

Mascot brings school spirit

BY DEVIN CADE

Hooper, Al, Paws all show how mascots are such a big part of sports. They pump up fans and keep people involved in games. RHS has added a mascot as the newest member of the Bears athletic program.

"A student approached me at the beginning of the year and said could we have a school mascot costume, and I said sure. I think that it is a great idea," Principal Mary McFarlane said.

The Administrators opinion along with student input was used to pick out exactly which costume fit as the Roosevelt mascot.

The bear was purchased at the beginning of the school year and was received at the end of October, just in time for football playoffs. The school

mascot was bought in hopes to bring even more school spirit from students, players, staff, and fans as well.

"I think it [the mascot] is all part of our school spirit and I think that it is very important to represent that," said McFarlane. "I am delighted to have the new bear."

A few students have had the honor of wearing the costume including seniors Eric Taurence, who wore the costume to football games, and J.J. Budzyn who wore it at a basketball game.

"For the most part it [wearing the costume] was fun but I don't think I'll get to do it again because it is my senior year," said Taurence.

McFarlane said that in order to be able to wear the costume you must have good

character, you must be trustworthy, and you should have the personality that it takes to be a school mascot.

"I think the fans, along with the players, really enjoyed the mascot," said Budzyn.

The costume is fit for a person 5'8" to 6'2" tall and it is also very heavy so you must be strong enough to wear it. According to those who have worn the costume it can also get very hot, very quickly.

"The bear costume was hot, really, really hot," said Taurence.

The new mascot has unofficially been named "Rusty", after the statue on the corner of Fifth street and Eureka, but students are being encouraged to share their ideas for an official name.



Senior J.J. Budzyn performs as the bear at a varsity basketball game. Photo: Molly Zanley

Art Club builds fun

BY ALYSSA BEAMISH

Every year the Roosevelt Art Club has a gingerbread house making contest to get in the Christmas spirit.

"We had a lot of fun making the houses this year," said freshmen Connie Lusting, Jamie Lewis and Sara Hopper.

This was their first year in art club and they have been having a lot of fun and are excited for the new things to come.

For the past seventeen years the art club gets together and are given graham crackers, frosting, and little candies like marshmallows, chocolate chips, or M&Ms. They also got many sprinkles which added lots color. With those materials, they assemble a gingerbread house and try to win votes.

Each club member makes one and at the end they go around and vote for the house they think should win.

"Making the gingerbread houses, I have so much fun with all of my friends," said last year's winner, Art Club secretary, sophomore Mary Herrick. "Winning last year was a huge confidence boost. So I

looked forward to doing it this year."

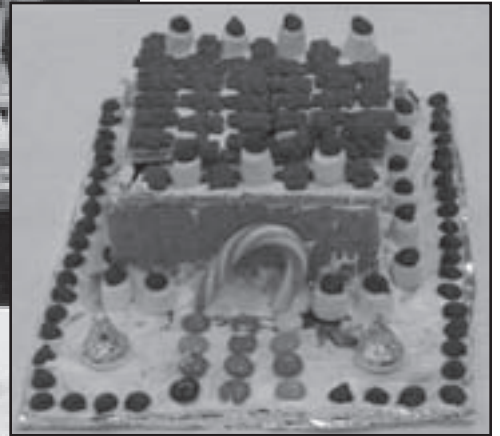
The winner's prizes are fun little things like stuffed animals or fun pencils, but in Art Club winning is so much more. It would step you up a step in art and that can help you in the long run for things like scholarships.

"I started the art club mostly for art and to help for scholarships and references," said Art Club advisor Tanya Au. "But now we still do art and we have so much fun. We are all friends and we all get along."

Usually, just the art club people vote along with others who watched or had been there.

Also in the past they have had the children from the Day Care come and vote for their favorite house too. That helped a lot in deciding who deserved to win, Au explains.

"I love seeing the different ideas the kid's have each year," Au said. "Every year I see new, bigger and better things, which makes me happy as their teacher."



Left: Senior Audrey Peters worked on her gingerbread house at the contest on December 18. Right: Art club members built creative houses for the contest. Photo: Alyssa Beamish

Student Council hosts MEGA conference

BY SARA SKARZYNSKI

The student council hosted the MEGA East Conference on January 8, in the LMC.

"Schools coming out get an idea of what Roosevelt is like and maybe take back ideas for their own schools about school service, community service, or school spirit, not just necessarily for student council," said Student Council adviser Joanna Secco.

