

The white dress success



The White Dress Project sale for seniors was held on Mar. 7 in the EPI Center and sold fifty-nine dresses | Machlin

by Rachel Melancon

On Mar. 7, the White Dress Project continued its tradition of selling gently used dresses at a discounted price to graduating seniors, lessening the financial burden and the hassle of finding a white dress for graduation.

37 dresses were sold this year, and a total of \$2,500 was raised for student scholarships. The sale is a financial help to students, as they no longer need to pay for an expensive, new graduation dress which they will only wear once.

"This year, 38 dresses were donated, but that number, combined with the remaining dresses from last year, gave us a grand total of 59 dresses to be sold," said senior Isabel Machlin, the founder of the project.

The dresses were put on display in the EPI center, where New Trier seniors were able to select and purchase the dress of their choice.

New dresses were priced at \$75, while dresses left over from last year's sale were sold for \$50.

This is the second year the

White Dress Project has held its sale, but Machlin began to plan the White Dress Project as a sophomore.

"I tried to lay the foundation for the project by speaking with the administration and collaborating with my advisory," said Machlin. The sale did not begin until Machlin's junior year, when a total of 28 dresses were donated and available for purchase.

According to Machlin, the dresses are brought to Zengeler Cleaners in Hubbard Woods, where they are dry cleaned and stored until the sale. The most challenging aspect of the drive is being able to collect a sufficient amount dresses for the sale.

"It is difficult to get the word out to graduated girls to donate their dresses," said Machlin. "Usually they are all at college and their dress is hanging in their closet at home."

Machlin has attempted to remedy this problem by posting advertisements in local newspapers and creating posters that were scattered throughout the Winnetka Campus. Some advisers posted ads on websites such as the Wilmette Virtual Garage Sale, which also

succeeded in generating many new dresses. This exposure seems to have led to more awareness of the project.

"It appears to be a great way to raise money for school scholarships because many students need them," said junior Tommy Brittingham. "It is also environmentally friendly to recycle the previously worn dresses."

"It seems like a great project," said sophomore Libby Dickerson. "It's great that New Trier can assist the graduating class."

Machlin has organized and facilitated both the sale and donations for the sale. "She has taken on all of the responsibility herself," said Erika Immel, Machlin's adviser. "Last year I served as a New Trier faculty mentor, but Isabel single-handedly did all of the work for the project."

She hopes to continue the drive into the future and is currently talking to underclassmen to decide a future leader.

"It must be passed on to a girl (or group of girls) who possess the same dedication and passion [Machlin] has had," said Immel.

International Club shares world culture through Roots event

by Anna Ferguson

Every year, New Trier's International Club organizes Roots of New Trier in an effort to raise money for charity and spread awareness about world cultures.

"Roots is a two day event where New Trier students actually can see how cultures around the world are still a valuable part of New Trier, despite New Trier being a not very diverse school, in terms of race," said senior Shyam Thakkar, a student leader of International Club.

"Roots is the only week when all the different culture clubs come together. It's a festival of respect for different cultures where you can really see diversity," said school web developer Boris Spektor, a sponsor of International Club.

International Club started Roots of New Trier twenty years ago when Maria Klem, a former German teacher, and Betsy Turneau, a former French teacher, founded the club.

Roots essentially gives the culture clubs a chance to spread knowledge and awareness about their cultures in a fun and engaging way, all while raising money for charity.

"For International Club, our primary job is simply to set the guidelines that each culture club has to follow if they choose to participate in Roots," said Thakkar. "We inform them of what they can sell, how much of their revenue we receive, and let them set up their booth on the day."

The various clubs are responsible for supplying the items they will sell and running the booths during the event.

"In coordinating the other clubs, once we've given them the details of what they are doing as well as the consequences if they don't follow our guidelines, they

have a good amount of freedom to conduct their table in any way they want," said Thakkar.

The money earned during Roots is divided between International Club and the individual culture clubs, with each club given the choice of what to do with their money.

"For each individual culture club that participates, however much money they make from Roots, they keep 70%. 30% goes to International Club," said Thakkar. "International club will choose at the end of the year which charities to donate the money to. Usually, the money goes to UNICEF and Heifer."

'It's a festival of respect for different cultures where you can see diversity.'

-Boris Spektor

Culture clubs, on the other hand, tend to spend the money they earn during Roots on the day-to-day expenses of running the club.

"We use the money for snacks, events, cooking days, and possibly field trips. Then we leave the rest for students next year to keep the club going," said senior Sarah Rose, the head of Chinese Club.

All the booths at Roots, however, do not always receive a positive reaction at Roots. According to Thakkar, International Club continues to make a good profit every year, but there are clubs that make profits, a few that suffer losses, and some that barely break even.

The goal of Roots of New Trier, along with raising money for charity, is to "build bridges between cultures" by showing students what makes each culture unique.

The unique learning style of IGSS students

by Michael Blickstein

The International Global Studies School, better known as IGSS, is a program for junior and senior students at New Trier that allows students to take control of their own education.

"In IGSS there's a huge focus on letting students create their own education. As a student we have a lot of choice in what and how we learn and there is a lot of freedom. The teachers understand that not all students learn the same way," said junior Ella Harris.

IGSS is a much more give and take kind of education compared to the traditional classroom environment. Everyone is there to learn, including teachers.

"If a student believes that something isn't being covered well enough, they often step in and show what they know. I noticed that a topic wasn't being covered in our race unit and I actually ended up teaching about color barriers in sports for two weeks," continued Harris.

IGSS also works differently than most traditional classroom



IGSS seniors (from left to right) Rachel Leadholm, Anna Kahler, and Emily McClellan, pictured here with teacher Jeff Markham, demonstrate the collaborative style that has become synonymous with the program | Pearlman

settings.

"IGSS has an Environmental Science course, but we also talk about lots of other subjects including physics, geoscience, astronomy and even nuclear science," explained senior Kaleigh Dolan.

Dolan added, "In US History, it's like a normal classroom, except you present a lot of material to the class. In Art History, you learn a lot about technique and do really different artwork. English is like any

English class, but with a little bit more emphasis on creative writing."

IGSS is generally a more project-based course track that encourages students to present what they know. According to IGSS students, this helps students care about the information instead of just cramming to memorize the information so they can do well on a test or two.

Because IGSS students are together for three periods in a row every day, they've grown into a real

community and have gotten to know each other very well.

"We spend three periods together so everyone knows everyone pretty well. There is a large social component to IGSS as well. There is a lot of group work, and other events such as a coffee house and IGSS Lock-In. These bring us together as a community," said Dolan.

One thing IGSS students pride themselves on is that they enjoy coming to class every day.

"It is my favorite part of the day. I have made so many friends in IGSS that it's fun just to walk into class and see everyone," said Harris.

Being excited about coming to school every day isn't something every student experiences.

Some students aren't comfortable in every class. IGSS is a safe place where students come to learn and be part of a small family with a common interest.

"Everyone in IGSS is so different, but what ties us all together is our excitement to come to class. We all want to be there and that creates this living environment. The discussions we have are passionate and the projects we do allow us to direct our own education," said Dolan.

The IGSS community often proves to be a more politically and socially literate group as they share what they know with each other and the movement often produces people who have a hunger for education.

"There are a lot of stereotypes that come with IGSS, but really we are a big family that sees the different possibilities in education, and we take them into the world around us," said Harris.