

# Eagle Tales

- VERMILION CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL -

2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR

VCHS NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2019

## BACKSTAGE PASS

*Dorothy in Wonderland* by **Blaire Desormeaux**



The curtain is about to close on Scene 11. Lydia Desormeaux, as Alice, snatches the WANTED poster off our large tree prop to reveal the grimacing face of her sister, Marie-Elena, as the Cheshire Cat, posed picturesquely through the hole in the tree created for that exact reason. We hear a collective gasp from the audience as they spot the cat's grin right before the curtain draws shut on it. Upstairs on the lightboard, Khoa Doan hits blackout. The stage is bathed in darkness. The chaos begins.

Organized chaos. As the audience sits in shadow and Ashley Franz plays a bit of music to keep them engaged, *organized chaos* is ensuing behind the burgundy curtain. It's organized because we've done it dozens of times at this point, but it's chaotic nonetheless. That's what happens when you've got a cast and crew of more than 30. This is my favorite part of any production. Sometimes I think it's a shame that the audience isn't able to see this part--but then I think it's kind of cool, like a secret among Drama Club. A couple people have their iPhones thrust in the air, using the flashlight function to cut the blackness with beams of white light. Elise LeBlanc and Ava Faulk rush over to the major props that must be pushed back before the next scene can begin. Our goal is to complete the change in less than a minute. Elise gets inside the tree and pulls it backwards

as Ava and I part the tulle streamers that make up the backdrop, holding them aside like curtains, so the tree can be shoved through. In the meantime, our actors are getting all their hand props and mics together before they get in place for the next scene to begin. Catherine Romaine and Addisyn Dartez hand Posy (our precious Toto) off to one another as needed, and Posy watches all the excitement with big, timid eyes. The stage seems thunderous with shuffling feet, the adjustment of costumes, and whispered pleas for help with mics.

Months of preparation have led to this moment. Compared to the time we spend familiarizing ourselves with lines, rehearsing delivery and blocking, perfecting sound and lights, developing the set, planning hair and makeup, and adding all the tiny finishing touches deemed necessary to make the show *ours*, the performances themselves seem fleeting. The kids don't take any of this time for granted. It's this backstage rush that's a testament to the pride they take in the success of the show. There was a time, only a week and a half ago, when most of them didn't know what to do between these scene changes. Now they're driven by adrenaline, all moving with purpose and the collaborative goal of being as efficient as possible. I wish I could stretch their

moments in the spotlight longer for them, but then maybe their time wouldn't feel as precious.

I think 45 seconds have passed since the curtain shut. The actors are in their places. A few of them are breathing heavily, trying to steady themselves before they must speak. Mackay Suire is ready to make her entrance--her face

seems lit with anticipation, ready to spring into character as the Mad Hatter. I collapse into my director's chair stage right; my co-director, Laura, is back in her director's chair stage left, smiling and ready. Carley Bengston's hand rests on the curtain. I look at her and nod. We're ready. The curtain opens.

# PROM POWER LUNCH

## THURSDAY FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>

A LUNCH FUNDRAISER BENEFITTING  
JUNIOR-SENIOR PROM

### TICKET SALES:

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4<sup>TH</sup> THRU  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>**  
pre-order only

### COST:

**\$7.00 per plate**

### LUNCH INCLUDES:

THREE CANE'S CHICKEN FINGERS.  
A CANE'S SAUCE , CHIPS, AND A COOKIE

*{you can also order an extra Cane's sauce at the time of purchase}*

bottled water can be purchased for \$1 at lunch

# IMPORTANT DATES



## FEBRUARY 2019

- |                             |                                  |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 - 1/2 Day                 | 15 Mass                          |
| 2 - Sadie Hawkins           | 16 - Dancing with the VC Stars   |
| 6 - Beta State Convention   | 19 - Sophomore Career Connection |
| 7 - Cheer Nationals         | 19 - Nursing Home Prom           |
| 8 - Progress Reports        | 20 - Junior ACT Testing          |
| 8 - Mass                    | 22 - Spring Photo                |
| 9 - ACT                     | 23 - District Rally              |
| 13 - Freshmen Retreat       | 23 - Jr. High Dance (Drama)      |
| 14 - Cane's Prom Lunch      | 27 - Sophomore Retreat           |
| 14 - Jean Day - Valentine's | 27 - Advisory meeting            |
| 14 - Bake Sale              |                                  |

# EAGLE OF THE MONTH



## JANUARY 2019

Senior

*Avery Hebert*

Sophomore

*Spencer Abshire*

Junior

*Whitney Bourque*

Freshmen

*Cale Trahan*