The MEGA Conference for student council is formed from the MEGA Conference for the sports.

The members meet with the other schools in the sports conference and from the downriver area. There are about ten different schools that come to the conference.

"The officers gain some experience in leadership roles and things that are necessary to run a committee and run an event," Secco said about one of the

things that the conference offers.

The conference lasts from about eight in the morning until noon. The student council does community service activities and activities with the other student councils. Some of the activities include "getting to know you" games and a tour of the school.

"We do different community services and activities, this year we're doing a scavenger hunt around the school," senior Student Council president Brianna Timmis said.

During the conference, there are six different committees that will be put together. Each committee has a RHS Student Council Officer as a chairperson in charge of that committee.

The different committees are community service, school tour, registration, hospitality (food and breakfast), getting to know you, and the guest speaker. The guest speaker comes

in and speaks about how to improve your school or your community.

"Everyone gets a lot of new ideas and they make them fun, it's not like you go there and listen to someone talk, you are free to discuss and share ideas," senior Student Council historian Amy Timcoe said.

Each year there are about seven or eight MEGA conferences at different schools for the student council. The attending schools get to bring four or five of their student council members to the conference.

"We like to host a conference, it's fun. I think we've got a great school here and we've got a lot of really good things to show off to other students," Secco said. "It's fun to have other students come and show them our school tour so they can see the other interesting things we have at Roosevelt."

Math classes raise standards

BY ERIC MILLER

RHS's math requirements have been changing and gradually getting tougher. So, students seem as though they are trying harder.

The class of 2006 was not required to take Algebra two to graduate and only 43 percent voluntarily took it. Now starting with the class of 2011 the math requirements will be changed to help better prepare students.

The class of 2011 has to take Geometry freshmen year, Algebra one sophomore year and Algebra two junior year, which better prepares them for Algebra two because there will not be a year between algebra one and two.

Also another math related course has to be taken for the class of 2011 in order to graduate according to the Detroit Free Press.

"A lot of jobs are looking for math experience," junior Josh Torres said. "I don't mind taking the higher level math courses."

More than 90 percent of RHS's student body is passing or has passed Algebra two in their first try and that is catching the eye of many.

With rates like that, and the new schedule for last year's incoming freshmen shows

that Roosevelt is making the curriculum more challenging and it is making progress.

This did not just affect the high school kids, but also the kids at Wilson Middle School.

The eighth graders are now required to take Algebra one but those who get a B- or lower in the course have to retake it their sophomore year. That is now required because the school board is trying harder to prepare kids more for their high school math classes.

RHS was not required by the state to make the curriculum tougher for a couple years.

"Wyandotte Schools didn't hesitate to raise the bar sooner. We didn't want to sacrifice a couple years worth of students for something we could immediately do," Principal Mary McFarlane said.

Roosevelt's math scores have gone up since Algebra two was required for graduation and with that being so essential, it has showed the main stage how Roosevelt has stepped up.

Many different strategies are being suggested for schools across Michigan with their math requirements but, one thing for sure is that Wyandotte made the first step in showing what can be done.



Freshmen Erika Trevino, Tyler Hamilton, and Michelle Scribner make hearts for nursing homes and hospitals for the community service project at the MEGA Conference. Photo: Sara Skarzynski



Students in Mr. Trotters class work hard on their math. Photo: Eric Miller

Stec wins first RHS poetry recitation competition

BY EMILY NOBLE

Sophomore Kelly Stec is the winner of the school finals of Poetry Out Loud, and will be representing our school at the State finals in Lansing.

"About winning the school finals, I really am excited," said Stec. "I was terrified going into this because I wasn't sure how I could stand up against the other people in this. They're all great at poetry recitation...now I guess I'll just have to keep trying to place well at states."

Stec choose to recite the poems "The Obligation to be Happy" by Linda Pastan and "13 Ways of Looking at a Blackbird" by Wallace Stevens.

"[Poetry Out Loud] was on the recommendation of my past and present English teachers, Mr. Keast and Mr. Kudron," Stec said. "I wasn't certain about it, but they both said they thought I'd do well at it, so I said 'Might as well'. Being in theatre has helped me a lot in being able to get up there and speak in front of people, but this was a totally different experience."

Judge Kathy Bedikian believes that Stec deserved the title because she expressed the poem to the audience so well.

