

Youths 'hop' to their feet, help fellow student

Benefit will assist DeSales junior

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

GENEVA — Jayson Lamson offers a simple description of how quickly news circulates at a small high school.

"We have only 150 kids here, so if you fall off your bike everyone knows about it in 10 minutes," said Lamson, a sophomore at Geneva DeSales High School, 90 Pulteney St.

The big news that traveled around DeSales late last year was much more serious than most bicycle spills, however. Michele Caravita, a DeSales junior, was battling brain cancer.

Demonstrating the best of community spirit, the student body has gone out to aid one of its own. The end result is a first-ever "sock hop" fundraiser, which is scheduled for the school gymnasium Saturday, March 27, from 8 p.m. to midnight.

A disc jockey will spin "oldies" tunes, and soda-shop menu items such as hamburgers, hot dogs and ice-cream floats will be served.

All proceeds will be donated to Caravita, who said she plans to send funds to the Ronald McDonald House in Boston where she and her family stayed last summer while she underwent treatment for two tumors.

The idea for the event was conceived after Lamson and his DeSales basketball teammates watched a television advertisement for 1950s music one recent Saturday morning.

"I asked my mom, 'They have sock hops for adults, so why can't we have one of these things,'" remarked Lamson.

Lamson and friends Bob Rose, Mike DeVaney, Bob Peters, Mike Sweeney and Danny Osborne then decided to organize the sock hop as a benefit for Caravita.

Rose, a sophomore, thinks that the



DeSales High junior Michele Caravita (front row, center) will donate the proceeds from a benefit sock hop in her honor to the Ronald McDonald House in Boston. Fellow students (from left) Jayson Lamson, Mike DeVaney, Bob Rose, Mike Sweeney and Bob Peters are organizing the March 27 event.

Babette G. Augustin/Photo editor

old-time tunes will be a pleasant change of pace from the rap and heavy-metal music that permeates today's airwaves.

"My favorite music is from the '50s and '60s," he remarked. "It'll be fun; I'll get to dress up as (Happy Days' character) Fonzie."

Perhaps the best part about the sock hop is that it will be attended by its beneficiary. Caravita said she'd "definitely" be a part of the festivities.

Encouraging signs have emerged from Caravita's ongoing radiation treatments at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. She had been out of school since Thanksgiving before returning on a part-time basis last month.

Two weeks later Caravita was back at DeSales full-time — and so far, so good, she reported.

"I thought I'd be a lot more tired," she remarked.

The junior acknowledged that she's

been touched by the support of her fellow students.

"Everybody's so close. Everyone in my class sent get-well cards and flowers when I was in Boston," said Caravita. "To know that they're thinking about me, it just makes me feel good."

"That's the way the kids are in this school," said Lamson's mother, Kay. "They're very caring and dedicated to each other."

"The student body is extremely sensitive to Michele," added school prin-

icipal Ed Tracey. "They're supportive and concerned."

Tracey observed that Caravita's spirits have held up remarkably well throughout her illness.

"She's a faith-filled kid. Her God means a lot to her," the principal commented.

EDITORS' NOTE: Tickets for the sock hop, priced at \$5 each, may still be obtained by calling the school's main office, 315/789-5111.

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