

School Board Report on February 28th
Elsa Priest

East High School has just returned from our winter break, and we are ready to get back to our regular school week. Registration is coming up, and students are thinking about classes for next year.

The week before break both the Nordic and Alpine ski teams went to the state meets. The Nordic team won the state title, with 5 East students headed to nationals in Alaska and 4 headed to nationals in Canada this March. Winter seasons are wrapping up and we have the boys swimmers and divers headed to state. Boys Hockey and Girls and Boys Basketball are currently in section playoffs.

Knowledge Bowl has grown much in size this year, with their last regular season meet on Thursday. The boys basketball team also is nearing the end of their season, with only two games left in the regular season.

We had our sweetheart dance for the upperclassmen and invited sophomores on February 4th at the depot. Earlier in the month we had our "Red and Gray" week, with assemblies, after school activities, and dress up days to celebrate. The activities were enjoyed by students. Students expressed a variety of opinions on the red and gray candidate election process and winners however, as a new method was used this year. The terms "Mr. and Ms. East" were no longer used, and the senior class was able to nominate whoever their 10 top choices were, regardless of gender. Then, the student body was able to vote for 3 winners, not separated by gender, to elect 3 winners, which we named "Top Dogs." This was a great way to make the elections more inclusive, however, most of the students in the student forum expressed disappointment in this process and the results of it, as they felt it ended up being less fair than before. According to the forum, the 3 winners were all males who were very similar in the activities they participated in, friends they had, ect. This made others feel that the contest was not fair, and that the point of Red and Gray week had been lost. All of our student leaders are working together to find a way to remain gender neutral and inclusive in our activities, while also being fair to all students.

Another topic discussed in student forum was the areas in which the schools could be improved in any way. This was an open question to see what students thought in general. Most students brought up teachers' personal needs, for example more art supplies or experiment materials. Students felt concerned that teachers often paid for these in class materials out of pocket, and wished classes (especially the visual arts) had more funding.

The junior rotarians are creating a proposal to the Harbortown rotary, for what they would do with a \$1000 grant. This grant is given to each school represented at the Rotary club, so long as the project is approved. The junior rotarians at East have struggled because a policy restricts many projects from being done at East if they are not also done at other schools. This also caused a bit of conflict for the Exec board, when they were looking to buy a new sound system for the gym. They were not able to buy the sound system at the time since Denfeld did not also have a new sound system. This has since been resolved, but the conflict of not being able to move forward with projects due to the other schools not having the same projects being done remains. In the case of the Rotary grant, this policy may hurt more than help, since each school receives the same amount of money and it is by choice what project they do. The Rotarians are pitching their idea for the grant in the upcoming weeks.