"[Stec] really seemed to hit the nail for [the criteria] we were looking for," Bedikian said.

Stec beat eight other competitors in the school competition on Monday, January 12. Stec will now compete against representatives from about 32 other schools in Michigan. The winner of the State competition will then progress to nationals.

"We have a one-in-thirty-two chance, if all else is equal, of sending somebody to Washington D.C.," said Keast.

This year was the first that RHS has ever had Poetry Out Loud.

Senior Yesmeen Mikhail, who recited *A Perfect Rose* by Dorothy Parker and *I Carry Your Heart with Me* by E.E. Cummings was excited by the opportunity.

"I entered Poetry Out Loud because I wanted to learn to do something different with the arts," said Mikhail. "Poetry Out Loud isn't acting, [it is] about telling the

poem through what the author wanted to be heard."

Sophomore Skyler Snyder-Pitts, also one of the nine finalists, believes that the competition really has nothing to do with self-expression.

"I don't know if this is as much about the students expressing themselves so much as expressing to the audience the emotions of the poems," said Snyder-Pitts.

Keast agrees with Snyder-Pitts in that the point of the contest is to express the author's emotions and meanings in the poem.

"In a way, it is really the opposite of self-expression. It's expressing

somebody else's vision, expressing the poet's vision, expressing the poem itself," said Keast. "I think that's what's really exciting: having to get to know the poem so infinitely that you can just communicate it perfectly. It's really not about your personal expression."

Snyder-Pitts wants to take something back from the competition when it is finished.

"I hope that I get experience performing, and that I will have a better understanding of poetry afterwards," said Snyder-Pitts.

Mikhail would like to have something to take from Poetry Out Loud as well.

"I hope to take away from this

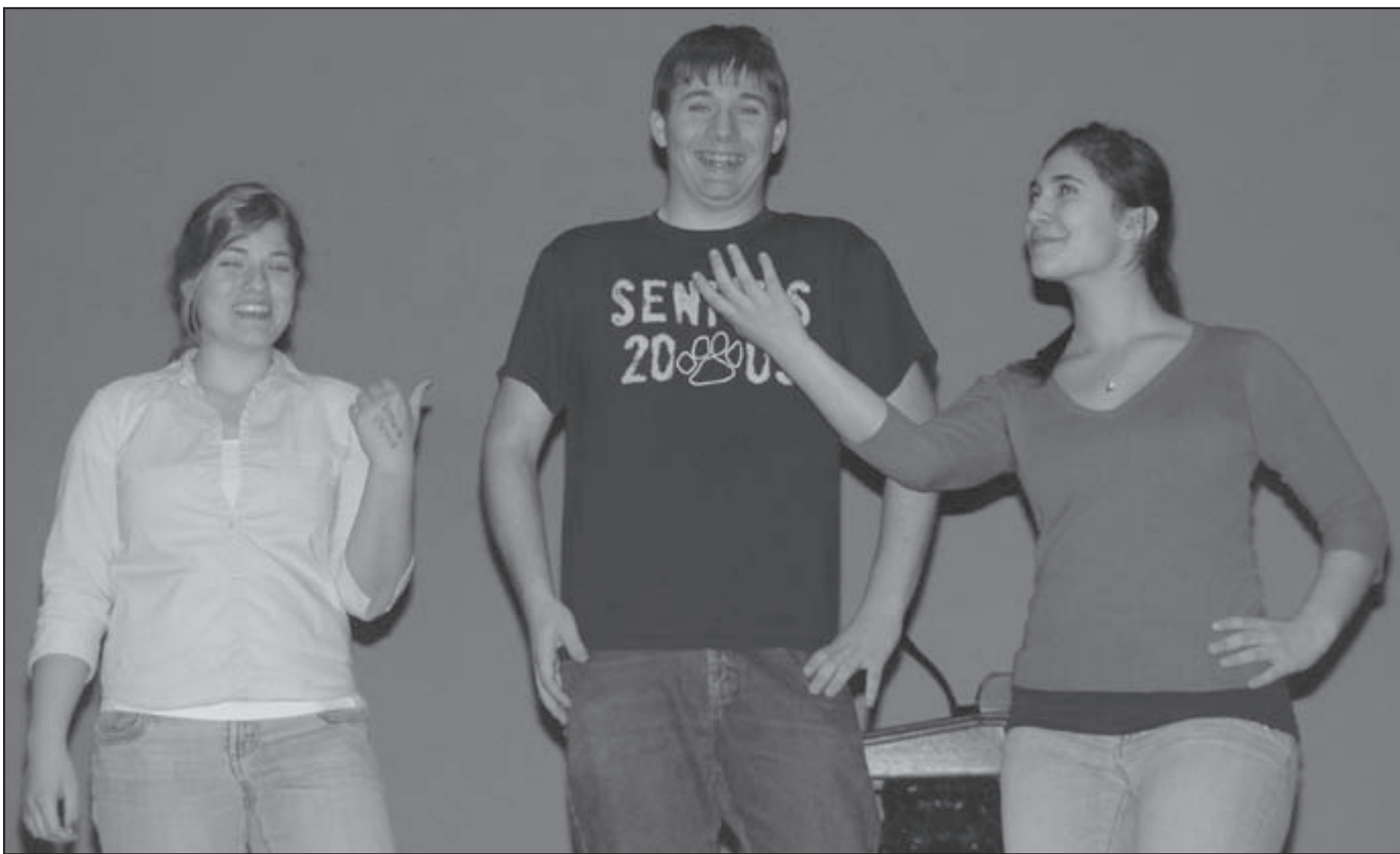
experience a new perspective on literature in general," said Mikhail. "Things become a lot different when you say them 'out loud' and I hope to achieve a better understanding of what people are trying to get through in their writings."

