



May 6, 2021 • A Special Section of The New Prague Times

2020-2021
NPHS

Arts and activities



Spring musical heads to ‘Camp Rock’

New Prague High School students are performing “Camp Rock, the Musical” for its spring production. Students will be performing together on stage, but they will be wearing masks. Director Ben Thietje explained due to the pandemic the musical numbers were recorded separately from the stage performances and the two were edited together. The performances were on May 8 and May 9 and were free on Trojan Theatre YouTube.

“Camp Rock, the Musical” is a stage version of two Disney Channel movies (Camp Rock and Camp Rock 2) that were combined into one story. More than 40 student actors are in the spring musical that follows Mitchie Torres, a veteran of Camp Rock, summer music camp, and her friends as they have to save the camp from the new flashy Camp Star music camp across the lake. The campers go through some romance and end things with a musical showdown.



The cast of “Camp Rock the Musical” came together to perform the musical, which was then broadcast on Trojan Theatre YouTube.

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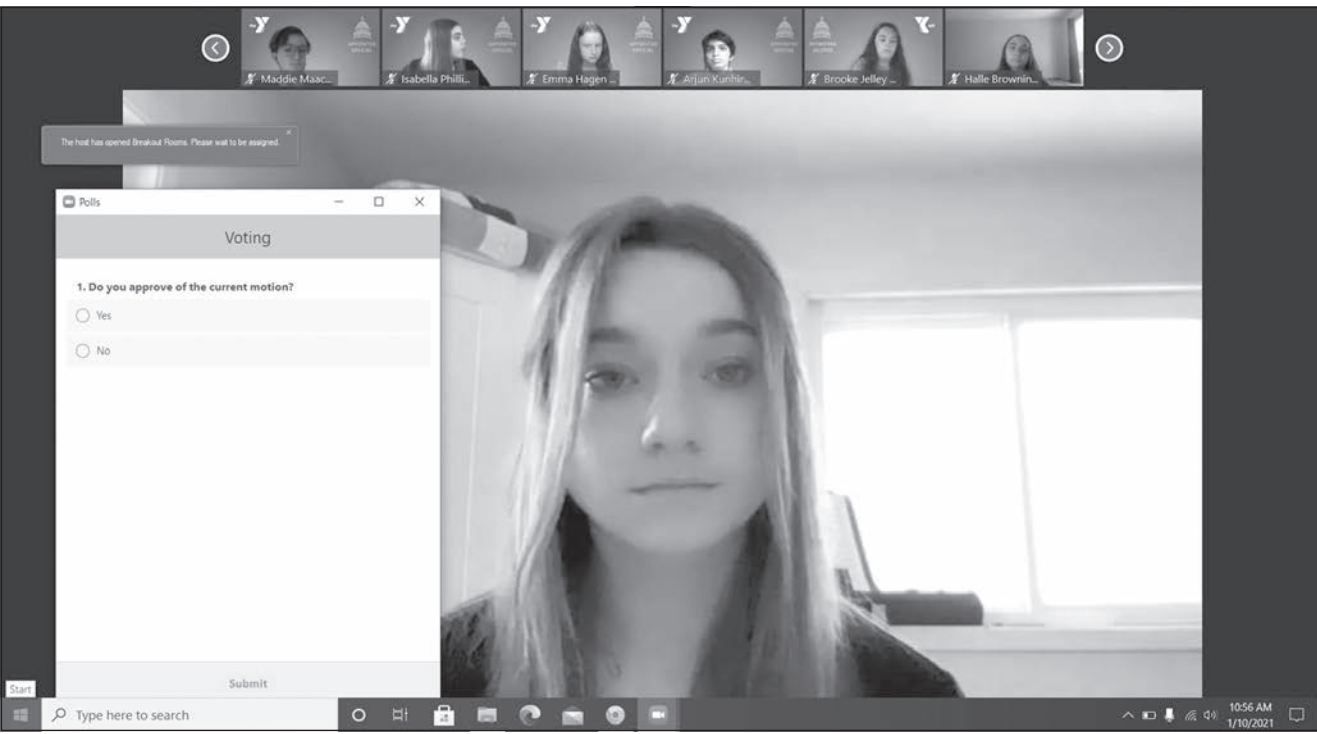
German National Honor Society



