'Sayonara' for Seniors Switches Scenes

Jessica Carey-Webb
News Editor

A prom in the same place where we eat lunch everyday? A senior trip without roller coasters? Instead of having the Prom at the Kalamazoo Country Club or the Radisson, this year the prom will be held at Loy Norrix-in the student cafeteria. Not only is there a cafeteria prom but the senior trip of the past two years to Cedar Point will now be to Chicago.

According to the class of 2007's advisor, Ted Duckett, the decision to have prom at school was both practical and economical. "It might not be so much what people want but what is cost effective," said Duckett.

Having prom in the cafeteria saves thousands of dollars which will be used to decorate and make the night memorable.

"We're going to make it a legitimate ballroom where, for one night, everyone can forget that they're in the cafeteria," said Duckett.

The theme of this year's prom will be "Sayonara," which is Japanese for "Goodbye." The cafeteria will be transformed by decorations that include Japanese styled lanterns and lights. A DJ booth will be set up in the middle of the room and dancing will take place in the cafeteria. The senior courtyard will be transformed into a Japanese garden with refreshments.

Having prom at LN also allows for more space than there was last year at the crowded Country Club. Alex Kiewiet, senior and class of 2007's secretary, is optimistic.

"Prom in a bigger area will allow us to sell more tickets and raise more money," said Kiewiet.

The money saved from having prom in the cafeteria will go toward a Japanese style dinner which will be arranged in the gym before the dance. Duckett claims that everything will be done in a truly elegant style.

"I tried to go 'first class' by using what we have without trying to reinvent something," said Duckett.

Parents will serve as waiters and the gym will be transformed according to the prom theme.

Kiewiet, while optimistic about having prom at school, does not believe that many people will participate in the dinner. "I don't think a lot of individuals will attend because the best part of prom is going out to dinner to show off your attire," said Kiewiet.

Another big change this year for the senior class was the decision to switch from a trip to Cedar Point to a trip to Chicago. The change was made not only for economic reasons, but also because many seniors last year did not want to go to Cedar Point.

"You can't please everyone and decisions have to be made," said Duckett.

Senior Ryan Singleton is eager to participate in the trip. "I think it will be really cool. It's not the usual Cedar Point where we've all been," said Singleton.

Seniors who decide to go on the senior trip will have a full day of activities. Upon arriving in Chicago, there will be a visit to the Shedd Aquarium followed by a trip to Navy Pier where there are arcades and shops. After a couple of hours at the Pier, there will be a boat trip on which lunch will be served and everyone can participate in a dance party. "It's something different, different doesn't have to be bad," said Duckett.

Singleton is excited about the changes in location and anticipates a good time. Singleton said, "I would just like to see everything be out of the ordinary and unexpected!"

Photo Courtesy of sxc.hu

The *Odyssey* at the Navy Pier could be the boat rented for a senior trip dance party in Chicago.

No More School Store

School Store Closed for the Year to Increase Academic Focus and Healthy Eating

Megan Mahoney and Nicole Noyes
Editor in Chief/Buisness Manager

You may have noticed that the deliciously fresh and wonderful Otis Spunkmeyer cookies are no longer being sold in the cafeteria. The divider that separates the school store and the cafeteria is tightly secured and will not be opened this school year.

Knight Gallery was terminated this year for a variety of reasons. An outside business, composed of community members, comes to LN every 3 years to take a look at the business program.

"At the end of last year, the inspectors [review team of volunteers that assist EFE] thought that the program needed more academics," said David LaPrairie, LN principal.

Another reason for the closing of the store was because of state and federal mandates. "We are supposed to increase healthy food options and decrease sugar and fat options," LaPrairie said, "The quality of food that the school store was selling was not up to the food service regulations."

Senior, Kayte Foras, worked in the school store last year and misses being able to work there this year.

"I think we should bring the school store back," said Foras. Many students enrolled in the basic marketing class because of the school store aspect.

"Students who are taking marketing have voiced that that was why they took the class in the first place," said Barbara Rockey, business management teacher and former supervisor of the school store.

Foras believes that being more selective about who is admitted into DECA, a group of students that compete statewide in business competitions, would have helped the school store.

"They should have an application process and recommendations for anyone who wants to be part of it, " said Foras.

"It was necessary for it [the school store] to close down. It wasn't going anywhere," said Foras. Money that was made by the school store went towards DECA. DECA would use the money for new equipment and funding.

Rockey agrees that the school store should be brought back.

"I would like to see a school store in the building but not in the cafeteria," said Rockey.

LN is also home to the Spirit Shop, run by Andrew Laboe, LN Athletic Director. The Spirit Shop is located in the J wing and sells LN spirit wear. It is only open for highly attended events, but items can be purchased at anytime in the athletic office.

Christopher Bolda, head of food service, presented the concept of the convenience store to LaPrairie at the end of August.

"It will look like a convenience store with pre-made sandwiches and made-to-order fajita's, pizzas, and cheeseburgers," said LaPrairie. Students will enter and exit the space, exactly like at a gas station or grocery mart.

The direction of the new concept will be up to the marketing class.

Photo Courtesy of Barbara Rockey

In 1974, the school store was located where the career center is now. The windows were used to display products and spirit wear.

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