

Trending this week: Heelys at New Trier

Shoes provide hallway entertainment for some, distraction for others

by Bella Geroulis

It's safe to say that every kid remembers Heelys. Around 2005, it was the shoe of the future. Every child dreamt of them, (almost) every parent banned them. Despite the notorious injuries that came along with the sneaker-turned-rollerblade, they were the "it" accessory for everyone. And now, they're back.

Among the many Timberlands and Converse that stomp around the halls of New Trier these days, Heelys have been spotted in the crowd. The trend originated from the senior class, and it's now trickling down throughout all grades.

Sophomore Talia Krause said, "I wear them because they're sick. They're convenient. It's like fashion meeting function." Junior Jack Hlavacek agreed with Krause, stating that "they're more of a fashion statement."

But not everyone agrees.

Sophomore Peter Jacus believes they're a joke, claiming that "nobody wears them for their transportation.

It's more just to be funny."

The debate continues over whether or not Heelys are back in style for their function or for their fashion, and the students at New Trier all seem to have their own opinions on the trend.

"They're the new fashionable style of transportation," said senior Sofia Bazianos. "Students throughout all grades are envious of their rolling peers, but some are worried about the safety risks that Heelys present."

For some, the unique shoes bring back both good and bad memories of a childhood on wheels.

"I sprained my ankle twice and fell more times than I could count," said sophomore Grant Higgins, who owned a pair of Heelys back in the day. Higgins went on to say that with all the people walking around the halls and on the stairs at New Trier, Heelys probably aren't the best shoe choice.

Other students have complete disregard for the dangers that come along with Heelys. Students from all grades showed envy for the shoes, elaborating on the benefits that



Heelys "motion" for adults are available in various designs | heelys.com

Heelys produce.

Junior Lukas Trieb claimed to want a pair for style, while sophomore Kyle Griffin wanted the shoes for convenience and ease.

No matter students' split views on Heelys, teachers seem to feel only one way: against them.

School nurse Colleen Sheridan

remembered when her kids wore Heelys. While Sheridan has not seen any Heelys around school, she did say that they are good for transportation to and from school, but adds "they should not at all be allowed in school. They should be handled with the same precautions as roller blades or a skateboard."

Kinetic Wellness teacher and head field hockey coach Stephanie Nykaza agreed with Sheridan, saying that "outside of school they're fine, but they shouldn't be allowed inside the building."

While the trend began within the senior class, the reason for the movement remains unknown. Some sources claim that it's part of a senior prank, others simply say that it's purely for fun.

The real question, however, is why now? The shoe was invented in 2000, and ever since then it has gradually decreased in popularity.

Loyola sophomore Lindsay Matousek stated that Heelys are not at all back in style anywhere else besides New Trier. While there are some students who are against Heelys, the majority of kids respect and admire them.

Not only do a select group of New Trier students admire Heelys as a fashion statement, but it's seemingly apparent that students also get a kick out of their entertainment value.

Day of Silence speaks to NT

Annual tradition brings awareness to LGBT-related bullying

by Adam Sheffield

On Friday, Apr. 17, Committed to Action club sponsored Day of Silence, a day in which many students take a vow of silence to show support for the LGBTQ community.

Day of Silence is a national event which started in 1996. The first Day of Silence was held at the University of Virginia, and over 150 students participated. In 1997, over 100 different colleges held a day of silence.

Today, it is the largest single student-led action towards creating safer schools for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

"The goal of the day is definitely to bring awareness to people who are bullied for being gay," said Rachel Hess, a Committed to Action club sponsor and English teacher at New Trier.

All the money raised from the tee shirt sales at New Trier will go towards the Center on Halsted, a community center for LGBTQ teens in Chicago. Over 1000 teens walk through the Center on Halsted's door each day.

"Committed to Action is an activist club. It fights homophobia wherever we see it. We do different projects besides Day of Silence, which is our biggest project. We did a bake sale to raise money for the Trevor Project, which is a suicide prevention hotline for gay teens," said Hess.

But why is the Day of Silence important? In GLSEN's 2009 National School Climate Survey, nearly 9 out of 10 LGBT students report verbal, sexual or physical harassment at school and more than 30% report missing at least a day of school in the past month out of fear for their personal safety.

According to Dosomething.org, a website devoted to social change, 43% of LGBT people live in an unwelcoming environment, and 80%



Day of Silence is the largest student-led action to counter bullying | McVey

of gay and lesbian youth report severe social isolation. The Trevor Project states that LGBT youth are 4 times more likely, and questioning youth are 3 times more likely, to attempt suicide than their straight peers.

"Day of Silence is a good thing for the people who personally know somebody or are themselves apart of the LGBTQ community," said junior Ceejay Xiong. "However, I don't think people who are unaffected care enough to participate."