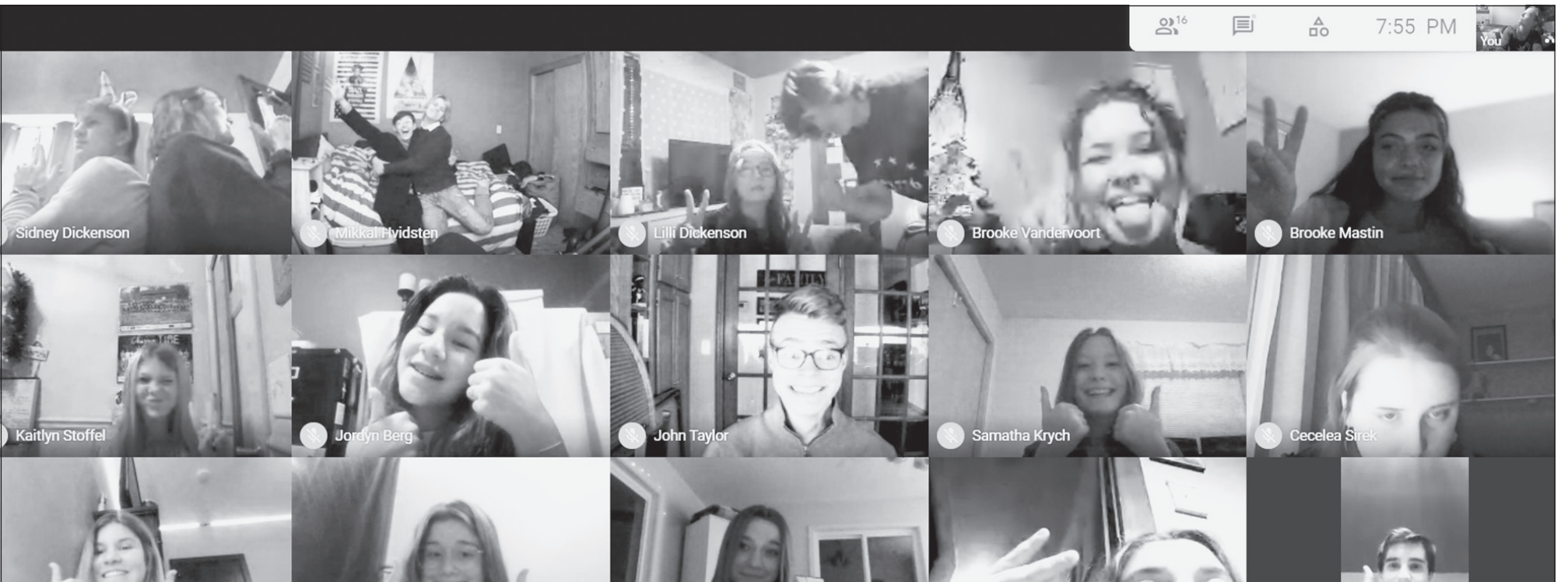
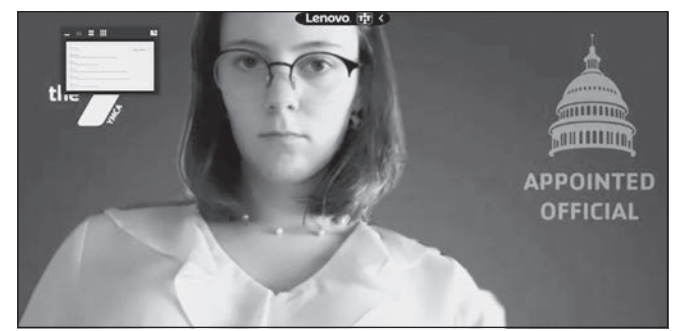
Delta Epsilon Phi (ΔΕΦ) National Honor Society for High School Students of German recognizes the outstanding academic achievement of learners of German. This year we have 15 Seniors and 26 Juniors that make up our German National Honor Society. These students are all taking upper level German classes and have maintained a 3.6 GPA throughout their high school career. The students came together to do a few days of spring clean up and organized a food drive for a local organization.



Youth in Government goes virtual



The Youth in Government conference was virtual this year. We had 21 students participate and many of them in leadership positions. Jack Baribeau was the manager of the YIG radio station and Kaitlyn Stoffel was a media reporter. Ella Ettlin, Sullivan Hart and John Taylor worked in positions for the Secretary of State or Governor's Cabinet. Lilli Dickenson was a Justice on the Court of Appeals. Sidney Dickenson was a committee chair. We won many of our court cases and bills were successfully passed. We are currently prepping for The Model United Nations Conference that will be held at the end of March, and the New Prague delegation will be representing the nations of France and the United States.



