

NPHS clubs begin for the 05-06 school year

Mary-Jane Slaby
Student Life Editor

Many of New Prairie's clubs have started for school year and are planning their activities.

"I want to be able to take the theater back over for the arts," said drama club sponsor, Courtney Kramer, who looked for a teaching position where she could be involved with the drama club. The club has spent the first quarter of the school year establishing the drama fund by selling candy bars to earn money for the sets needed for performance. The members meet the first Tuesday of every month for two and half hours. The meetings help the students improve their acting skills.

Freshman Haley Laudadio encouraged people who are interested in drama to try it. "It's pretty much a good way to meet people. You can be yourself," she commented. Kramer wants the drama club members to see



One example of NP Club's hard work

Photo by Sarah Markley

that acting is more than what you see on TV. Drama takes commitment, dedication and responsibility. The club will perform its first dramatic play in 30 years, "You Can't Take It With You", in November. Drama club members and other students are involved in the play. Laudadio comes to the practices to help out the stage crew, but hopes to perform in the spring musical. This December, the Drama club has been offered the chance to attend a drama workshop at Indiana University South Bend. They are planning to perform a single act play written by two members of the club. In the spring, the drama club will hold open auditions for a musical.

"Just join and try it out. You'll love it," exclaimed Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Second Vice-President Kristina VanWaardenburg. The FBLA sponsored a blood drive on October 26 as a community service project. They had over 100 students and staff sign up. The members sold port-a-pit chicken dinners to help with the cost of traveling to Indianapolis for the state FBLA competition in March.

"We want to get as many people to go to state and then nationals," said VanWaardenburg who is in her third year of FBLA. The members spend a weekend at the competition and compete against other schools in business related events. They have a chance to meet new people and spend time with the members of the club. On the last day of the competition, a banquet is held and awards are handed out. Anyone who receives a first or second place award is guaranteed a trip to the national competition, which will be held in Nashville, Tennessee this year.

"We have so much fun, I can't describe it," said VanWaardenburg who joined after hearing FBLA was a lot of fun. The club will hold their first FBLA hayride. The members hope that the students they bring to the hayride will become involved with FBLA. March of Dimes is the next charity FBLA members plan to raise money for. They will hold penny wars where competing classes collect pennies for the cause. Also, FBLA members will raise money for March of Dimes by holding a rock-a-thon. Anyone can sponsor a FBLA member who is rocking in a rocking chair during the rock-a-thon at a basketball game. The members will accept donations for the March of Dimes as well. Several FBLA members attended a fall conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on November fourth and fifth.

"It takes dedication to do well," said karate club sponsor Yvonne Desrosiers. Desrosiers started the karate club at New Prairie and has practiced the Japanese martial art for 26 years.

"It may seem like something dumb off a TV show, but in reality it teaches you so much more about life and patience," said junior Stephanie Wickizer. Karate teaches self-defense, concentration and determination. It is also a source of fitness and improves balance. Karate club members work hard to earn a move up the ranks and earn a new belt. Each member is working on a different rank of belt. Beginners are working toward a blue belt. Wickizer, who is in her third year of karate, is working to go from her yellow with green striped belt to a green belt. With the club meeting only once a week, it takes about a year to move up to a new belt, but sometimes

students are quicker. The harder the belt, the longer it will take for students to advance. Members have been practicing every Wednesday after school for an hour and a half since the second week of school. Those who want more practice go to Desrosiers's dojo in South Bend, the Kokorokan Dojo, for a class on Monday nights. The Karate club has about eight to ten members and is working on getting used to the style of Genjikai karate.

"Its actually a nice size because everybody gets individualized attention," said Desrosiers. However, students are invited to join at any time during the year. Desrosiers provides free training to the karate club members, but the members must purchase their own uniform and safety equipment. About twice a year, Shihan Nishida, who is the creator of the Genjikai style, comes to New Prairie to conduct a one-day karate workshop with the club. The club has done karate kick-a-thons to help with the costs of Shihan Nishida traveling to New Prairie from Texas. The club may start competing with other karate students in tournaments. They are planning to have their first inner dojo tournament with students from the Kokorokan dojo.

"I like the random factual knowledge," commented senior quiz bowl member, Tony Pearce. The quiz bowl team answers questions in math, literature, sports, pop culture and general trivia. The questions can include cooking or literature terms and other things such as what Adam gave to Eve and the animals. Sponsor Bill Spier said that students who excel at quiz bowl are not always the honor roll students. The team has 13 members, but is open to new members. They practice every Monday and have the matches on Wednesdays. The quiz bowl season has eleven matches and home matches are held in the Cougar Den. Playoffs are after winter break. Four members compete at a time during the competition and they are rotated according to their strengths.

"My goal is not to lose and score over 200 points a match," Pearce said. The first person to buzz in on a question earns the opportunity to earn points for their team. Quiz bowl matches have four rounds. The first round is a warm up round with questions that are worth five points. Next, members work together to answer the questions of the bonus round. Third is the 60-second round. In this round, players are given ten questions in 60 seconds. The last round, stump the expert, is composed of harder questions that are worth more points. Spier enjoys working with the quiz bowl team and would like to win the whole league this year.

The rocket club began four years ago after Mark Glassley was given a flyer about a national rocket

competition. This year's club is the biggest one Glassley has ever had and meets every Thursday after school. The members must be passing all their classes, miss less than two meetings and go to watch two high power rocket launches done in Three Oaks, Michigan in order to be a part of the rocket competition with Team Cougar.

