

Dance Marathon committees prepares for Feb. 28

By Faith Oppel and Reagan O'Farrell

Both smiles and hearts are warm as the catering committee patiently waits for the final person to arrive and complete the team. Despite their light tones, it's evident by the blazing fires in their eyes that they are more than just dedicated – they're passionate.

Though every person involved with dance marathon arrived in the same destination, they each followed their own path to get there.

"I got started as a committee member when I had my kidney transplant the summer before sophomore year," said sophomore Grace Reising. "I wanted to give back"

Career information and exploration teacher Delbert Hillegas also has a unique connection to Riley Hospital. Hillegas said that the doctor who delivered him had to rush him to Riley Hospital several months later.

"I was saved by Riley Hospital," said Hillegas

FCDM is not for those who are weak of heart; the committee works long and hard to ensure the event will be a success.

"We actually have to get all the food donations for the night of, and we're hoping to feed 600 students this year for free the entire night. We also do this throughout the year. Whenever Dance Marathon has different fundraisers, catering tries to get food donations for those various events," said math teacher Kristina Bauerla.

This would not be possible without frequent meetings and long hours put into what they do.

"We take about the whole year to prepare for the actual Dance Marathon. We have many meetings, mostly on Wednesday mornings. Even over the summer, we had meetings. We put in a lot of time and effort, so I think it will turn out very well," said Grace.

In the past, there has been a considerably large amount of people present for the event.

"It has really grown throughout the years and become a bigger part of FC's life," said sophomore Katie Hertog.

It is projected that the standard will hold up for this year as well.

"I think we're going to exceed our wildest dreams here," said Hillegas.

The committees have many fun and exciting events planned for the big day, including a magic act performed by Hillegas.

"I have maybe four or five methods of cutting somebody's head off, but we know right now, that's not politically correct to do, even if it's just done in jest. So I



Reagan O'Farrell/ *Visionary*

Math teacher Kristina Bauerla leads the Dance Marathon catering group in their discussion after school on Jan. 15 in Room A217. This group is hoping to successfully feed 600 students on the night of Dance Marathon for free. "I'm excited about this year," said Bauerla. "I'm hoping that we get more participation, more dancers, this year so that everyone can experience what previous years have and really understand the calls and recognize that we are trying to support this hospital that's for kids." Photo by Reagan O'Farrell.

don't include it in my show; I have to substitute other things in there," said Hillegas. "Instead we'll be floating people on the stage, different things like that."

Every year, beyond the fun and games, there appears to be a more serious undertone to the event.

"I feel like it's always really emotional at the end," said junior Lucy Reising. "It's really interesting to see how FC comes together as a family."

During Bauerla's second year on the committee, the emotions were particularly high.

"We try to bring all of the student body together and make them realize why they're really there

that night and why they're standing. So, into the night we had a story and it was about students that had passed away that were going to be seniors that year. So it was emotional for all the seniors. They all got in a big circle and it was dead silent and all you could hear were people crying," said Bauerla. "It was just amazing to see that student body come together."

Despite the high emotions and fun activities, the people involved never lose sight of what they're truly doing this for: the kids.

"I mean, there are other hospitals, but for the state of Indiana, there's only one Riley," said Hillegas.