

Caper Chronicles

“Dancing With The Faculty Edition”

Dancing With The Faculty: An Overview

By: Chris Wiley

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Dancing with the Faculty has been a tradition at LCMR since 2008. The event was created by guidance counselor Dana Markovitz.

“Everyone was talking about ‘Dancing with the Stars,’ and I said wouldn’t it be funny if we had Dancing with the Faculty?” said Markovitz.

Eight to nine groups enter the competition and attendance to the event has gone up every year since its creation. Last year’s show was close to selling out.

Groups that enter the contest are judged on their creativity, choreography, costumes, and audience response to their performances. Judges for the event will include three students, three faculty members, and one other “surprise” judge. The winners receive the coveted mirror ball trophy that they keep until the next year’s competition, where they are expected to defend their title.

The Man Band, last year’s champions featuring assistant principal Mr. Daly and teacher Mr. Gary Douglass, will be defending their title this year.

Proceeds from this year’s Dancing with the Faculty will go to LCMR’s class of 2014. As the crowds have grown over the years, so have the profits. Last year alone, the event raised over \$3,000.

“You don’t have to know the people up on stage to enjoy the show. I enjoy watching the students and teachers work together. It’s a great night,” said Markovitz.



Lovable Freshman Class President Kurt Tomlin to Host Dancing with the Faculty

By: Dominic Catanoso and Eddie Slavinkas



Q: How does it feel to host this year's event?

Kurt: It feels awesome. I've always wanted to host.

Q: What was your reaction when you found out you were hosting?

Kurt: I was flabbergasted.

Q: What do you plan to wear for your big debut?

Kurt: Probably a suit and tie, but if it's nice weather, I might wear board shorts, definitely.

Q: Do you plan to keep the show serious?

Kurt: I want to keep it serious, but also throw in a few jokes.

Q: Are you nervous?

Kurt: I'm really nervous because I'm scared of huge crowds!

Q: Are you going to be tough on the participants?

Kurt: Well, let's put it this way: I'm not going to try to be like Paula Abdul from "American Idol."

Talking With Z: The Hostess with the Mostest

By: Caitlin Romich and Dominique Helton

Physical Education teacher, Mrs. Zukawski is taking over the Dancing with the Faculty hosting duties now that Ms. White has stepped down. We chatted with Mrs. Z about the upcoming event, her hosting strategy, and why she will never dance again.

Q: How do you plan on hosting? Is it going to be on the serious or humorous side?

Ms. Z: I plan on hosting with all my heart and soul...and I hope it's funny!

Q: How are you going to prepare for your hosting duties?

Ms. Z: I'm not. I think the worse I do, the more funny it will be.

Q: Kurt Tomlin will be your co-host. How are you planning on getting him involved?

Ms. Z: Well, he is just so darn cute! Him just standing there looking adorable is helping.

Q: You danced in the first ever Dancing with the Faculty and finished third. Why do you prefer hosting over dancing?

Ms. Z: Dancing makes me throw up.

Q: What advice do you have for this year's contestants?

Ms. Z: Don't puke before you dance.



Sole Man to Host DWTF

By: Roger Portewig

Q: Do you have any past experience hosting?

Tyler Sole: I do not. Let's just say that it's my freshman year of hosting events.

Q: How do you plan to prepare for your hosting responsibilities?

Tyler Sole: I'm going to write a lot of jokes and watch a lot of Conan and Letterman.

Q: Do you plan on being serious? Funny?

Tyler Sole: Funny for the most part, but I will hold off on the jokes at some points.

Q: How do you plan on working with Kurt Tomlin and Mrs. Zukawski?

Tyler Sole: I feel like our personalities will bounce off each other very well.



The Ever Enigmatic Mr. Taylor and His Dance Squad

By: Rachel Sandman

Mr. Taylor, an aide at LCMR, and a man of few words hopes to let his dance moves speak for themselves this year.

Q: Who is in your group?

Mr. Taylor: People.

Q: What are you dancing to?

Mr. Taylor: Music.

Q: Do you feel you are going to be stiff competition for this year's group of participants?

Mr. Taylor: Maybe.

Q: Why did you decide to get involved in Dancing with the Faculty?

Mr. Taylor: Because I wanted to get involved.

Mr. "Hippidy" Hopkins

By: Katie Smith

Q: Who are you dancing with this year?

Mr. Hopkins: Junior football sensation, Mike Mulligan

Q: What song are you dancing to?

