social rules. Most students ask over text with something as simple as "Hey! Do you wanna go to Homecoming?"

Once confirmed over text, a group starts to form with which to dance the night away. As the following weeks progress, the "asker" begins to think about the creative ask. Yes, the date is confirmed, but one of the unwritten social rules indicates that the date has to be asked in a creative way.



Creative asks, like this one, are a fun way to ask someone to a dance | Minturn

Creative asks usually happen during the two weeks leading up to a dance. The basic creative ask tends to be a pun on a decorated poster, while the asker is dressed up to go along with the pun.

Another popular option to go along with the "punny" poster are baked goods such as cupcakes or

brownies. Senior Talia Levy thinks that food can break the ice for dates who aren't as familiar with each other.

"Food makes it less awkward if you don't really know the person," said Levy.

For pun posters, it is important that the pun makes sense. According

to senior Sarah Abrams, it is best when the poster is about an inside joke between dates. Another solid approach is making the poster relevant to their interests, such as a sport they might play.

"Let it be personal to their personal interests," said Abrams.

Senior Katherine Mayer agreed. "Sometimes it's fun to do something personal," said Mayer. Mayer said she created a scrapbook for her junior Turnabout date that was very personal.

There's another unwritten social rule of creatively asking: if you don't post it on Facebook or Instagram, did it really happen?

When asking creatively, do not forget to bring along a friend to take a picture for social media. Newsfeeds the week leading up to dances are cluttered with pictures of couples on one of the date's doorsteps holding their "punny" sign. This lets everyone know which couple is which and just how creative the ask is.

However, according to Mayer, there's no need to post on social

media.

"Don't feel like you need to post it on Facebook," said Mayer.

Posting it on Facebook or Instagram is more common among the younger grades, especially the freshman.

While pun asks and baked goods are the most conventional route, some askers think outside the box. In the past, askers have surprised their dates with a flash mob or by filling their cars with balloons. Other creative ideas are leaving notes in all of their classes, serenading them, or drawing "HC" or "TB" on their driveway with sidewalk chalk.

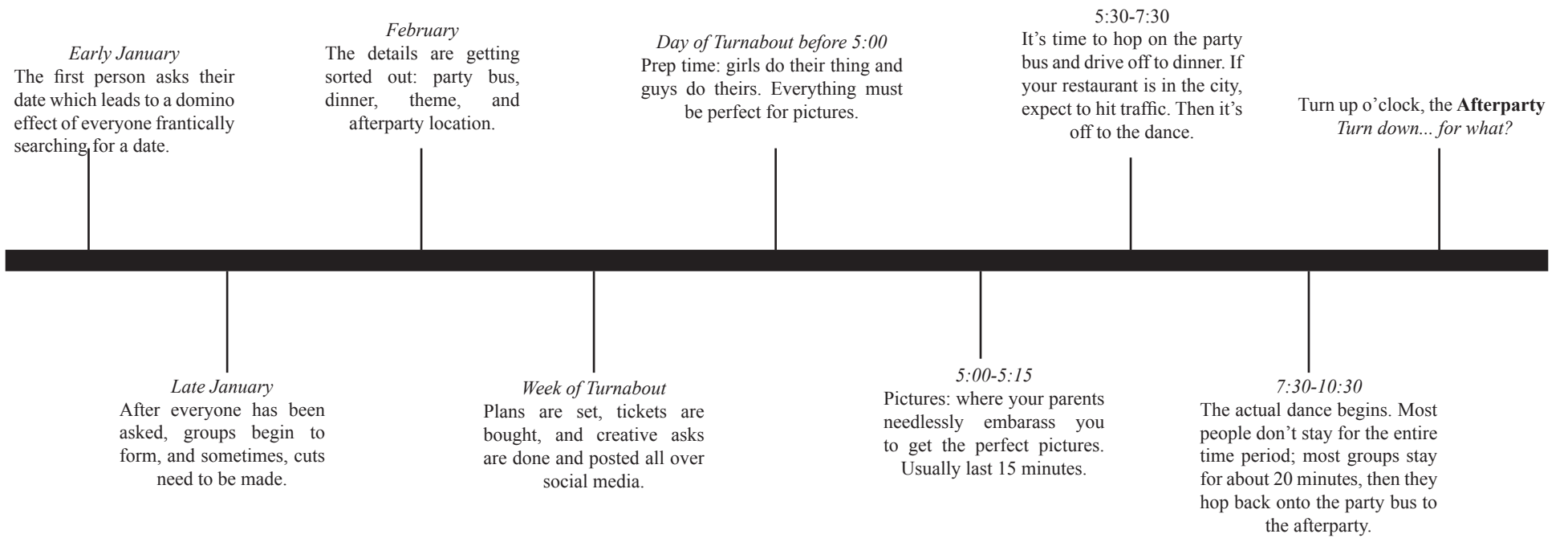
According to senior Jessica Jeon, it is important to show appreciation, even if the creativity is lacking.

"I just think the effort people put in, the money they spend for posters, markers, costumes, cookies, and other materials are something people should appreciate," said Jeon.

However, if time is crunched, or a certain date doesn't care for a unique creative ask, just keep it simple.

# Dance steps from the beginning to end

by Max Borushek and McKenna Patterson



# The stress of picking the perfect theme

by Madison McVey

Depending on who you talk to, Homecoming and Turnabout can either be a source of liberation for their wardrobe or an unnecessary cause of stress. This is because juniors and seniors dress as a "theme" within their groups for the first two of New Trier's three yearly dances.

Deciding on a theme can cause tension within friends. Senior Charlie Bunge said, "Every year I've had a theme that has caused some sort of tension with my friends."

For other groups, the afterparty causes more stress.

"I would say there is more tension in finding the after party," said senior Gabby Kraus. "Once you reach junior and senior year and you dress up as themes you tend to have the same group of friends going with you and no theme is going to come between friendships."

Themes range from a variety of costumes.

"Personally I'm all about 'punny' themes. You can make an outfit more conservative or scandalous no matter what your theme is. You just need to have creativity," said Kraus.

Bunge said, "I want a theme to look good all-around. I think themes are better when people try to go all out for their costumes. It makes it all look much better."

Typically, guys decide the theme for Homecoming and girls decide for Turnabout, but some students, such as senior Jen Lindblad, claimed that girls end up overriding the Homecoming theme in the end.

"For Turnabout it's supposed to be the girls' [choice] but of course the boys think they have veto power. But in the end, girls choose over the guys," said Lindblad.

Many students actually admitted that they end up disliking the theme and agree to it just to please others.

Some of the more favored themes include dynamic duos, Dis-



"Dynamic duos" done by this group, is a commonly seen theme | Facebook

ney characters, and "decades." "My favorite theme idea ever is 'How to Train Your Dragon,'" said Kraus. "The girls would be vikings and the boys would be dragons. It's too bad my group didn't choose it. I also really like the idea of mythical creatures and 'hot' teachers, along

ture theme dance-goer, said, "themed dances seem like a super fun idea because we don't have to wear uncomfortable suits."

*'I want a theme to look good all-around. I think themes are better when people try to go all out for their costume. It makes it look much better.'*

-Charlie Bunge

The problem is, I'm not very good at coming up with creative ideas, so I'm not prepared for the stress that comes from this extensive planning."

According to Bunge, "It usually takes multiple [Facebook] polls to decide on a theme."

"It normally takes my group ten to fifteen ideas before we are officially set on one," said Lindblad.

Sophomore Charlie Burton, fu-