

The truth about ninth period clubs

by Sarah Wong

There are numerous clubs at New Trier that require an application for membership, such as Girls Club, Tri-Ship, Student Alliance, and Trevia.

Students may find the process unnecessarily rigorous and exclusive, but there is good cause to search out the potential members who have certain qualifications.

The success of these extracurriculars depend on who is in the club.

The main reason for more time-consuming clubs to have an application process is to gauge the level of commitment students are willing to dedicate.

In Girls Club at the Winnetka campus, officers Sarah Bundra, Caroline Corley, Maddy Karnes, and Nicole Salerno work with their club sponsors to interview sophomore candidates and choose applicants who demonstrate passion for the cause, which

is raising money for girls' scholarships. Questions may be about the past projects the student worked on or fund-raising ideas they can contribute.

According to club president Bundra and treasurer Karnes, they also talk to the Northfield sponsors to determine a candidate's previous participation, dedication, and leadership qualities. President of Tri-Ship Jamey Minturn said, "[We ask applicants] how much time they have available [or] if they have partaken in service organizations prior to the interview."

Trevia, the club that compiles the New Trier yearbook every year, has a similar process. The application asks about experience levels that potential members have in photography or writing, and the interview allows them to show what they can contribute to Trevia.

Senior member Julia Rotunno explained, "It doesn't matter how many times a person has held a camera or seen a yearbook...We are



Girls club officers Bundra, Karnes, Cooley, and Salerno | Minturn

concerned about whether applicants are willing to put in their time and energy into something they are genuinely passionate about."

Not every applicant makes it past the interview stage, but it is important to pick members who are able to represent all perspectives of New Trier's student body and can be dedicated through the entire year.

Student Alliance has a distinguishing factor that

is taken into account when choosing members for the club: New Trier students' votes elect some of its board members.

Freshman club participants are voted onto the board at the Winnetka campus. Those who do not get enough votes can interview for a number of additional spots, which are allotted by the officers.

They also hold elections to choose juniors who will

take over the presidency, vice presidency, and treasury for their senior year. According to senior member of the board Jack Levin, the candidates who run should be strong leaders and hard workers who are passionate about a problem within the school that they want to resolve.

Candidates running must be chosen by their fellow Student Alliance members.

However, the elections for Girls Club, Tri-Ship, and Student Alliance positions are open to the school's junior class, who cast three-quarters of the votes for president, vice-president, and treasurer.

This can be problematic if the student voters are not sufficiently informed about each candidate's demonstrated strengths and leadership qualities.

Senior Daniel Wilensky said, "Since students don't see how the candidates running for election act...who gets the work done and who's doing it for the college application, [it] can turn into a popularity contest."

To help solve this issue,

Student Alliance board votes count for one-quarter of a candidate's total votes. Levin said, "This allows the club to have a larger say in the decision."

Still, the student body should be more informed about who they are electing. Junior Natalie Mardoian said, "I think it's great we are all involved, but maybe they should spread the word about what [these clubs] do, besides just Election Day."

It is easier for those within a club to choose the most dedicated leaders. Karnes said, "We had all seen [Bundra] work hard, so we knew she would make a good president."

The candidates' speeches are critical in expressing to the students who they are. In the election, Bundra tried to reflect her commitment to her listeners.

"I remember writing my speech. I wanted to convey to my audience how passionate and dedicated I was to the mission...and to make [Girl's Club] more involved in the New Trier community."

No royal status at Homecoming

by Madison McVey

Since the first dance in 1939, New Trier has never had a Homecoming king or queen. Having such a large school, it seems realistic to not nominate two of the 4,000 plus students to stand out as "the best."

Senior Gillian Keebler said, "I think that's a good thing because there's so much pressure at New Trier already to look and be the best, so adding on yet another competition would just create more pressure and room for disappointment."

Senior John Healy said the point of having a king or queen in the first place is "to feed the popular kids' ego." He said, "If we had a king and queen chosen today, students would be devastated if they didn't win. Popularity would determine who would win and that does not make it fair to everyone."

In regards to why schools choose a king and queen, Keebler said, "someone to represent the school's image, probably. It's a chance to be recognized by your peers for a night, even though in most cases the king/queen was usually recognized before."

In many cases, not having a king and queen for dances reduces pressure because students put so much time and energy into Homecoming night as it is. Choosing a king or queen would most likely result in a drop in self-esteem for some students.

However, others may find it a regular thing and not a big deal whether or not they win. The risk of offending students by creating competition is not worth it.