Mr. Hopkins: "Take My Breath Away" from the *Top Gun Soundtrack*

Q: How are you preparing for DWTF?

Mr. Hopkins: Our dance is mostly "tongue in cheek." It will kind of be like the trailer that Will Ferrell did in *Old School*, so it's mostly just fun. There will be leotards.



Could it be a Repeat? Mrs. Willard Going for Win Number Two

By: Robin Giannini

Two years ago, Mrs. Willard, a secretary at LCMR, was a part of the group who won the coveted mirror ball trophy. Can she and her group do it again? I sat down with her to see what her thoughts were on the topic.

Q: Who is participating in your group this year?

Mrs. Willard: Ms. Kimsey is choreographing our group this year. She is just the best! I am not a good dancer, and if she can teach me to dance, she can teach my dog Lamb Chops to dance. Mrs. Mann and Ms. Marrow are also in our group along with a few students.

Q: What song are you performing to?

Mrs. Willard: “Thank God I’m a Country Boy” by John Denver

Q: What made you decide to participate again in DWTF?

Mrs. Willard: Ms. Kimsey asked me again this year. Honestly, I wanted to say no. I wanted to go out on top. Then I remembered how much fun I had last year. I love the positive energy that dancing with the students and other faculty members brings. This is what made me decide to do it again.



DWTF Founder Takes Center Stage

By: Rachel Sandman

Ms. Dana Markovitz created Dancing With the Faculty in 2008, and now she will take center stage for the first time with senior Stephanie Harron. I sat down with Ms. Markovitz and asked her a few questions about her dancing debut.

Q: What are you Steph dancing to?

Ms. Markovitz: We have conflicting musical tastes, however, we are currently working on a mix of a Fergie song, “Whip My Hair” by Willow Smith, and “Hey Ya!” by Outkast.

Q: Why did you decide to participate in this year’s show?

Ms. Markovitz: Steph really wanted to do it last year and had a hard time finding a teacher. It was about time that I danced.

Q: Will it be difficult to participate in the show and run it?

Ms. Markovitz: I’m unsure. It depends on how difficult our routine will be. It will be an adventure...we’ll see what happens.

Q: How do you plan on overcoming these obstacles if/when you face them?

Ms. Markovitz: If it’s a tough day, I’ll just keep repeating, “It’s all for fun, it’s all for fun!”

Q: Do you feel that you will be stiff competition for the other participating groups?

Ms. Markovitz: I’m not sure. We could be in the running for most surprising faculty member award. I’m not sure if that’s a good thing or not...



Ms. Siscone Gets Ready to Get Down with the Faculty

By: Kiaira Evans and Danielle Simon

Q: Do you have any dance experience?

Ms. Siscone: Well, I did perform two years ago in Dancing with the Faculty, and I also dance in front of my mirror regularly. Aside from that, I have no formal training.

Q: You mentioned dancing in 2009. What did you dance to?

Ms. Siscone: We did a Jackson 5 medley, which included “ABC” and “I Want You Back.”

Q: Who are your other group members this year?

Ms. Siscone: Gab Adams, Rylee Gould, Cody Bryan, Julia Denham, Emaleigh Kaithern, Lilli Loper, and Shaheed Bashir

Q: What songs will your group dance to this year?

Ms. Siscone: It is a secret. You’ll just have to wait to see the night of the event.

Q: How are you preparing for this year’s show?

Ms. Siscone: I’m eating my Wheaties, watching reruns of “Dancing with the Stars,” and as I said before, I’ve been dancing in front of the mirror tons.

Q: Any advice for your competition?

Ms. Siscone: Come correct with your A-game ‘cause we’re in it to win it!

Don’t Call it a Comeback: Man Band Plus A Chat with Joe Bispels

By: Gordon Sayre

Q: What’s the name of your band?

Joe: The Man Band

Q: Who’s in your group?

Joe: I know for sure that Peter Daly, Gary Douglass, Matt Nowakowski, and myself are participating, but I’m out of the loop.

Q: What are you dancing to?

Joe: It’s a medley, we’re trying to keep it under wraps but I know “Ice Ice Baby” is one of the songs.

Q: How are you preparing?

Joe: We are soon to start practice. Personally I am eating a lot of junk food eating and video game playing.

Q: Do you feel any added pressure as a previous winner?

Joe: Not really, actually none at all. It’s just another day in the life of the Man Band.

Q: How do you feel at the prospect of being the first student to win two championships?

Joe: It would be an honor, and I can’t wait to say that when I win.