"Its fun!" exclaimed Senior Zack Lambert who has been in rocket club for two years. The club designed simulated rockets on the computer and then created a rocket to be launched. The members completed their first launch on October 20 and successfully launched a three-engine

rocket. They will create 15 to 20 more identical rockets to launch for practice either at school, in Three Oaks, Michigan or Westville, Indiana. Rocket club is preparing for a national competition in May 2006. The competition is open to 750 teams from all over the country and each team has one launch to compete with. Its costs \$1,500 to reach the competition and then members must also pay for hotels and food. The club has begun looking for businesses to sponsor the team to lessen these costs.

"I'd like to get to Virginia," said Lambert. After the competition in May, the finals are held in The Planes, Virginia. Glassley and the club are working toward a goal of 800 feet, 45 second flight duration and no egg breaking for the rocket used in competition.

"Its just therapy," commented Glassley about the model club that meets every Friday after school. The model club started ten years ago, when a student took interest and joined Glassley in model making after school. Students are invited to have fun creating wood and plastic models.

"This group of girls has been more fun to work with than any other group I've ever worked with," commented Jim Groendyke about the spell bowl team. The team placed first in the state at regional competition for division two schools, which includes the 52 Indiana high schools with an enrollment of 612 to 1079 students. The competition was held at John Glenn High School on October 17. The top eight teams in each division will compete at the state competition on November 12 held at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. Ten spellers from each team spell nine words by writing them down on a competition form. The ninth word is used to break a tie and is often the hardest word out of the nine. The team competed at two invitational competitions before the regional competition. At both the Penn invitational and the Lakeland High School invitational, they placed fourth.

"If you enjoy spelling, you should join next year," said Freshman Chelsea Arthur, who will be competing at the state competition. The team started meeting in August and members have the choice of coming before or after school every blue day. The members took practice tests at each meeting and Groendyke treated them to bagels or chocolate.

"Its beneficial to learn different words," pointed out Arthur,

who also was on the spell bowl team at New Prairie Jr. High. The team uses a word list of 3,500 words that could be used in competition for their practice tests. At each meeting, the members were tested on 30 words out of a possible 240 they had to know for that meeting. Groendyke then composed a test for the team of the words they most commonly missed. The harder words include those that must be capitalized, are spelled in an odd way or have a hyphen. The spell bowl team has worked hard to place first in the regional competition and hope to place first at state competition as well.

"I enjoy being involved and knowing what's going on in our school," said sophomore boys' representative, Kory Labonne. The student senate and pep club meet together before school twice a month, sometimes more when planning an event such as homecoming. The meeting is lead by the senate president and vice-president who are elected by the members at the beginning of the year. The president and vice-president can be any member who was an officer in student senate the pervious year. The student senate plans most of the student activities at New Prairie. They plan Homecoming week, Halloween trick-or-treat night, and the Mistletoe dance. This year, the senate held freshman orientation with skits and advice for the incoming students. The senate is constructing new paw prints to line Cougar road and are planning hallway murals as part of plans to make New Prairie more attractive. Members hope to get more students involved with their plans by starting lunch with your representatives. Students and senate members eat lunch together to discuss plans and concerns. Labonne feels student senate is a big responsibility that requires commitment to get events done and running smoothly.

The pep club is composed of students who want to promote school spirit. Sponsor Mark Meyer would like for students who have ideas for school spirit to take charge and become leaders. Pep club got the band to agree to march through New Prairie's hallways on game days to add to the school spirit.

"The whole idea is we want more people to be cougar crazies," said Meyer.

The student senate holds elections the second week of May for the following school year. Nominated students must gather 25 classmate signatures and five teacher signatures before the elections are held. Each class has six offices that are elected. Honorary members are anyone approved by Meyer and Principal Clara Clark at any time during the school year. Meyer is happy that more students are becoming involved and running for offices. He hopes that the students will continue to lead and stay involved.

"We're just hoping to produce a book that the whole school can be proud of," said yearbook sponsor Chrystal Wilkeson. The yearbook staff designed a cover and picked a font that will be used for this year. They have chosen the theme, "If these walls could talk" which will combine New Prairie's past and present.

"You get a chance to express

What are you doing for thanksgiving?

With the holidays right around the corner, many students have big plans for their four day weekend. Here are what some of NPHS's students had to say about their plans for the holiday.

"Eating" Ben Holse , seniro

"Doing My Homework" Jay Suttor, freshman

"Spending Time with my fiancee" Kelly Maglio, senior

"Having dinner with my family at my aunt's house" Emily Luther, sophomore

"Dressing as a clown and eating turkey" Eric Johnson, junior

"Working from nine to five" Katie Nicklas, junior

**Survey by Jen Hindes, Student Life Reporter

your ideas," said Megan Horvath, who joined to have a say in her senior yearbook. The staff is re-thinking the design of the inside of the yearbook and has started the layout. They sell ads to help with the cost of the yearbook. Designs are sent in digitally to the Walsworth Company who will then send the staff proofs to look over before publishing the yearbook.

"I'm hoping to make it a class again," commented Wilkeson. Wilkeson is sponsoring the yearbook as an after school activity for the first time and has experience in yearbook from a course in publications management that she took in college. She feels that the yearbook is an important thing for students to have. The staff meets every Friday after school and is made up of about 20 members. Once the deadlines are assigned to the staff, members will work on the yearbook more often. The yearbook staff has received three new MAC G-5 publications computers. These computers have Adobe InDesign desktop publications installed. Three members of the staff, Patrick Griffith, Rachel Fullmer, and Ross Ratliff went with Wilkeson to a workshop at Niles High School on October 24 to learn about the new computer programs they have.

"I want to try to contribute as much as I can," said Horvath. The staff members have many deadlines in order to complete the yearbook on time. They want the 2005-2006 yearbook to be totally different than any yearbook before it.

New Prairie's clubs have been busy with events, meetings and planning for competitions and coming events.

2005

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