"I will be participating in Day of Silence because I think it's important that we are aware of all the voices that have been silenced over the years and essentially give a voice to those who can no longer use theirs," said junior Emmanuelle Haye.

According to the Day of Silence website, you have the right to participate in Day of Silence between classes, and before and after school. However, you may not have the right to stay silent during class if a teacher wishes you to speak. Hess seemed to think that New Trier would not have that issue.

"I think one nice thing is that the administrators at New Trier are behind it," said Hess. "They send out emails to all of the staff telling them that they are in favor of the day."

Students seem to be split on whether or not enough is being done throughout the school to support LGBTQ classmates.

Some believe the New Trier community accepts students who are LGBT. "I have witnessed people come out on numerous occasions and they are all supported by their peers. I think almost everybody feels comfortable coming out at New Trier," said Xiong. Others, however, feel the school isn't doing enough throughout the school year.

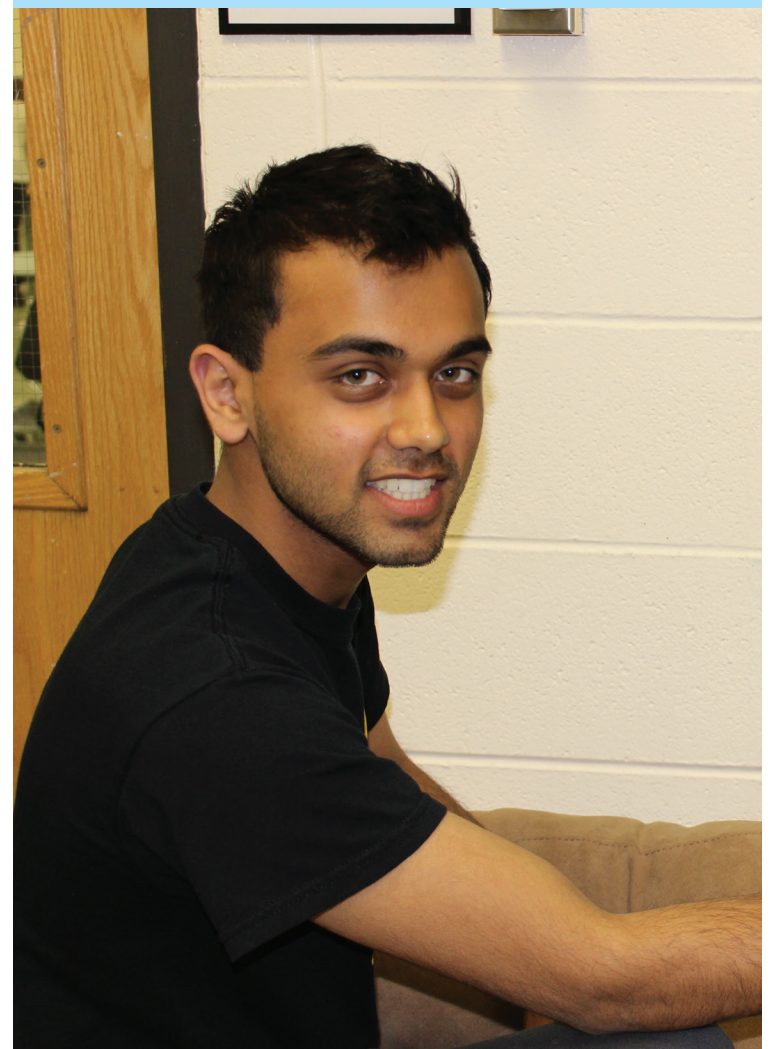
"I think we as New Trier community need to take more steps than just one day to show support for those who might feel like they can't be who they are in a place where everyone should be equal," said Haye.

Dosomething.org reports that young people who are LGBT and who are "out" to their immediate families report feeling happier than those who aren't.

Teacher support of the day has grown in the last several years. Even though many still have to talk, they wear rainbow ribbons or gray shirts to signal that they are an ally in the cause.

Pep Club Names 2015 Spirit Award Winner

Shyam Thakkar is this year's winner of the coveted Spirit Award



Pep Club Spirit Award winner, Shyam Thakkar, gets into position to place his handprint on the wall of the Pep Club Room. | Minturn

by Katherine Rhea

Every year, the spirit award is presented to a New Trier student. Seniors are nominated by teachers from both campuses, and the students with the most nominations are placed on the ballot.

Then the entire senior class votes for who they think is the senior with the most Trevian spirit.

This year, the 8th annual Spirit Award goes to Shyam Thakkar.

The award includes a scholarship and a handprint and name on the wall of the Pep Club room.

The nominations can be for any deserving member of the senior class.

Even those who are not in Pep Club can be nominated.