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Choir takes a different approach this year

The year in Choir has looked very different from years past. Due to Covid and health guidelines, we have had to change the structure of our class and our year. Students have been working on music throughout hybrid and distance learning and will be presenting a virtual concert on April 8th.

Students voted on officers for each class: Treble Choir- Kady Anderson, Francesca Kruger, Hannah Langeberg, and Savannah Ryburn, Trojan Choir- Drew Hemann, Aidan King, Dan McBroom, Matthew Ryburn, and Eddie Sirek, Belles Voix- Anna Hanson, Libby Hummel, Liberty Kreger, and Libby Olson, Concert Choir- Ella Ettlin, Bethany Jacobson, Julia Schoenecker, Cameron Sheriff, Brenna Solheid, and Dylan Vilt.

Emotion began it's season later than a typical year and worked on material for a virtual performance. They also held their annual holiday party virtually complete with surprise gift bags and a Secret Santa exchange.

Most of the year has been spent community building and making connections with one another. In a year where it has been easy to feel disconnected, we have made connection a priority. While normal years can feel busy, it was nice to slow down and get to know one another in a variety of ways.



Belles Voix



Trojan Choir



Concert Choir



Emotion



Treble Choir

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Yearbook takes challenges head on

Even with the challenging year of COVID-19, the Yearbook staff has been hard at work. Our two lead editors are Ella Ettlin and Karley Vochoska. Our assistant editor is Sidney Dickenson. All members from left to right starting in the back row are Ella Ettlin, McKenzie Dropik, Dylan Raaen, and Ryan Brinkhaus. In the front row from left to right is Sidney Dickenson, Karley Vochoska, Justine Fries, Libby Olson, and Lucy Helgestad. The yearbook is advised by Tenille Jennings and Rachelle Balfe.



Student Council moving right along



The Student Council members worked hard to bring events each month this school year to the student body to make this school year feel as normal as possible. Some of our favorite events were the thankful cards event, planning Snoball week and Heart Week, the food drive, and we're excited for our upcoming year-end activities! Instead of in-person meetings, the executive board recorded meetings and asked questions for general members to answer in order to earn their attendance points. Our executive board includes Ella Ettlin (President), Lindsay Bisek (Vice-President), Greta Ryan (Secretary), Libby Hummel (Historian and Treasurer), Jessica Sadusky (11th Grade Representative), Anna Schellin (10th Grade Representative), and Mallory Jirik (9th Grade Representative.) The advisor is Heather Vikla.

Back row L to R: Anna Schellin, Mallory Jirik, Libby Hummel, Heather Vikla. Front row L to R: Ella Ettlin, Lindsay Bisek, Jessica Sadusky. Not pictured: Greta Ryan.

German Club goes hybrid

This year the German Club improvised to hold a few activities virtually and in person. In December we held a virtual Gingerbread House decorating contest and in January the students learned how to make Herr Lacey's famous homemade bread. In the spring we were able to host a few games of Bingo and hold one last event in May.

The purpose of the club is to bring students together who share a common interest in speaking German and experiencing

the cultures of German-speaking countries. This year we had two student leaders: Julia Schoenecker (President) and Noelle Francis (Vice President) Advisors for the German Club are Frau Brittany Elsen, Herr Joshua Lacey and Frau Heather Vikla.

Picture: Julia Schoenecker (President) and Noelle Francis (Vice President) at our BINGO Event.



