

# SIXTH PERIOD SLUMP

Teachers try to keep kids engaged in the last period of the day.

By Ellie Barker



**IS IT OVER YET?** It's the last period of the day and Isaac Sovold (8), like every other day, is waiting for class to be over. As much as he didn't enjoy being in class, science definitely wasn't his favorite. Sovold said, "Science isn't really an interesting subject in general." Science may have been boring for Isaac, but Mr. Kelsey constantly tried to keep his students engaged in learning. "[Mr. Kelsey] tells jokes, and he's a fun person," said Sovold.

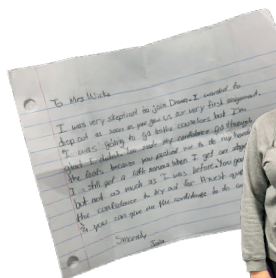
It's the last period of the day, and as students watch the clock tick by, their dreams of going home become closer to being a reality. As the teachers attempt to keep them engaged in the lesson, it's no match, for they're slipping in and out of concentration.

"It's hard for everyone to get through the last period of the day on task," Gavin Black (6) says, "[Mr. Hack keeps us engaged] by teaching us fun things all the time." Black has a good point. Most teachers at Drake try their best to have fun lessons and assignments, but sometimes their plans fall through.

Even science teacher, Mr. Donohue, sometimes has trouble keeping his young scientists at work, but by having fun labs and telling enthusiastic jokes, they stay on track. "I'm like a stand up

comedian. You may not like me at first, but you keep coming back," explains Donohue. Donohue's jokes may be cheesy and not everyone will laugh out loud, but they sure do put grins on people's faces.

The students even have their own ways of keeping focused, "I focus better on topics I'm interested in," said Raleigh Greason (7). Students have many other ways to stay focused, including listening to music, fidgeting quietly, and by getting involved. They may not be the most efficient and quiet ways to keep them on task, but if it helps them stay on track, it will do. Sixth period can be one of the hardest periods of the day, but every teacher and student tries their hardest to stay on task. But no great lengths can always beat the sixth period slump.



## TIME TO SHINE

Jaila Austin (8) gives teacher a heartfelt note.

After being in drama class for a while, Jaila Austin (8) decided to share her thoughts and feelings with her teacher, Mrs. Laurel Wicke. She wrote Wicke a note explaining how nervous and hesitant she had been about being in drama at first. Then, she continued to explain how drama class had changed her. "You made my confidence go through the roof because you pushed me to do my hardest," Jaila wrote. Austin is now committed to auditioning for the choir in high school, and Mrs. Wicke was so touched by the note that she kept it in her desk for the rest of the year for inspiration.

-by Mia Moreno and Ellie Barker