

# every shot COUNTS

To students delight, Hoops for Hearts fundraiser returns after a one year break. Story by Karsyn Kline

Hoops for Hearts, the basketball tournament had been going on since 2017. Every year before winter break, gym teacher Mr. Jason Berger put on a basketball tournament, an event where people can dress up, create teams, and play with friends with all the money going to The American Heart Association. Historically, everyone, from players to spectators, always looked forward to the basketball tournament when it was announced, but in 2020 the basketball tournament was canceled due to COVID. This year, even with COVID protocols such as not being able to gather in big groups and having to wear masks still in place, many people were happy that the basketball tournament was back.

"I really enjoyed the basketball tournament. I loved rooting for the under dogs and seeing students from class in ways I have never seen them before," said art teacher Mrs. Dunn. Students at Drake got ready with team names, matching outfits, and pretend plays. Even the coaches dressed up. "My favorite coach in the tournament was Tristan Walters because

he shaved his head and wore a whole suit just for the tournament," said Evan Shirazi (8).

One of the main struggles in the basketball tournament was COVID. "We had to follow COVID protocol in order to be able to do the tournament, which meant that we could only have a certain amount of kids and classes in the gym and kids still had to wear masks," said gym teacher Jason Berger.

Even though Drake was lucky to have a tournament despite COVID, teachers and students were still angry because some classes couldn't watch depending on how many kids were already in the gym. "If we ever have another activity where not every teacher can take their kids down to watch, I won't come to school," said Mrs. Laurel Wicke. "Kids were miserable when they couldn't watch, even when I bribed them with food and games."

In all, even after the many challenges it took, the tournament was a huge success. Students had a blast playing, watching, coaching, and raising \$500 for the American Heart Association.

## coach's CORNER

Team Water Wizz Coach, Kellen Conley, shares his thoughts on the tournament.



"My favorite part of the tournament was how hyped the gym always was and how fun it was to just watch friends play against each other. I was a coach in the tournament, and my favorite part was probably the part where I got to dress up in a cool outfit and got to yell at my team."

-Kellen Conley (8)

**MAN TO MAN.** Evan Shirazi (8), on team MVD, tries for a layup as Evan Shirazi of The Goodies goes for the stuff. "My favorite part of the tournament was probably being able to play with my friends," Shirazi said.

**FAST BREAK.** Santana Sabus (7) one of the many girls on team Water Wizz who made it to the finals, works to defend the fast break of Stella Emnett (7). A girl's team in the finals was a first in the history of the tournament. "I was excited since no girls team had ever actually made it that far. We definitely had a great team," said Sabus.





**SHOOT FOR TWO.** Dylan Knight (8) Playing on team MVD goes in for a shot. "I loved playing on the same team as my friends and getting to see the whole school in the gym watching," said Knight. "It was a good way to end the week before winter break." **TRIPLE THREAT.** After a game, Logan Gabler (7) shakes hands with competitor Evan Shirazi. "I loved being able to watch and play in the tournament. Even though we didn't make it to the finals, it was just as fun watching the girls play the boys," said Gabler.



**FROM THE SIDELINES.** Coaching team D O double G from the sidelines, Levi Rillos (7) talks about his favorite part of his job. "I loved being able to coach my friends and getting to dress up in a funny outfit as a coach," Rillos said. **BENCHWARMERS.** Adriano Lombardi (8) playing on team The Goodies, dribbles past while his teammate sets up a screen. "I loved being able to watch and play, but it was more exciting being able to play," said Lombardi.



# OUT ON TOP

Students tell us who their favorite team in the tournament was



"My favorite part of the basketball tournament was definitely the audience and the energy in the gym. It was also pretty cool when I hit a half court shot."

-Tate Wride (8)



"My favorite part of the tournament was getting to coach because I coached the winning team, and I we had a really good team."

-Tony True-Flores (8)



"My favorite part of the tournament was probably when we got canes afterwards for being the girls team that won. I also loved getting to play my friends."

-Lily Schatz (8)



"The best part of the basketball tournament was probably playing in front of the school. I also liked playing with friends."

-Hadlie Pugliese (7)