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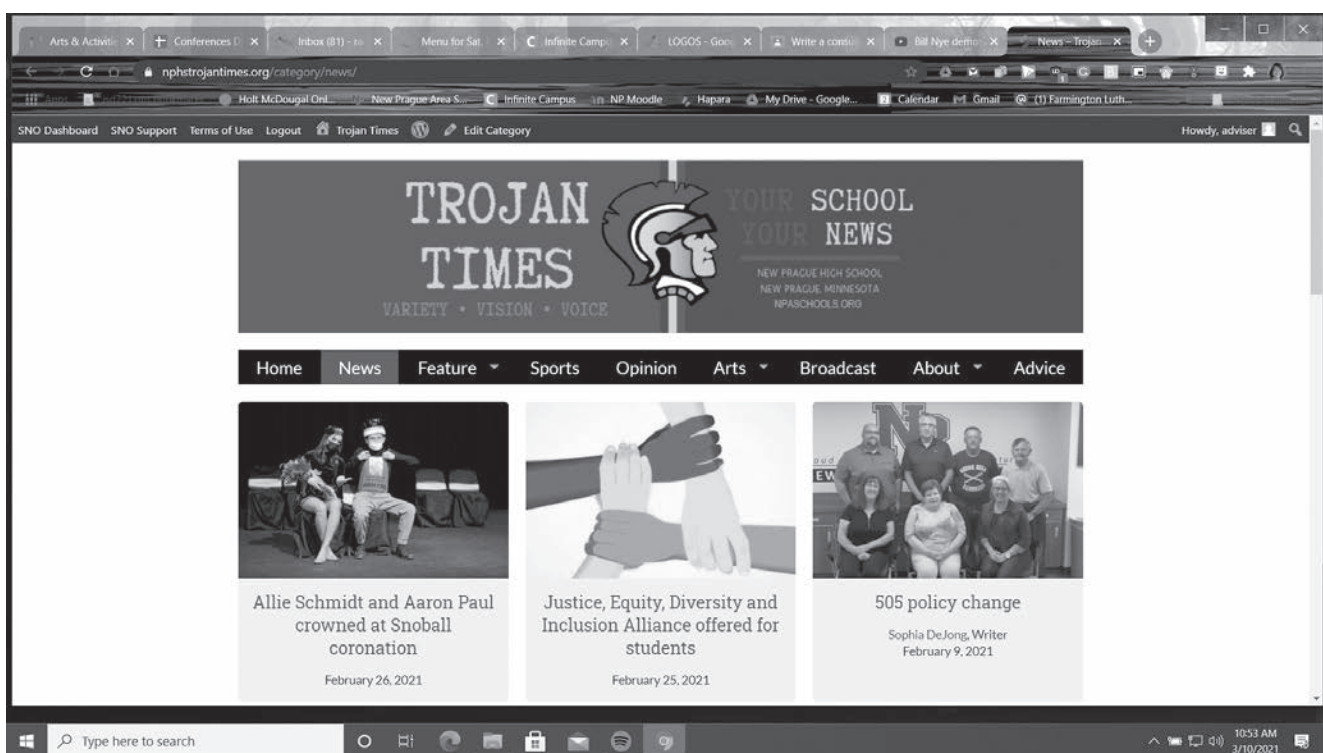
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Trojan Times continues online

The Trojan Times was an online publication for the second year in a row. Advised by Rachel Harmon, the staff consisted of about 15 members. Editors included Ella Ettlin, Julia Edwards, Ayush Kapali and Sidney Dickenson. It was a strange year for finding news around the high school with the different learning models we experienced, but we focused on traditional events and documenting the effects of the pandemic on life at NPBS.



