

## NEW BOTS on the block

Robotics teams enjoy a successful season.

Story by Rylee Devitt

Robotics at Drake may have only been around for five years, but that didn't stop these Drake teams from building award-winning robots. One of Drake's team, Awesome Sauce, cleaned up across the season, winning a Skills Award, a Teamwork Award, an Excellence placement, and third place for their Engineering Notebook.

"It felt good to win so many awards this year because the past couple years we haven't won that many, so it felt good," Ram Yalavarthy (7) said.

This wasn't the only team that won many awards this year, though. Team Potatoes was able to get a Skills Award and a Perseverance Award as well as several other top honors.

"What made our robot so successful was that it was able to do a lot of different tricks," Elliot Reinhardt (7) said.

In addition to having a great bot, another key to success is having a good team. About his team, Yalavarthy said, "We work good together, and we stay focused as a team."

Several of the teams qualified for a competition at Stargate Charter School where Drake teams came in 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. Team Atlas was able to take 4th in Skills behind the top three teams in the state. "It felt good and was exciting to win an award," Drake Anderson (6) said.

"I think the teams are the strongest we have ever had, and I can't wait to see what the younger kids do in the next couple years," club sponsor Ms. Harmony Jones said.

**HANDS UP!** Robotics team member Owen Frey (7) throws his hands up in joy. "We were worried our robot wouldn't work because it got broken, but it worked better than before," Frey said.



**ALL EYES ON YOU.** Bodie Kass (8) and team member Will Frey (8) drive their robot. "I love watching my teammate drive," Kass said.



**BIG POINTS!** Trying to score, Maya Mullen (6) and her teammates drive their robot across the field.

## LIFE BEHIND THE CURTAINS

Staff and crew members unravel their three most difficult things about working stage crew for *A Dicken's Christmas*



Mrs. Rachel Dunn

1. Time, Getting every thing done on time and deadlines.
2. Handpicking people, and it's hard to find determined people.
3. Having teachers complain that we have to fit the giant canvases in the printing room because that's the only space that'll fit in.



Logan Behrends

1. Making sure you're on time for those quick scene changes. They happen fast!
2. Moving stuff to the right place. Or removing the right stuff. Once Scrooge's headstone was left on stage on accident.
3. Remembering what props and set pieces to move. Sets change constantly in this show, and they happen very fast.



Liliana Kiefer

1. Trying to get the set painted as perfect as Ms. Dunn wanted it.
2. Matching the colors of the bricks on the giant scenic murals.
3. Scrooge's gravestone. It's the climax of the show, and it just has to look right.

## YOUR COLOR YOUR STRENGTH

These Sources of Strength members identify their favorite color and what it means for them.

**FAVORITE COLOR: YELLOW**

**SOURCE OF STRENGTH: POSITIVE FRIENDS**

"Good friends make me happier and let me know that I always have someone to go to when I'm upset and just good people to be around."



Cora Nichols (7)

**FAVORITE COLOR: DARK BLUE**

**SOURCE OF STRENGTH: HEALTHY ACTIVITIES**

"I like to play sport, like basketball, baseball, working out. Basically just getting outside and hiking, all that stuff."



Owen Grimes (8)



**BEYOND THE GRAVE.** Olivia Smith (8) and her cousin Grace Picerno (6), work on the haunted house props for the fall social in collaboration with leadership class. "My favorite part about it was getting to work with my cousin," Smith said. **PAINING THE CEILING.** Sofia Cortez (6) works on a ceiling tile in art club. "I liked how we got to be really creative with them," Cortez said. Working on a ceiling tile was members' first art club task of the year.

"I like art club because I like the community, and I like to do art in  
That's really fun to me. I also like painting with Mrs. Dunn and  
painting the set for the musical. It's also just a  
really fun time doing art."

A delaide Sarem Aslani - Binder (7)



# SKILLS WE GOT MAD

Engaging in the school's strong club presence, participants upgrade their academic experience.

## CHECK IT OUT

Chess Club promotes thinking. Story by Salamita Nasiedkina

It was 2:20 on Monday and Caelyn Criger (7) was on her way to Chess Club. "I wanna' get better at chess and compete in tournaments," Criger said.

A regular day in the club started with a review of different games of famous chess players like Magnus Carlsen, during which Drake players tried to guess the next best move possible. Then it was time to play.

For these players, Monday afternoon was thinking time. "I joined chess club because it can help teach people things that they didn't know before and it can help your rank," Alana Richardson (6) said.



**STUNNED BY LIGHTING!** When Caelyn Criger (7) strikes a move on Zach Rotondo (8) he was in shock. "I enjoy play with Caelyn because she is skilled," Rotondo said.



**YUM.** Chess player Levi Strickland (6) eats a cookie while playing chess. It was a reward for performing an intrigue move called castling.

## BLEND THE RULES

Artists experienced a new type of club this year, and loved it!

Story by Rylee Devitt



Art Club has traditionally been one of the more popular clubs at Drake. It is quick to fill to capacity and there are a variety of reason people join.

"I joined art club because my best friend was joining it, and we both liked art even if we weren't good at it," Elise Weicher (7) said.

"I joined art club because I loved drawing and I had a lot of friends joining," Violet Kehl (7) said.

Not only was art club a fun time for everyone, it has also helped club members improve their skills.

"At home I don't have all the art supplies, but in the art room everything is

accessible, and it is a really good place to do art," Abby Entlich (8) said.

This year, Art club made a minor but important shift and became an art guild at the beginning of the year. In this new version, instead of focusing on making individual art, they focused on creating large community art projects for their school. They also voted on a president, vice president and secretary.

"Being elected as president was really cool. I've loved my job so far, and I hope to continue to enjoy my time being president," Roma Inscoe (8) said.

Despite the changes

people still got to enjoy making ceiling tiles, which was some people's favorite project that they didn't want to lose.

"I loved making the ceiling tiles the most because you get to be really creative with the design," Benny Quezada-Sloneker (6) said.

In addition, the art guild also took on the challenge of helping with the district Art Show and creating pieces for the theatre productions at Drake.

All in all, art club was a great place for people to do art activities, hang out with friends, and make the school a more colorful place.