

Class of 2019 hosts the most successful Junior Auction in high school history

This year, Junior Boat Cruise is estimated to cost over \$30,000. How do the class officers actually pay for that? The answer is the Junior Auction, the primary fundraiser for any class in its four years of high school. Using the money raised, the junior class officers are able to subsidize tickets for the boat cruise—often reducing the cost by over fifty percent—as well as for Senior Prom and Banquet, both of which are also very expensive.

This year, the Boston-themed auction (years in past have hosted 1980s or summer-themed events) occurred on the evening of April 7 the high school cafeteria. With the combined silent and live auctions, junior class president Matthew McKenna '19 estimates the total revenue at some \$83,000, which would be the most in Junior Auction history.

Junior class secretary, Brandon Voci '19 is thoroughly pleased with the outcome.

“The auction was a success. No doubt about that. Not only did we raise a lot of money, but there was tremendous student support, which is always positive to see,” he said.

In fact, the officers reported having over thirty student helpers, who volunteered their time in exchange for National Honor Society (NHS) and/or Key Club hours.

Over the week prior to the auction, the officers shared on the class Facebook page some of the most enticing items on the registry. Among those included a Patriots all-access experience in which the top bidder and three others would have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to get an up-close look at this year's Patriots team with a seat on the field at training camp and a meet-and-greet with several players. Plus, they would receive two signed players' jerseys and a prepaid lunch.

Another item available was a “Legendary Celtics Experience” for those tired of watching the team at home. The top bidder would receive for tickets in the sixth row at a game, a jersey signed by the 2017 all-star Gordon Hayward, and access to the Legends restaurant at the TD Garden.

For those less-enamored by sports, the auction also offered the top bidder a wonderful evening with friends and/or family at Symphony Hall in Boston to listen to classical music performed by the Boston Pops and receive a baton signed by conductor Keith Lockhart.

In the weeks leading up to the auction, Ms. Novogroski, an assistant principal, sent out a worrying email to all juniors, urging them to submit donations. She explained that classes in years past have received upwards of seventy compared to just then this year. Fortunately, by the end of the month, the officers reported having forty donations and expressed gratitude to everyone.

Then, earlier this month, the officers partnered with the California Pizza Kitchen (CPK) in Wellesley for a clever donation opportunity. On April 2, anyone—students, parents, or teachers—could go to the restaurant at any time of the day and CPK would donate twenty percent of the bill to the class, thereby offering exposure while supporting the greater town community.

The junior class officers and their parents began preparing for the event last September by organizing volunteers, delegating roles, and collecting early donations to guarantee sufficient funding in April.

“The parents played an instrumental role in organizing and making the auction possible. The executive committee, which included the officers’ parents, did the vast majority of work for this fundraising event and it is hard to underestimate their role,” Voci said.

Despite the tremendous preparation involved in the event, the officers were still somewhat nervous about how it would turn out.

“The Junior Auction was a particularly stressful event because there was an underlying fear that insufficient funds would be raised for the boat cruise, and if that were to happen, it would detrimental to the class,” Voci said.

He admitted, however, that this fear is fairly routine for all classes.

Now, with the enormous amount of money raised, the Class of 2019 is secured for the rest of high school—and beyond (for class reunions). Provided that the boat cruise tickets sell, the officers will not have to conduct another major fundraiser.

Now it’s up to members of the Class of 2020. McKenna has this advice to offer:

“I think it’s important to try to get as many kids possible from the class involved in the junior auction. For the event itself you need servers, greeters, raffle ticket sellers, and it's great to have kids from the class hold those positions. It makes the event more fun and shows to the parents the importance of the auction to the whole grade.”



The four junior class officers auctioneer in front of an eager crowd of town residents.