



Photo: Christmas Tree Contest Winner, LHS Media
By: Kylie Lockwood, Grade 12, Lincoln High School

This year has been a very trying time for the Zebra family, especially when it comes to feeling connected. However, one club found a way to foster a feeling of connectivity and share the Christmas spirit despite the pandemic.

To celebrate the Christmas season, Lincoln High School's Art Club held a Christmas tree decorating competition. Six teams decorated their trees with handmade ornaments and were encouraged to get creative! A school-wide vote decided the winner. "We wanted to bring the Zebra community together and support students during this time of disconnection," Art Club Advisor and Art Teacher Linda Miller said. "Our goal was to create a fun atmosphere around our school during this challenging time," Kylie Lockwood, Art Club Student President, said. "It was very exciting to see the Zebra community come together so creatively."

To encourage student safety, a set of COVID friendly parameters were established. Each team had a student 'captain' who would organize their fellow team members. A Lincoln High staff member acted as the team 'general' who assisted the students with decorating their Christmas tree. The staff members' rooms were the teams' designated 'home base'. This system created a fun atmosphere for the event, as well as prevented large group gatherings.

With handmade ornaments and creativity filling the rooms, the voting commenced. Trailing just behind first place by six votes, the Fighting Zebras Speech and Debate Team claimed second place. Their tree was not only fitting to its team name, but it was also entertaining and thought provoking. This tree was best seen up close!

The winning team, with 126 votes, was the Lincoln Media Team. While it was the smallest of all of the trees in the competition, that did not stop Mrs. Tofft and her team! Using her expert skills in photography and video editing, Mrs. Tofft and her team crafted a beautiful video and photo. "I thought this was a very creative way for one of our clubs to foster a feeling of togetherness amidst COVID restrictions. My team definitely had fun coming up with our concept and we are super excited that we won," Debbie Tofft, Media Arts teacher, said. "I think all the students really enjoyed seeing the videos of the trees and voting on the winner."

Each member of the Lincoln Media Team received a gift certificate to the Rebel Hen Cafe located in downtown Lincoln. "We are very grateful for Rebel Hen Cafe's generous donation of gift cards to the decoration contest," Lockwood said, "It was encouraging to see a local business showing such engagement and generosity during such a difficult time." The Lincoln High School Art Club was thankful for each team that participated as well as each person who voted in the competition. "We were glad to see some real holiday spirit!" said Kylie Lockwood.