

HOOPS FOR HEARTS

Teams support the American Heart Association.

By Lily Jetton

The atmosphere was tense. Pride and dignity were on the line. Teams were battling for the championship in the 2019 Hoops for Heart Tournament. The room was loud, filled with cheers, chants, and laughter; not one time was it quiet. It was the final round, take everything or lose it all. Two teams battled for the spot of number one. As Nick Albert (8), coach for the team *Team Name* said, "Last year we were playing games, but this year we were in it to win it."

Coach Albert was not messing around when it came to the game. His team was up against a tough competitor. Team *Lost In Sauce* worked hard to take the number one spot. With high hopes, player Riker Robinson (8) said, "We would play basketball outside, and I thought we all fit well together." Considered by some to be the underdogs, team *Lost in Sauce* not only

fit together but poured it on to take the win 20-26. Being first is an accomplishment to brag about, especially when people may think that you wouldn't be the one to win. That makes success all the sweeter.

Taking second was not easy for the boys of "*Team Name*" but they still found a way to keep in good spirits. "We were wearing suits so I didn't think we were going to make it that far, being hard to play in them. I'm still happy with what happened," Brittion Lancaster (8). Even after losing they didn't mind the final outcome.

All in all, thanks to the strong performances of all teams, the tournament was a great success. Classes poured into the gymnasium all day long, and during the final game there was not a seat to be had. Expressing his enjoyment, Ethan Shirazi (6) said, "It was my favorite part of the whole week."

WHEN ONE DOOR OPENS

The annual door decorating competition adds a festive touch to the whole school.



GETTING SNIPPY. Josie Matthews (7) and Clareth Aguillar (7) work hard on Mrs. Murnan's door during advisement. "We had to be perfect because we didn't want to waste paper," Matthews said. Her class took a tough loss to Ms. Rovik's advisement class, who came in first for 7th grade.

The holiday door decorating contest has been a Drake tradition for as long as teachers can remember. Ms. Nelson, a Drake veteran of 27 years, can't remember a time the school hasn't done it. Many students enjoy being involved in the contest and try their best to come up with something creative and unique. "It was a fun little project where we got to pick out the decorations and ideas and have a lot of fun," says Walter Grounsell (8). Mrs. Dunn, who has won about 11 times (and counting) explained her track record this way: "Letting kids guide the process and invest in the results, they always do their best work. My favorite one that my students made was, 'Starry Night.' They decorated the whole village with Christmas decorations and it even matched my walls." Holiday door decorating is always a competition to win and thus have all the bragging rights. This year the top prizes went to Mr. English (8th), Ms. Rovik (7th), Mr. Kassowitz (6th), and Mrs. Dunn (electives).

-by Patrick Paulson

photo by luci delisa

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