In the beginning of the competition about 40 students showed interest and now it is down to nine finalists: Jessica Harris, Mary Herrick, Yesmeen Mikhail, Jasper Richardson, Audrey Smellie, Cara Smock, Skyler Snyder-Pitts, Kelly Stec, and Britney Wright.

Students are required to memorize two poems to participate in school finals and must have three poems memorized

to take part at states. Contestants are judged upon stage presence, delivery, and the clarity of their voice. They are also judged on whether they can communicate the emotions and the meaning of the poem, in addition to how well they memorize the poem.

"Poetry Out Loud is a poetry recitation contest that students perform poems that they have not written themselves," said English teacher Robert Keast. "The challenge for students is to figure out the best way to present [and] recite these poems...not only memorize them, but perform them in a way that really communicates the full meaning of the poem."



Sophomore Skyler Snyder-Pitts (left), senior Jasper Richardson (middle), and senior Yesmeen Mikhail practice reciting their poems for the Poetry Out Loud contest. Photo: Emily Noble.

Key Club shovels snow for elderly

BY BRIANNA FLYNN

This winter, the snow has been harsh and once it starts, it shows no signs of stopping.

For senior citizens, shoveling the various amounts of snow on their sidewalk and driveway can be a difficult task.

Luckily, members of Key Club have been making this task easier for the elderly by shoveling their snow from now until the snow stops falling.

First year Key Club members sophomores Amanda Chesney and Lindsay Kuhn shovel together along with Key Club secretary sophomore Rebekah Whitehead.

"[Shoveling snow for the elderly] makes me feel good," said Whitehead.

So far this winter, Whitehead has shoveled three houses. Kuhn has also shoveled about three houses.

However, many more houses will be shoveled by Key Club members as long as there is snow on the ground.

Chesney has only shoveled one home, because "sometimes the elderly are hard to get a hold of because they don't always get to the phone in time," Chesney said.

She likes to help people, so by shoveling their snow, Chesney is helping out in a big way.

For Key Club members, the challenges of helping out are the cold weather, the heavy lifting, and the chances of getting frostbite.

Key Club will continue shoveling for senior citizens all throughout the winter, and will continue next winter as well.



Key Club member sophomore Alyssa Beamish shovels snow for the elderly. Photo: Brianna Flynn

DECA travels to Ypsilanti for district competition

BY MEHGAN FROSTIC

DECA members attended the DECA District Conference on January 9 at Eastern Michigan University where 108 marketing students participated in role-playing business situations against local schools in front of a judge.

There are about 14 different business situations that students participate in and the students explain how they would handle the situations.

The student who answers the most professionally and has the most knowledge gets to go on to the next level.

"It's an enjoyable conference for both the students and myself," DECA advisor Elissa Cumiskey said.