GSA has active year

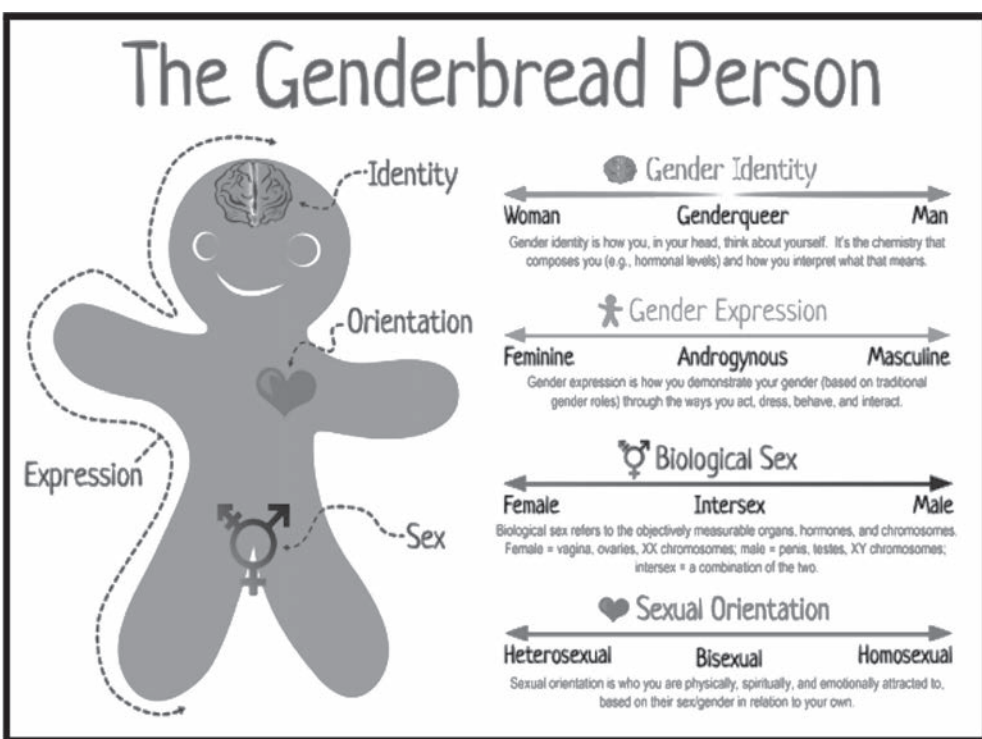


Club: Genders & Sexualities Alliance
Advisors: Lex Lammers, Naseeba Ramjan

The GSA club is a group that meets weekly and offers support to LGBTQIA+ students (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, intersex, and asexual among other identities).

Students talk and learn about sexual orientation, gender identity, social issues, allyship, historical events and influential people, and mental health.

Also, friends of LGBTQIA+ youth join to show support and acceptance. GSA clubs are necessary to foster safe and affirming school environments. Clubs also help students feel more connected to their peers and school community.



Clubs also help students feel more connected to their peers and school community.

This year the GSA group has participated in

History Month, NPBS Snowball activities, and Q Book Club.

Speech team tackles new platforms

The New Prague Speech Team took on the challenge of competing at virtual tournaments this year. Students learned how to navigate a new platform, create an engaging performance being mindful of a camera and what people could see on the screen, and problem-solving various technical issues. Students still gathered as a team on tournament days to socialize following appropriate guidelines and come together as a team. Due to the different year, the team competed at fewer

tournaments, but still faced heavy competition: sometimes competing against 40 other students in the same category.

The final tournament for the New Prague Speech Team this year was a virtual section tournament on Saturday, April 11th. Unfortunately, no students advanced to the state tournament.

Members of the speech team are Isabelle McDonald (11);

Mara Duncan (11); and Mason Schmidt (10).

The speech team is coached by Matthew Stensrud. This is his thirteenth year coaching the team.

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National Honor Society gets creative

The New Prague High School Chapter of the National Honor Society found creative ways to volunteer throughout the community this year, stretching students' initiative to independently identify and perform acts of service. This was Matthew Stensrud's seventh year as the advisor to NHS.



All members completed various volunteering activities that included:

- Salvation Army Bell Ringing
- Adopt-A-Highway
- Judging Science Fair (virtually)
- Adopt-A-Park (Heritage Park)

NHS members raised over \$4,500 for the Peace Center this year through its poinsettia fundraiser.

Officers of the New Prague chapter of the National Honor Society are President-Matthew Zwebber; Vice President-Henry Geiger; Secretary-Megan Theis; Treasurer-Hannah Jensen; Historian-Grace Madson; Hours Technician-Brenna Solheid; Web Wizard-Ava Phillippi. Members for 2020-2021 are:

Olivia Balfanz
Lindsay Bisek
Allie Blaschko
Isaac Buehler
Isabella Bustamante
Hailey Calliguri
Abbey Carlson
Sophia Charnstrom
Karoline Curlo
Hannah DeGross
Ian DeGross
Sophie DeJong
Sidney Dickenson
Gavin Drill
McKenzie Dropik
Lucas Ferguson
Isabella Fiecke
Michael Fish
Emily Fishel
Justine Fries
Henry Geiger
Karlyn Glebe
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Ashley Hanson
Sullivan Hart

Lucy Helgestad
Evan Helvick
Jake Helvick
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Riley Holets
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Heidi Jahn
Hannah Jensen
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Madison Josephson
Matthew Kudrle
Jonathan Lake
Adam Langfield
Sadie Larson
Kailyn Luers
Grace Madson
Carter Malecha
Jacob Malecha
Simon Mathiowetz
Keiran McLoone
Katelyn Medina
Rebecca Meger
Ari Meyers
Abby Molstad

Anna Molstad
Breanna Naig
Tyler Nelson
Emma Norstedt
Elizabeth Olson
Madison Olson
Paige Ophus
Drew Otteson
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Elise Pahl
Adam Pankow
Ava Phillippi
Brendan Pieper
Beau Plaisance
Lydia Popple
Avery Prelesnik
Alix Queen
Alyssa Radermacher
Lauren Radermacher
Julia Rose
Nora Rosemeier
Jessica Sadusky
Jasmine Schmitz
Julia Schoenecker
Audrey Seurer
Riley Siegle

