

Octoberfest

a Triumph Again

by Ardy Iwema



Although it is a high school student and faculty activity, Octoberfest touches the entire campus and many alumni who return just for the event. Since its beginning in the late 60's as a fall counterpart to the spring Arts Festival, Octoberfest has evolved into a night dedicated to creating fun for children—of all ages.

This year it was once again a sell-out, standing room only crowd. The silly, mismatched socks, hats and T-shirts always add to the festive excitement of the night. Over 300 students participated in the program, which is quite impressive considering that there are 430 students in the high school.

Octoberfest gives new students a very informal fun activity early in the school year so they can meet new people in a relaxed atmosphere. Students don't need to be athletic, or at the top of their class. There are no auditions, but there are regular rehearsals. Cliques fall by the wayside as students are shuffled around on stage, and a sense of unity is developed as each class presents its best group effort.

According to John Harkema, the creative mind and energy behind the first and many successive Octoberfests, it began in the early 70's as a variety night incorporating the songs of Sesame Street and Electric Company with no more than 25 students participating. Since then many additional songs fill the program so that both young and old find something to enjoy. Since Harkema has "retired" from Octoberfest, the recent productions have been headed by Kevin Hackert and Judd Rinsema. Doug Bardolph ('80) is the musical mastermind at the keyboards. This year the student leaders were the Fine Arts co-chairs, Kristen Raley and Laura Wolff.

Thanks to Jim Hartgerink for the outstanding photos.

- 1 The junior class performs "Three Little Fishies"
- 2 "Sea Cruise" takes off with the senior class
- 3 Musical director and resident genius Doug Bardolph
- 4 Dave Bere (left) and Dante Pope drum away
- 5 Laura Wolff (left), Sarah Engbers, and Kristin Railey perform the co-chair song, "I Sing Myself to Sleep"
- 6 Elise Anderson and Stefanie Le Roy
- 7 Set preparation takes concentration
- 8 Sophomore guys spoof "Pretty Woman"
- 9 The concert choir sings "The Bus Song: Are We There Yet?"
- 10 Faculty members Scott "Popeye" Roelofs and Jim "Olive Oyl" Snoeyink
- 11 "Splish Splash" by the junior class.
- 12 John Sianghio and Matt Sterenberg perform "Itsy-Bitsy, Teenie-Weenie, Yellow Polk-a-dot Bikini"
- 13 Eileen Pocic enjoys the night
- 14 The sets are readied at the Paint Party
- 15 Greg Vander Kamp(left), Dante Pope, Benj Petroelje, and Rob Baptista harmonize to "John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt"
- 16 Jennifer Groot and Julia Andersen mug it up

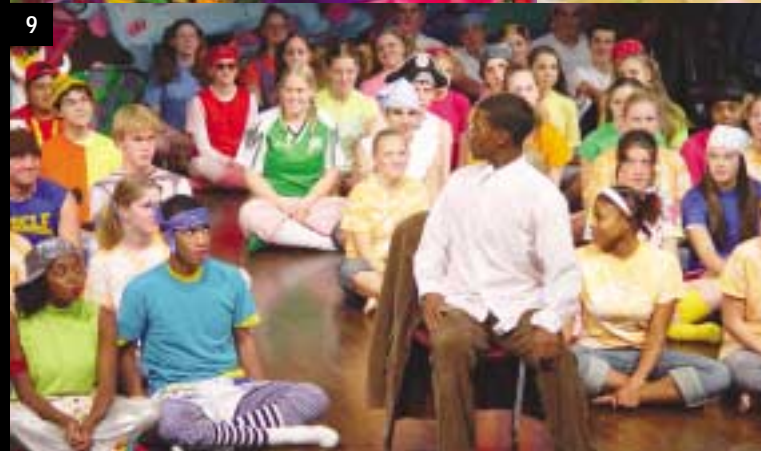


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