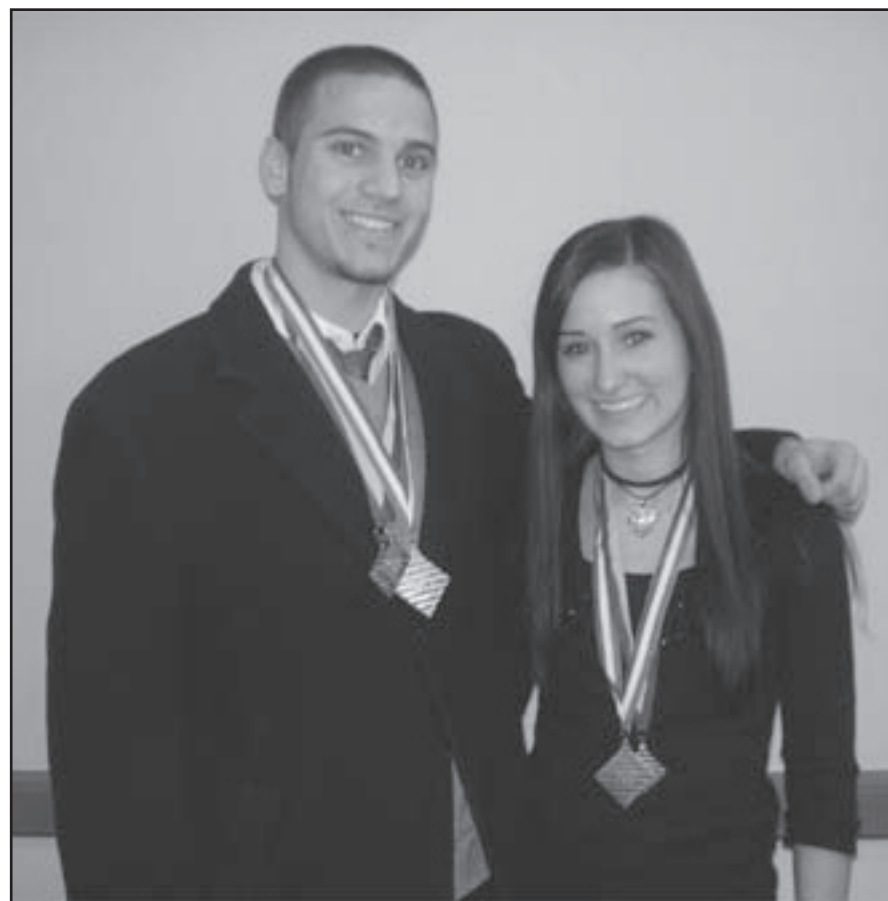
Since this is the District Conference, DECA does not need to qualify to attend. But the students who do the best at Districts move on to the State Conference that will take place in March at Dearborn Heights and will be joined by other schools from around the state.

If they do well there, they will move on to the International Conference that is scheduled to be held later this year in Anaheim, California with schools from all around the nation.

These role-playing events contribute to the development of necessary marketing and management skills.

Students get to pick the type of business situations they want to participate in. The choices cover different management situations like apparel, automotive, food marketing, sports management, and others.

These conferences give students the chance to put their marketing and business skills to the test and provide opportunities for student and team recognition.



Seniors J.J. Budzyn and Brigitte Furber were district winners in the Internet Marketing category. Budzyn won an Occupational Test Medal and Role Play Medal, while Furber won a Role Play Medal. Both were overall qualifiers for States in March. Photo courtesy of Elissa Cumiskey

District Winners

- Justin Goodman - Automotive Services Marketing
- Brie Martin - Food Marketing
- Alex Smith - Food Marketing
- Evan Baum - Food Marketing
- Candice Bolan - Hotel & Lodging Management
- Marina Resto - Hotel & Lodging Management
- Nick Martinez - Marketing Management
- Laura Bryan - Quick Serve Restaurant Management
- Jonathan Soloman - Restaurant & Food Service Management
- Blake Hillenbrand - Restaurant & Food Service Management
- Brandon Quigley - Marketing Principles
- McKenzie Palchak - Marketing Principles
- J.J. Budzyn - Internet Marketing
- Brigitte Furber - Internet Marketing
- Brittany Adkins - Travel & Tourism Marketing
- Catherine Laboe - Travel & Tourism Marketing
- Ashley Gniewek - Travel & Tourism Marketing
- Renae Pruett - Travel & Tourism Marketing
- Marissa Pate - Sports & Entertainment Marketing