Madelyn Simon
Brenna Solheid
Sydney Stenger
Matthew Stensrud
Brynn Sticha
John Taylor
Megan Theis
Jack Thomas
Alexis Trachte
Hailey Tupy
Alix VanderVoort
Dylan Vilt
Makayla Vlasak
Becca VonBank
Aubrey Weckman
Jillian Weichert
Stephen Whipple
Noel Wieskus
Abby Wight
Jack Wilmes
Matthew Zwebber

Web Weaver: Bob Bell

Robotics team uses their time wisely

This has been a rewarding year for the New Prague Robotics Team (The TIMEBots) as they took on and met many challenges.

The team helped sponsor and coach two First Lego League teams for elementary and middle school students. This had been a goal of the team for several years that they were able to make happen this year.

We held our annual fruit sale in November to raise funds to help cover the costs of the robotics program. The team along with the Rotary Club delivered fruit to the New Prague Peace Center.

The team hosted a virtual Girls STEM Event with the Girls Scouts and also visited Kids Company at the elementary schools, showing them our robots, answering a lot of questions and letting them drive the robots.

Last spring after most of the robotics competition events were canceled it was decided that the same game would be repeated for this year. Teams would be allowed to continue working



Front Row: Aiden Wagner, Ryan Erickson, Garion Carmichael, Dawn Parks, Sydney Mancini, Grace Madson (Captain). Middle Row: Ashton Horejsi, Jack Gilles, Caid Peterson, Luke Oellrich (Sponsorship Lead), Aurora Seger, TJ Pexa, Ava Phillippi (Safety Lead). Back Row: Stephen Whipple (Community Outreach Lead), Lucas Ferguson (Controls Lead), Allen Voss, Marcus Ferguson, Dan Cross (Advisor), Gabriel Ellis (CAD Lead), Jeffrey Price, Simon Mathiowetz (Build Lead), Troy Whipple (Advisor). Not Pictured: Tyler Jahn, Sophie De Jong

on and improving their robots throughout the year rather than being limited to the six week design and build period of a normal competition season.

The team decided to take this as an opportunity to take on a more challenging de-

sign and extend the team's capabilities in advanced robot technologies. The new robot includes a swerve drive system (4 wheel steering), autonomous mode path following, rotary hopper for ball handling, flywheel shooter and a vision system for ball

and target tracking.

Kickoff for the competition season was in early January. There wouldn't be any in person competitions this year but instead a set of skills challenges to be recorded and submitted online. These challenges involved a num-

ber of obstacle courses to be driven in autonomous mode and with a human driver, picking up balls and shooting them at a target. The new robot design performed quite well in these challenges.

The team ended up ranked 9th in our group of 30 teams

from around the country and among Minnesota teams we are currently ranked 27th out of 100 teams. The top 36 teams in the state will be invited to participate in the MSHSL Robotics Tournament in May.

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Band finds their rhythm in a challenging year

New Prague Bands 2020-2021 School Year

Playing in Band was a challenge for the New Prague Bands, due to the COVID Pandemic. However, Mr. Diischer and the students were able to make accommodations so that performing on instruments was possible in the latter part of the year.

As the year started, Minnesota guidelines stated that students were not able to play in enclosed spaces, without significant PPE and classroom restrictions. Due to safety concerns, the Bands originally started performing during the year with a focus on rhythms with a set of bucket drumming ensembles with a focus on theory, rhythm achievement, and music history. While in hybrid mode, when students were at home, they would have individual lessons and assignments to practice, as well as participating in lessons while at home. While hybrid at school, students would then participate in the bucket drumming classes.

As the year progressed, the Bands were able to acquire custom bell covers that allowed Wind Players to play and participate in normal performances again. With some accommodations to the Band Room, the Band was able to begin playing wind instruments in the Band classroom. (These accommodations included distancing students 6 Feet apart, wearing masks over their mouthpieces, and having flute "wind guards." Percussion had to routinely wipe off mallets and sticks to make sure the area and implements were sanitized.)

Even because of the restrictions, especially at athletic events, the Bands were able to make appearances throughout the year: The NP Drumline was able to perform their cadences for the Half-Time Portion of the Homecoming show, as well as during send-offs for State Wrestling and State Gymnastics.

