

Arabian Nights

Not only a night, but a story to remember.

Come April, the most memorable dance of the year quickly approaches. Students prepare for an evening of pictures, meals, and fun. Senior Morgan Terpstra had a heart warming idea to make her last prom a life changing one for special needs students senior Will Halstead and junior Caleb Fynaardt. After a dream on a mission trip to Haiti, Terpstra decided to ask them to accompany her to Prom.

"It felt like God was telling me to ask Will to make a difference in his life. Then associate Michelle Van Vark said I should take Caleb too. The associates helped me get the details worked out, and I just asked them," said Terpstra.

The plan for the night was not the typical party bus and dinner at a fancy restaurant.

"I had a lot of help setting things up from the associates and the parents of Will and Caleb. Associates Jill Neal and Michelle Van Vark, Caleb's family, Will, and my parents all went to Monarchs and ate a delicious buffet. It was a lot of fun! Then Caleb, Will and I went to the dance, but Caleb could only stay for a half hour," described Terpstra.

When asked about her favorite part of the night, Terpstra replied, "Winning the swing dance contest with Will! Especially because my brother, Carter, won too, and I got to rub it in his face."

Terpstra is heavily involved in Peer programs now, and has been throughout her high school career.

"I'm really passionate about special needs kids because knowing it could happen to anyone, even me, makes me want to help. I want to be a part of something bigger. They have taught me to be patient. It is also humbling to be a part of these programs. You put yourself at a level to be vulnerable and goofy in order to interact with them," she said.

Terostra plans on being involved in Peer programs in the future.

"I actually want to get an endorsement to be a special education teacher and work with at risk students as well. I also see myself running an orphanage too, supplying a home for those kids in need. Because people made a difference in my life, I want to make a difference in theirs."