

# High Life

Grimsley High School

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Greensboro, NC 27408

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## Out of the Blue

The Grimsley Madrigal Singers recently won a nation wide contest for the opportunity to perform at Carnegie Hall.

Grimsley's presentation of "The Music Man" will continue tonight through Saturday in the Chance/Cousins auditorium. Curtain time is 7:30. Refreshments will be provided.

People to People Student Ambassador Program is offering a program for students interested in travelling to Australia and New Zealand during the summer of 1998. Anyone desiring more information on this opportunity should contact the guidance department.

The Greensboro Ballet and the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra will present Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" December 12-14, 1997. The ballet will be held at War Memorial Auditorium on December 12 and 13 at 8:00p.m. and December 14 at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are available at all Ticketmaster locations or by calling 852-1100.

Grimsley's Army JROTC will have the annual Open House on December 7 for cadets, parents and guests. Guests will be able to learn about the JROTC program and see meet the instructors. There will also be Cadet Team displays, a Drill Team demonstration, and refreshments. Students wishing to join the JROTC Battalion should contact their counselor.

The annual Army JROTC vs. Navy JROTC flag football game will be played on Saturday, December 6 at Southeast Guilford High School. The Whirlie Battalion has won the past two games.

## Kelly dances lead in holiday classic

By Meredith Lemon  
Reporter

Behind the closed curtains the graceful dancers position themselves on the stage. The houselights dim and an expectant hush falls over the audience as the conductor raises his baton. The music begins, the curtain goes up, and there in the spotlight, in the center of attention is one of Grimsley's own.

Sophomore Mary Kristen Kelly will play Clara in this year's production of "The Nutcracker."

Kelly, who began her ballet training at the age of 7, is no stranger to lead roles. Other performances include 7 previous year's in "The Nutcracker," "Sleeping Beauty," "Dracula," and "Rags to Riches." This part however, still came as quite a shock. "First, I was surprised because in the past the role of Clara has been played by a younger girl, but then I was really excited. I still can't believe it."

The annual production of Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" has been a tradition in Greensboro for over 17 years. Each year it is performed by members of Greensboro Ballet along with professional dancers from throughout the community. This ballet tells the story of a young girl named Clara, whose toy nutcracker comes magically to life and leads her on fantastic adventures and through

strange new lands. Though the story will remain the same, several changes have been made with Kelly's part, as well as others.

"In past years, Clara and the (Nut-

Kelly and the role of the Nutcracker Prince is played by 20 year old Gregory Alexander.

Kelly will have more dance variations this year, bringing her character further into the story. In addition to more interaction in the opening "Party Scene," Kelly will take a larger part in the second act, which will include several solos as well as more dances with the Nutcracker Prince. "These changes are good," said Kelly. "They will help bring more people back year after year, and will hopefully draw new audience. The changes are also good for the dancers too," said Kelly. Though excited about the changes, she is also nervous about the solos. "They are nerve-wrecking, but they are also a very good learning experience," said Kelly.

Kelly has put in an incredible amount of time and energy into this play, but she says that it will all be worth it when she sees the beaming faces in the audience. "It's true that this part takes a lot of work, but it is the kind of work that I enjoy." Other Grimsley students who have roles in this ballet are Abby Rives, a freshman, sophomores Emily Cranford, Lauren Webster, and Warren Kuhn, and Amy Hadgraft, a



Mary Kristen Kelly, a sophomore, poses with Gregory Alexander during a recent rehearsal of "The Nutcracker." Kelly will dance the role of Clara in the ballet.

Smith photo

cracker) Prince have generally been played by younger members of the School of Ballet," said Mary Helen Mayfield, Greensboro Ballet's Artistic Director. "However, while I was re-reading the original story of 'The Nutcracker' I got the impression that Clara was more of an adolescent, on the verge of becoming a woman," said Mayfield. Now Clara is played by 15 year old

junior.

"The Nutcracker"  
presented by Greensboro Ballet  
War Memorial Auditorium

December 12, 13 8:00 p.m.  
December 14 3:00 p.m.

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