As schools throughout Minnesota went to full time Distance learning, Mr. Diischer transferred performances on instruments to a Virtual "band room" where students would have the music electronically accessible on their Chromebooks either via PDF or via the "SmartMusic" program. With that program, students could rehearse and practice their parts along with a recorded track of the music.

While in distance learning, students began to work on more fundamental aspects of their music education, like scales, key signatures, and listening. As learning returned to hybrid, and eventually to full-time, the Bands were able to play again full time in the Band Room.

"Getting students back to whatever could feel like normalcy, was my goal. I wanted them to remember that music and the arts are still fundamental to their lives as stu-



dents. As soon as we started playing again as a full group, their faces lit up! - Mr. Diischer

As the past few months have gone by, the students in all the Bands are now prepared to play a large, virtual concert, that will be recorded in the middle of May, and then published on Facebook and Youtube. This will feature the Crimson Band, the Symphonic Band, the Wind Ensemble, as well as Jazz Band 1 and Jazz Band 2.

"Ending this year with a concert will be a nice touch, and hopefully a jumping off point for the summer, and next year. COVID has been tough for arts around the entire world. I am glad that our students are getting to perform their pieces that they have been preparing for the last few months.

"Even a taste of normalcy adds comfort and habit to their lives, and music should be no exception." - Mr. Diischer

Look for the New Prague High School Showcase Concert near the end of May on Facebook, Youtube, and other social media outlets. (Or check out the NP Bands Facebook page, and follow!)

Crimson Band

Flute - Natalie DeGrego
Maura Erickson

Natalia Garita
Jordyn Marsh
Cara Erickson
Clarinet - Ryan Erickson
Eva Johnson
Haley Colling
Matthew Sandeen
Alto Sax - Daniel Ridgeway
Carter Woodgate
Tenor Sax - Andrew Cervenka
Adam Oeltjen
Trumpet - Mallory Jirik
Carly Motz
Kirsten Overgaard
Braydon Passe
Brady Picka
Aiden Wagner
Anders Moen
Horn - Gavin Ennis
Trombone - Craig Brezina
Allen Voss
Kyle McCarthy
Ava Quade
Baritone - Kirsten Overgaard
Tuba - Sean Christensen
Jacob Neisen
Percussion - Maggie Gieson
Carter Hruby
Nathan Metko
Anna Novak
Jake Pexa
Tom Schmidberger
Annie Velishek

Symphonic Band

Flute - Brooke Mastin

Ali Foust
Kaedyn Padelford
Oboe - Sophia Smith
Clarinet - Jayden Erickson
Alyssa Rodelwald
Ben Hennes
Sam Erlandsen
Logan Ehrhardt
Selah Scherman
Bass Clarinet - Liam Little
Alto Sax - Levi Portner
Jack Giles
Tenor Sax - Izzy McDonald
Bari Sax - Brooklyn O'Donoghue
Trumpet - Devon Lancaster
Olivia Smith
Owen Lemke
Semaj Morris
Grace Fischer
Liam Roufs
Horn - Joey Little
Trombone - Hunter Pomije
Alex Woodyard
Luke Meger
Baritone - Vincent Meyer
Tuba - Joey Scott
Percussion - Dustin Anderson
Alex Dvorak
Anders Elliot
Jonathan Grams
Alex Nelson
Patrick Peick

Wind Ensemble

Flute - Simon Mathiowetz
Jasmine Schmitz

Oboe - Parker Benes
Annika Honken
Clarinet - Elizabeth Midvedt
Allyssa Tyson
Aiden Wagner
Bassoon - Riley Holets
Alto Sax - Billy Dopp
Madison Olson
Lydia Schmitz
Adam Pankow
Tenor Sax - Rebecca Meger
Bari Sax - Ashlyn Shea
Trumpet - Carter Greff
Andrew Nerud
Riley Huseby
Aaron Paul
Tyler Nelson
Aidan Henkel
Horn - Sydney Mancini
Ayush Kapeli
Trombone - Jack Thomas
Nick Schmidberger
Luke White
Baritone - A.J. Dressen
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Fall play has online performance

Area residents were able to watch New Prague High School's fall play "10 Ways to Survive Life in a Quarantine," as an online performance that was streamed on Nov. 21, and Nov. 22. The production was a mixture of short comedic plays written by Don Zolidis in March of 2020.

Directed by Ben Thietje, the recorded production consisted of several monologues that was done via Google Meet. That included the auditions and the rehearsals. Thietje met

with each cast member one-on-one to rehearse their specific scene. The cast put together their own props and scenery at home. Thietje edited the monologues together.

