

A special monthly section produced for the Carrboro Citizen by Carrboro High School’s JagWire Staff.

March 15-16 See Seussical the Musical to See Who Will Save Who-Ville

by Felipe Labrade

“And oh, the places you’ll go! You’re on your own, you know what you know, don’t worry about how fast or how slow! Be certain you step with caution and tact, ‘cause life is one great big balancing act! And will you succeed? You will, yes indeed”

The advice Hunches, one of Dr. Seuss’s most famous characters, gives doesn’t just apply to the characters in Seussical, Carrboro High School’s first musical production. Putting on a traveling musical is a “Great Big balancing act!” for all of it’s students and faculty directors.

Seussical debuts on Saturday, March 15th at 2:30 and 7:30 pm. On Sunday, March 16th the cast will perform at 3pm.

All three performances will be in the school commons. The next week Mrs. Linefsky,



from left: Kira Frescoln, Bridget Gallagher, Caroline Polley, Kenneth Jjombwe, Elliot Darrow, AJ Poole, Mary Mossison, and Tosin Olufolabi

the director, will take her cast to perform at Carrboro Elementary, and _____.

Seussical is a combination of most of Dr. Seuss’s short stories for children. The main character Jojo, played by Bridget Gallagher, imagines himself locked in a mythical city. Soon he encounter conflicts with many of the familiar characters from Dr. Seuss classics such as Horton from *Horton Hears a Who!*, Yertle from *Yertle the Turtle*. “We had really good people in the auditions, and if people would have done worse it would have made the decisions so much easier,” said Mrs. Johnson, the musical director of the show.

The cast is involved in an incredible undertaking. Sixteen students are taking multiple characters so they can have 50 characters in total. But that is not the only challenge that they will face. Because the musical is so fast paced, the crew will be exhausted

physically. Mrs. Johnson explained that there is no real “back stage” so no one will ever actually be off the stage. “We will also have to adapt to the different stages that we will be performing on.”

Mrs. Johnson explained that the reason that they are taking the musical on the road is because Carrboro doesn’t have a theater, so they decided to do a traveling musical.

Kelly Casey and Corinne Nesbitt are in charge of costume design. The CHS Apparels class, taught by Tara Miller, will use these designs and more than 60 yards of fabric to create backdrops and costumes. Honors Art students will be learning to make the block prints used in the show and its promotion, and Troy Morelli will be responsible for the show’s props.

No question about it—producing “Seussical” is indeed one “Great Big Balancing Act!”

The Perfect Match: CHS and Momma Gratch

by Victoria Kerstetter

“The best thing about her is that she’ll go to a football game and just cheer. Not knowing anything about football or if her team scores or not, she still just cheers for everyone.”

Can you guess which member of the CHS faculty Assistant Principal Julie Hennis is describing? Many juniors and sophomores would likely guess counselor Mary Gratch.

Ms. Gratch entered college as a chemistry major, but during her freshman year at college, she and her father got into a big fight, and she changed her major to child development.

After graduating, Ms. Gratch moved to Florida, where she became a bartender! Every night she listened, to people’s problems. But a friend saw more, and suggested Ms. Gratch go into counseling.

Ms. Gratch said it was very hard to leave Chapel Hill High and all of the students that she had helped over the years. But she was excited about coming to CHS to be part of what she hoped would be the best school for kids.

Ms. Gratch said, “The goal for having such a small school was to create a different school. We should be trying new things. CHS should be more adventuresome and creative.”

She also said that, as a school, we need to work on the issue of respect. “We need to develop a genuine respect between adults and students.” But she also said that respect is one of the “real positives” at CHS. The faculty members who take the time to get to know the students have created strong bonds of respect and understanding.

Ms. Gratch said that she really likes listening and helping students deal with their problems. “While it can be difficult to hear about some problems students are experiencing, this time shapes students into who they will be.”

Ms. Gratch added, “I can see the students grow through the years and mature, and I like to think that I was a part of it.”



Ms. Gratch gives advice to one of her many visitors.

No matter who you ask about Ms. Gratch, you will always get a positive response. Junior Alma Stott said, “Ms. Gratch is so open and friendly and does what ever is in her power to help you. She’ll listen to

anything you have to say.”

Fellow junior Ben Berolzheimer had similar opinions: “She’s really good at listening and really seems to understand what’s going on with us.” He also said Ms. Gratch helped him switch classes to get him a schedule that would help him do better.



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A monthly selection of news from the JagWire, the Carrboro High School Student newspaper.

Carrboro Swim & Dive Team Makes a Splash



From left: Shelby Banning-Arndt, Ken Ryan, Emily Tysinger

Congrats to the 2007-2008 Swimming& Diving Team for a great season! Both the men’s and women’s teams placed third in 1A/2A States. One outstanding swimmer, Emily Tysinger, placed second in the 100 freestyle and received the Mid-State Conference Women’s Swimmer of the Year. Junior Ken Ryan also had an incredible season, winning the 50 freestyle and the 100 backstroke, as well as winning the State Meet Men’s MVP award.

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