

## Yearbook Story

With drowsy eyes the staff members on the 2014 Heritage Yearbook staff sat staring at their computer screens at 6 p.m. on a Thursday. Exhaustion, hunger and frustration had started to set in an hour ago, as each writer, photographer and editor still left in Room 195 realized they would probably have to endure another couple of hours of the tragic thing known as late night.

"Even though late nights are a pain in the butt, they are also fun because everyone goes crazy as the night progresses. They are extremely hectic because there are a lot of kids and never enough computers, and because the editors always have so much to do, whether we think we are done or not," co-managing editor Emma Adcox said.

An average day in yearbook was chaotic. The noise level in the back room of computers could reach deafening levels with several different conversations at once. There was the "Hey come help me with my story!" and "I want food!!" yells, the "Did you end up getting pictures at the event?" and "What page is that story on?" questions, and always random comments that didn't make sense.

"One of the best moments is just when we are all working and someone says something weird and random and we all laugh our heads off until we get yelled at by people who are working," copy editor Irena Jaspersen said.

Despite the randomness of Room 195, work actually got done. Stories were completed by the deadline, pictures were placed into their select folders, and spreads were designed to perfection. Every moment of the year was thoughtfully placed into the 20-pound time capsule known as the Yearbook.

"You start with your story ideas, and you decide which ideas you keep and which we get rid of and then get together your ladder, and you compile your deadlines and it magically, with work, becomes a book," co-managing editor Emily Pinnell said. "It's hard to put everything together in just one small quote because there is so much that goes into making this book."

Yearbook was a lot more than just making a book however. The staff was together through the perils of late nights, frustration and the funniest moments of the year. From sitting in the back room doing a "Dr. Phil" session to give advice to a fellow staff member to having a staff member randomly start talking about his experience with waking up with a cheeseburger on his chest, the staff was truly a family with a special bond that couldn't be broken.

"[The word that would best describe us is] team because we all end up acting like a team and helping each other and really just acting like a big family. We can say things in yearbook that you couldn't say in another class. It's a judgment-free zone; well I mean we are judging each other but in a loving family way," editor-in-chief Emily Searl said.

The family was bigger than normal. Instead of two classes the number was bumped to three, giving the editors more people to manage and making late nights crazier, but at the same time adding more creative input and family dynamic bonding.

"We're creative. We're a diverse group of people and the size brings everyones ideas and wonderful bubbles of thought together," Pinnell said.

The yearbook created a memory that you could look back on years from now. From *Peter Pan* to the pajama themed basketball game and every little moment in between, the yearbook would always be here to remember the 2013-2014 year.

"This has been one of the best experiences of my life and it's so different being apart of something bigger than yourself that impacts a lot of people. People give us their money to make a good book so we better come up with something good," Searl said. "[Creating the yearbook is] such a different experience than anything else because at the end of the year instead of winning games and having a record you have something to hold up and say 'I did this.'"

### Sidebar Em Squad:

"Hey Emily!" Adviser Fales yells as three people swiveled their heads to face the teacher. This was common confusion in the yearbook room on a daily basis due to three Emilys being in one class.

"It's confusing and sometimes stressful because you don't know who's talking to you. The staff calls us by our last names to help with the confusion," co-managing editor Emily Pinnell said.

The 3 Emilys, 2 Emmas (Adcox and Tapko), and an Emmy (Niewald) were used to hearing "Em..." shouted across the room.

"When I hear the prefix 'Em' said in yearbook first I'm like 'what?' and then I'm like 'WHAAAAT?!' It's confusing because sometimes I don't hear exactly what is said," Niewald said.