

school after hours

Students compete in the annual volleyball tournament and tune in to the anticipated hypnotist act



IN THE AIR Slouched in chairs, Weston Bermel '24 & Ashley Ayala Lopez '25 hold their fake money overhead. Fun Night's hypnotist led students through random tasks and laughs. "It was like someone whispering an idea to you & thinking it was a good idea," Bermel said. "I was aware of what I was doing but it didn't seem silly." Photo by Avery Vrieze

WINNING MINDSET Jacob Bakeberg '23 poses on the court with his team after their championship victory. Bakeberg's nerves leading up to the games quickly left once the night started and playing began. "I thought we could win it all from the start," Bakeberg said. "We had some close games but still came out on top." Photo by Matthew Scherber



MENTAL MUSIC Beaming, Mackenzie Christensen '23 plays a floating piano onstage during the fun night. Participating in the hypnotist act was an impromptu decision for Christensen. "It was a super surreal feeling when it was happening," Christensen said. "I didn't remember any of it until she snapped her fingers." Photo by Avery Vrieze



HIGH EXPECTATIONS Hayley Shult '24 high fives teammate Sophia Zupan '24. Due to their team's varying skill sets, having three coaches was a huge factor in bringing the team to the finals. "It was frustrating because some of the boys didn't know how to play," Shult said. "But as [the night] went on, everyone understood how to play and got better." Photo by Matthew Scherber

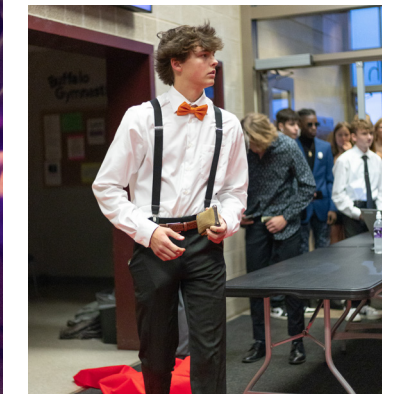


Ovie Mayo '23 poses with Elsa Peterson '23 for a photo after being crowned homecoming king and queen. Photo by Brooke Heil



LET LOOSE Kylie Cox '23 throws a hand in the air on the dance floor. Cox was quickly charmed by the decorations for this year's dance. "I really liked this theme this year because it was way more inclusive," Cox said. "I liked the artwork outside and it was a lot of fun walking the red carpet." Photo by Matthew Scherber

EARLY BIRD Cannon VanLith '23 walks into the dance, assessing the start. VanLith tries to get to there right at the beginning, before the hot dance floor gets too crowded with students. "It's not too loud yet," VanLith said. "And it's still pretty chill when everyone is flowing in." Photo by Matthew Scherber



gowns & crowns

Unique experiences of this year's four chosen royals

Moments before stepping into the bright lights of the stage, sixteen seniors lined up behind the large purple curtain of the Performing Arts Center for this year's Homecoming Coronation. Having prepared for last week, the nominees were eager to see the reactions from the student body. As she stepped out from behind the curtain, Elsa Peterson '23 couldn't hold back a smile. Peterson was full of emotions leading up to her favorite part of the school year. "Everyone was nervous, but it was good nerves," Peterson said. "We all were dancing a little bit and cheering for each other."

The night wasn't all glamor, however. According to Matthew Scherber '23, problems backstage helped make the experience extra memorable.

"The boys were trying to get our boutonnières on and nobody knew how to do it," Scherber said.

"People were getting stabbed with the needles and the flowers were really heavy so they were hanging lopsided."

For Cinthia Caballero Rodriguez '23, the best part of Coronation happens after the crowns have been placed. Friends and family are welcomed onstage to congratulate the nominees and excitement is shared by all.

"I liked celebrating, it was fun," Cabellero Rodriguez said. "A lot of people came to say 'hi' and a lot of people took pictures with me."

As the most popular vote, Ovie Mayo '23 was met with overwhelming support from his peers.

"After I was crowned I got swarmed and carried," Mayo said. "For the rest of the week my friends and some teachers would call me 'King Ovie' which was both annoying and endearing."

Story by Hattie Pool & Gavin Juenke