Head of the social studies department, Deborah Johnson said, "When I was in high school, Homecoming week was a big deal. I came from a very traditional school, so we had a king and queen, but I'm guessing it was because the school wanted to make the Homecoming week feel more special."

Johnson also said, "I remember being in college at Northwestern. I don't remember having a Homecoming king, but we definitely had a queen, which was super exciting because they weren't picked by random vote, but rather through their own personal campaign."

"If we had a king and queen chosen today, students would be devastated."

-John Healy

Homecoming kings and queens tend to be found in more southern schools, where it is a tradition in the town's culture. Many southern high schools and colleges, such as the University of Texas, make their Homecoming king and queen a very big deal.

Keebler said, "My cousin who lives in Ohio had queen/kings and she said she was very indifferent to them—they never really affected her, but she knows friends who were upset watching someone else win something at an event that's supposed to be all about fun."

Johnson also mentioned, "Everyone should feel special and good on such a special weekend where they get to dress up and have a fun time."

Trevian athletics: perennial state championship contenders

by Danni LeServe

There are 35 different sports teams at New Trier. Between all these teams, New Trier has won 120 state championships. It is easy to see that the Trevian athletics programs are both competitive and accomplished.

New Trier has state championship teams each year, but what makes New Trier teams superior? One of the obvious examples is state titles, work ethic, age of the team, and level of competition in the state.

Girls Swimming and Diving has won the state title for the past four years. One of the oldest teams at New Trier, beginning in 1912, and New Trier swim and dive has won 13 state titles. Senior swimmer Kate Lucenti said, "I think we have won state the past few years because we are one of the hardest working teams in the state."

Every girl on varsity is there to push themselves and get faster; otherwise they wouldn't wake up at 5:15 every morning. "The girls practice almost every day, twice a day in the morning and after school, with dry land workouts that include weight lifting, running, and swim sets of 100 meters to 2000 meters."

The team in the past few years has dominated the competition in both conference and state. "I can't say we are a superior sport, only because I've only done one other sport at New Trier and it was on the freshman level so not very intense so I don't really have anything to

compare swimming to. All I know is that everyone on the team works really hard and puts a lot of time and energy into becoming better athletes," added Lucenti.

Boys lacrosse has won 10 state championships in the past nineteen years. Boys Lacrosse started at New Trier in the early 80's. They train in the offseason with club teams and with Coach Davis for strength and conditioning. The first state championship they won was in 1995.

From 2005-2011, the team went on a dominant run, winning state every year during this period. Senior Ben Connelly said, "We won state last year for the first time since 2011 and I think the big reason was the group of guys on the team really gelled well and everyone really came together throughout the season on the field. The chemistry and trust with one another is what got it done for us last year in State."

Lacrosse practices are comprised of stick work and fast paced drills with plenty of game like situations. The trevs fake stiff competition from rival Loyola year in and year out. They are looking forward to another run at state.

"I think we return a lot of great talent this year and the goal is obviously to win the last game at the end of the season but we have a long way to go before then," Connelly said.

Boys lacrosse is one of the superior teams in the state because of how many state championships they won, the difficulty of practice, and the long history it has at

New Trier. "Lacrosse at New Trier is of the highest quality lacrosse in the Midwest you will find."

All the sports at New Trier are always competitive and we just try to fulfill the high expectations of New Trier athletics," Connelly said.

Football has had a great year so far. With a 5-0 record, they are dominating the competition this year. In years past they have struggled and they have not had this good of a season since 1996. There has been a football team at New Trier for nearly 100 years, yet they have never won a state championship.

Senior Kevin Mulhern said, "We just haven't put the pieces together to win state."

A normal practice for the football team consists of stretching, running through plays, and conditioning. Even though the team has had such a great season this year they have had difficulty winning

conference and going to state.

Mulhern said, "I think that the sky is the limit for this group. We have a ton of talent and depth, but we need to stay focused and execute against tough opponents. That's going to be the test down the road into November."

Although they face stiff in-conference competition, Maine South and Evanston, with such a great start are looking forward to a run at state. "I think football is a superior sport. We have some freak athletes on the team, and we're one of the hardest working sports teams here, and right now we're reaping the rewards of both," said Mulhern.

Looking to have as successful of a season as football is the girls basketball team. Led by junior Jeannie Boehm and senior Jackie Welch, they look to capitalize on last year's state supersectional finish.



Swim and Dive celebrates 4th consecutive state title | Grochowski