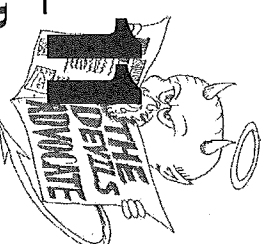


FEATURES



New Technology Makes Gift Giving a Breeze

By: Brandon VanGorp
Staff Writer

With the new technology available to the public, buying enjoyable gifts is a simple task, but at the same time costly.

One interesting piece of technology recently received by sophomore Bremen Coffey was the new Samsung Galaxy Gear. This new gadget is a touch screen watch that is linked to his phone.

With this new watch, it allows for people to call, text, have access to the internet, use GPS navigation, and receive all notifications. Like a phone, the watch vibrates when alerted. "It eliminates the need to take my phone out of my pocket," said Coffey.

It has features that give access to play games like tic-tac-toe and black jack. Just like an iPod or any other device that plays music, this watch has the ability to access music previously downloaded.

It has Bluetooth connection, so if there is a device in range it can connect. "I like to listen to music so this capability I use quite often," said Coffey.

Along with its other features, the watch is waterproof. Coffey said, "I can check my texts underwater and

plan for Snowco?"

It will be held in the high school gym just like Homecoming was.

The area in which it is being held is not the only factor that is the same. The DJ providing the music at the dance is the same one that DJ'd at Homecoming. The dance was very successful at Homecoming so they figured it would be good to stay in the same area.

Regarding decorations, Mrs. Germain said, "We have many options to choose from when it comes to decorations and panning." They want to pull off the perfect decor for the theme they had chosen.

Both teachers agree that planning this program is a lot of responsibility to them and students involved.

Besides feeling responsible during preparation, they are very excited.

Mrs. Wolfe said, "I enjoy planning these events with students and interacting with them on a non-academic level!"

Mrs. Germain is also extremely excited to be one involved in creating one of the most memorable moments in some students' high school lives.

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Snow Co Gonna Be Loco

By: Joe Bergen
Advertising Manager

Snowcoming: the runner up dance next to Homecoming. Class of 2017 Advisors, Mrs. Wolfe and Mrs. Germain are going to make sure, with the help of the sophomore class, that the dance is awesome.

The date of the dance will take place on February 7.

With a Winter-Wonderland theme and preparation, the dance will be an amazing time for students that attend. Snow by itself is pretty cool, but Winter-Wonderland steps it up a notch. Sophomores are the ones who had the theme idea.

"We were thinking winter, but wonderland sounded catchy so we added a little spice to it," said Carrie Maro.

Preparation is not an easy task. A lot of planning and booking is involved. Mrs. Wolfe said, "We started meeting with the sophomore class advisors. Many of them volunteered to help with decorations and the set-up."

Carrie Maro and Jessica Niebauer are the two sophomore class student advisors that are helping out Mrs. Wolfe and Mrs. Germain prepare.

Maro said, "I love to help out and participate in school, so why not help

then get out to go answer them."

The watch has a variety of different themes, over 250. This gives the watch a fresh new look every time the theme is changed.

There are themes varying from shades of different colors from forests to oceans. Coffey said, "I like to switch it up so it's good having so many different options."

The Gear is very light, opposed to his Samsung Galaxy s5 phone. "I can barely tell it's on my wrist," said Coffey. Besides the pedometer, that is inaccurate, the Gear is well worth the \$200.

The pedometer is a feature on the phone that keeps track of steps and distanced traveled. Coffey said, "I don't use this feature very much. I think it's kind of pointless to have on a phone and often doesn't count steps."

Along with the watch, his Samsung Galaxy s5 was a Christmas gift. This new piece of technology also has some interesting features as well.

The phone has a new action shot capability on the camera. "It takes a series of pictures and puts them all together in one picture," said Coffey.

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Ballet

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Mrs. Mary, which is what the students call her, teaches both at the Macomb Ballet Company and at local dance studio J.P.'S Leap of Faith. She's proficient in Cecchetti style of ballet and pointe dancing. LOF (Leap of Faith) is where the girls have grown up dancing since they were toddlers and continue to train at.

To prepare for *The Nutcracker*, the girls practiced two days a week up until show time. In the first two practices, the dancers learned the three dances they were each involved in.

More so, the other weeks were spent working on perfecting the dances.

"The biggest challenge was getting everything together and timing," said Holly. They worked in groups and even had some one-on-one training to make sure everything was perfect.

The trio did not receive specific characters but

enjoyed being corps dancers. This meant they were able to all be in the same dances together and receive their own personal part in the dances.

There were two acts per show with each act containing around seven dances. The girls used the break in between performances to greet their guests that came for support and entertainment.

"Many people from my dance studio came to watch and almost all my friends and family," said Hannah.

There were a little over 1,200 people in the audience each show. All three girls were very nervous but once they took the stage, they stood confident as if professionals.

"We could tell the audience enjoyed our performances judging on the level of the applause," said Hannah.

Aside from the holiday recital, the company is currently practicing for their upcoming performance *Sleeping Beauty*. They started practices on January 17.

"It is always exciting to start learning new dances," said Holly.

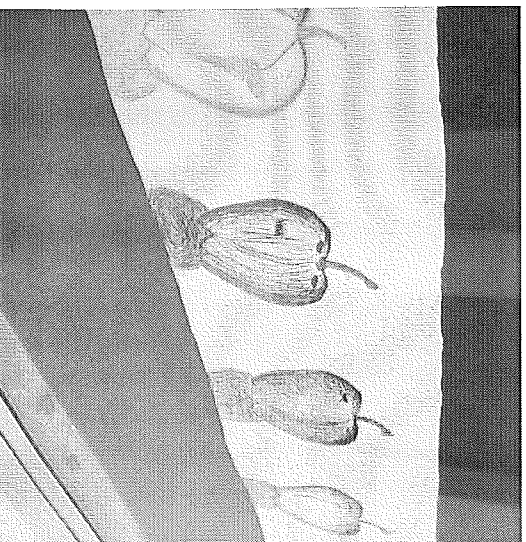
Along with a new dance comes more opportunities for these fellow students.

"Being apart of the Macomb Ballet Company will look awesome on college resumes," said Elizabeth. "I will definitely continue my training here for as long as I can."

The company teaches the girls to be soft and beautiful, and it provides them with all the technique they need to become proficient in all styles of dance. Ballet, however, is what is required to be successful as an overall dancer.

Holly said, "Being a part of such an amazing commitment has inspired me to become something more in the future, and I am so excited to see what else the Macomb Ballet Company has to offer me."

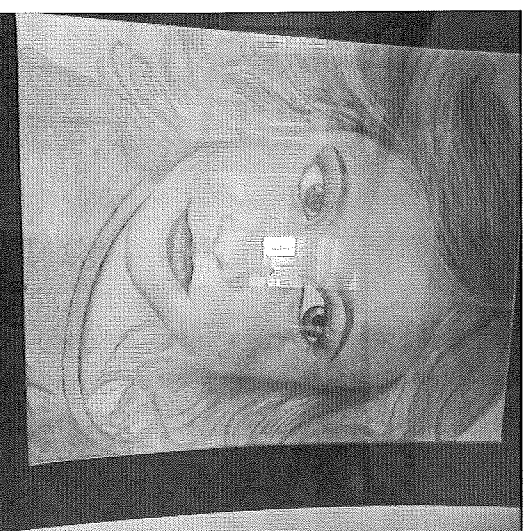
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