

was it your BALL GAME?

Great minds don't always think alike; dragons weigh-in on Hoops for Hearts.



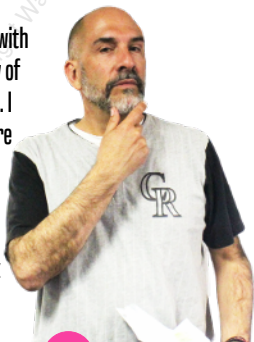
"It's kind of boring because it's just middle schoolers, and it wasn't really a high score or anything. It's not very, like, suspenseful. I can't really get into the game."
-Cadence Donovan (7)

"The basketball tournament was fun. It was great to play on a team with my friends against other friends. We were going to get custom jerseys, but it was too late. Next year."
-Trey Warren (6)



"I think other sports are boring to watch. Basketball is something that is just fun. The best part was that everybody got to be together and that you could hang out with your friends and still enjoy watching it."
-Lilah Searle (8)

"I like seeing kids come up with their own teams and the joy of competition and having fun. I think some of them had more fun making the teams than they did actually playing, which was awesome."
- Mr. Leon Vasquez



GO TEAM! Supporting her friend, Alex Bollin (6) is in the crowd. "The sign had my friend's name because I was supporting their team," Bollin said. Sadly, her friend did not make it far.

BREAK A SWEAT! Playing against students, Mr. Justin Zamora participates in the teacher game. "I've never played in front of so many people," Zamora said. The winning teams played the teachers in the final game.



STAY FOCUSED. Watching the game, Elizabeth Burgess is focused on the event. "I like seeing everyone getting to do what they love, but all together as a group," Burgess said. Most people love it when they see others being viable. **ALL THE WAY.**

Starting a drive, Liam VanDemark (6) is hoping this trip to the net will be positive. "I was feeling very excited because of the spirited crowd," Liam said. The hard work payed off. Liam and the Monkeys were crowned champs in sixth grade. **TIME TO SHINE.**

Praising his shot, JT Flora (7) sinks two points during the big game vs. Santa and Her Elves. "I hoped we would win, but we didn't," said Flora. Even though Flora and the Fortnite Fans didn't win the game, they are bright assets for next year.





photo by jmorain

HOOKED WITH THE HOOP

Tradition continues and the Drake Basketball Tournament continues to entertain. Story by John-Paul Morain

'Tis the season for basketball. The 7th annual Drake Basketball Tournament was a thriller to kick off Christmas break. Historically, this tournament was for seventh and eighth grade players only, but this year sixth graders were invited to play in their own bracket.

Not everyone has played basketball before, nor did they play to win. "I thought it was a good thought for me to play basketball and hang out with my friends," Hunter Christensen (7) said.

But, others were in it to win it. "I played for A-West Gold Crown and a bit before that," Graeme Swanson (8) said. Graeme was a part of the Dad Appreciation Association team. His team lost in the semi-finals.

Another competitor,

Levi Rillos (7) shared his game motto: "To win, have a team of competitors." He was a part of Santa and Her Elves. The win against the DAA sent them to go play a seventh grade team called the Fortnite Fans.

The sixth grade bracket was just as wild. "It was really cool. At first they weren't going to do it and then they said they were and I got really excited," Brayden Davies (6) said. Brayden was a part of the Flying Monkeys. His team placed third.

Most people said the best part was as Trey Warren (6) said, "playing in front of a crowd." Trey was a part of the Grinches.

Since Santa and Her Elves, an eighth grade team, won it all this year, the whole school is wondering, who will be crowned champion next year.



TIP-OFF! Winning the tip-off, Logan Gabler (8) is flying high in the championship game for the seventh-eighth grade bracket. "It felt like we were losing," Gabler said, "but we ended up winning in the end." They defeated the seventh grade team, the Fortnite Fans.

READ THE PLAY. Playing point guard, Clayton Lambrecht (6) is participating in the basketball tournament. "I just learned to just have fun. It didn't really matter who won or lost, so I focused on having fun," Lambrecht said. Clayton was apart of the Monkeys who were champions of sixth grade.



"My favorite part? Winning! No, I like being a part of a team. I think the secret to success was moving the ball and not forcing anything. Plus, we've all played together for a while."

-Logan Gabler (8)