Members of the cast were Micah Anderson, Kady Anderson, Abi Bartusek, Ayden Bertsch, Emily Chaffee, Kayla Chaffee, Clare Daly, Seth Dickerson, Charley Furlong, Sophia Huebner, Gabriel Juenemann, Jonathan Lake, Greta Madson, Arie Moen, Amara Prochaska, Ava Rivard, Jessica

Sadusky, Noah Stocker and Dylan Vilt.

The show's stories were "Megalomania," "Lives of Squirrels," "Musicals with Pets," "In Love With Spalding," "Tell Spooky Stories," "Fun with Scissors," "Fall in Love with Inanimate Objects," "I Am Good at Sports Now," "William Shakesbear," "Catch Up On Your Studies" and "Sleep, In Pajamas, Eat Chocolate".

STARS extends a helping hand in a stressful year

The STARS Program stands for Students Teaching And Reaching Students. The program is offered to students who need help organizing their work, studying for tests, adjusting to the senior high atmosphere, or completing their homework. The tutors meet with students on an individual basis either before or after school. The students who become tutors volunteer for the program. They go through a set of training sessions early in the school year in order to be ready. Then they get placed on a list so when a student needing help contacts his or her counselor, the STARS tutor can be paired up with the student.

The program has been going on for many years and has become very valuable for a number of students. It has received positive feedback from the tutors and the students being tutored as well as their parents. In addition, the

teachers also find it helpful knowing there are options for students who are struggling in their classes.

The tutors are:

Cox, Henry
Holtbach, Claire
Anderson, Larissa
Dropik, Mckenzie
Bruder, Sophia
Benes, Parker
Ettlin, Ella
Meyers, Aracelli
Bisek, Lindsay
Schoenbauer, Anna
Roufs, Ava
Holets, Rylie
Ophus, Paige
Gaulke, David
Nelson, Sarah
Kudrle, Matt
Stenger, Sydney
Rosemeier, Nora
Horesji, Ellen
Luers, Kailyn
Malecha, Colin
Billmeyer, Rayno
Widmer, Nolan
Hartshorn, Addison



Cast and crew of New Prague High School's one act play "The Party Hop" are (left to right, front row) Emily Chaffee, Charley Furlong, Ava Rivard, Mandi Becher, Jessica Sadusky, Kady Anderson; (back row) Jonathan Lake, Sophia Huebner, Greta Madson, Maddi Holicky, Amara Prochaska, Micah Anderson, Noah Stocker, Dylan Vilt and Gabriel Juenemann.

One act wins sub-sections, second at Section Finals

The New Prague High School (NPHS) one act play, "The Party Hop," took first place at the 2AA Subsection competition. Full results from that competition were: first NPHS, second St. Peter, third Dassel-Cokato and fourth Hutchinson. "The Party Hop" was about three college girls who go "party hopping" when they realize one of them hasn't had her first kiss. They then vow to make it happen virtually.

The NPHS submission

moved on to the 2AA Section Finals on Feb. 3 where it took second place. The rankings were Prior Lake, first, NPHS, second, St. Peter, third, and Shakopee, fourth. Ben Thietje, director of New Prague High School's one act play, said it was the second time in the last three years NPHS has finished second at Section Finals, just missing advancing to State.

With the COVID-19 pandemic young actors from the schools had a choice to either submit a virtual play, where the performance was recorded over Google Meet, or to record the play on stage.

GOOD LUCK Trojans!

Chiropractic Care The natural answer to pain.

Chiropractic treatment has been shown to aid health problems such as:

- Back and neck pain
- Leg and arm pain
- Tennis elbow/rotator cuff
- Plantar Fasciitis/flat feet
- Work, sport and auto injuries
- Sciatica
- Herniated disc (pinched nerve)
- Muscle and joint pain
- Arthritis/stiffness
- Carpal tunnel syndrome
- Myofascial pain
- Sprains and Strains
- Pregnancy related pain
- Scar tissue
- Exercise instruction (for strengthening and recovery)

Chiropractic care has also been shown to aid many other health problems such as: arthritis, fibromyalgia, shingles, sinus problems, dizziness, allergies and asthma, although chiropractors do not directly treat such ailments. Be sure to ask how chiropractic care might help your health concerns.

Let us help you enjoy a healthier, more active life.

Dr. Jeremy Tupy
Chiropractor

Dr. Jolene Otremba
Chiropractor

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