Q: So I take it you feel confident about your chances?

Joe: Yes, I’m definitely confident. We have all the pieces of the puzzle to create a beautiful portrait of dancing success.

Mrs. Bispels is Back

By: Brendon O'Neal

Mrs. Bispels returns to the stage as the only LCMR faculty member to participate in every Dancing with the Faculty competition.

Q: Who's in your group for DWTF?

Mrs. Bispels: The students in my group are Colby Halbruner, Lizz Brown, Jackie Petito, and Kyle Hermansky.

Q: What song(s) are you dancing to and why?

Mrs. Bispels: We are doing a montage mix of hip hop. It is a little bit of everything.

Q: How long do you plan on practicing?

Mrs. Bispels: Not that long. It should take us about six practices to be ready.

Q: What are your expectations for this year's contest?

Mrs. Bispels: I hope for a full crowd, and I want everyone to have a good time. That's what it's all about.



Badger and the Rugby Squad: Round 2

By: Jess Temple

Mr. Badger and the Cape May Storm Rugby team are participating for the second consecutive year in Dancing with the Faculty. We asked him a few questions about what he and his team have in store for viewers this year.



Q: Who are you dancing with?

Mr. Badger: Most of the members of the rugby team are involved, including seniors John Abadie, Aaron Hedstrom Wiggins, Angel Sotomayor, and Mike Shaffer.

Q: What are you dancing to, and what style of dance will you be performing?

Mr. Badger: We are dancing to "The Choice is Yours" by Black Sheep. Our dance style will be mixed...

Q: Why are you participating in DWTF?

Mr. Badger: We want to show the world that rugby players are multi-talented athletes.

Q: What are your words of wisdom for the other contestants?

Mr. Badger: Bring your A-game!

Ms. Murray Back Again

By: Dom Catanoso

Q: Who are you dancing with this year?

Ms. Murray: I am dancing with Ms. Hoover, Sarah Peck, Maddie Craig, Meghan Oliver, Natalie Craig, and Jess Dougherty.

Q: What are you guys dancing to?

Ms. Murray: We are dancing to a mix of pop songs.

Q: How will your past experience in DWTF help you this year?

Ms. Murray: I think my experience will help me to know what to expect and maybe not be as nervous. The competition is tough this year so and you never know what the judges are looking for so we are just practicing hard and having a good time.

Q: Do you feel prepared for this year's contest?

Ms. Murray: This year we are not as prepared as usual because everyone had very busy conflicting schedules. We did not start to practice till January which is a very big difference from previous years.

Q: Why did you choose to participate in DWTF again?

Ms. Murray: We are doing it to have a good time and put on a good show for the audience, if the judges think we did the best job great, if not, that is ok too. We have had such a great time just practicing together which makes it worth it. I know a lot of groups have been working hard so I think it should be a competitive show, as I said before a lot of it depends on what the judges are looking for whether its technique, presentation, or entertainment.



A Night in the Spotlight

By: Gordon Sayre

The traffic lights which once controlled throngs of eager beachgoers, desperate to find a parking spot, now blink yellow. The Washington Street Mall, once packed to gills with tourists, waiting impatiently in the line at Kohr Brothers, is now abandoned. Cape May is a town synonymous with summer fun. Days lounging on the beaches, nights strolling the promenade. After Labor Day, however, the crowds wane and locals settle into a monotonous routine of work and sleep. There are few events which have the ability to break this lackluster schedule, and Dancing with the Faculty is one of them.

For one night, in early February, Cape May is not an abandoned shore town, but a hotbed of Broadway talent. The Paul W. Schmidtchen auditorium transforms into Carnegie Hall, and for that one night, the spotlight shines on LCMR high school. Community members, regardless of whether or not they are connected directly to the school, attend the show, eagerly awaiting the opening act. In a time when the age gap between young and old is increasing exponentially, people of all ages enjoy watching teachers and students move gracefully, or not so gracefully, across the stage. The night embodies the spirit of LCMR, showing the positive teacher-student relationships that play a vital role in creating a unique learning environment Lower Cape May is famous for.

Cape May is not necessarily the most exciting place to live in winter. The mall is abandoned, beaches are deserted, and the traffic lights on Beach Avenue are perpetually flashing yellow. On February 3rd all of that will change. The Paul W. Schmidtchen Auditorium will attract young and old to a night of entertainment, fun, humor, and, of course, some excellent dancing. So mark it down in your date books, it's our night in the spotlight.