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Vol. 2 Issue 3 Dec. 2, 2011

710 South Main

Greensburg, KS 67054

Choir students perform for both local and district

By Lillian Hinshaw



Photo Kayleen Stevens

Above: Sophomore Lillian Hinshaw, juniors Kaelie Kendall and Erica Bertram qualified for the District Honor Choir. The girls hope to make the state choir as well.

Every year there are auditions held for students at the high school level to be a part of District Honor Choir. Students from the district auditioned with hopes of making it. After district, students are selected to be a part of the State Honor Choir. The students who auditioned from Kiowa County High School were juniors Erica Bertram, Kaelie Kendall, sophomores Jesslyn Jenkins, Catherine Kibel and Lillian Hinshaw.

For the auditions, each student was required to perform three sections from three different songs in front of three judges. The pieces for this year were "Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal", "Calm", "On the Listening Ear of Night" and "Ne Imami Ini-ya Pomoschi". The auditions were held in Dodge City at Dodge City Middle School.

While waiting for each of their audition slots, students gathered in a gym and practiced their audition pieces together. After everyone's audition was over, students from all around sang karaoke and hung out together.

When Bertram was asked about her overall experience of her audition she said, "The waiting was the worst part, but once you got in there, the audition pieces were short and the judges weren't even watching you so it wasn't bad."

Among the students that auditioned, Bertram, Kendall and Hinshaw made it to District Honor Choir. The students will go to Dodge City High School on Dec. 3 to learn and practice their songs. That evening, the students will perform their songs at a concert held at Dodge City High School.

See PERFORM pg. 6

In the classroom!

By Mariah Charlton

In Mr. VandenHoek's Geometry classes, they are working on triangle properties, which Evan Jacks and Roy Lothman used to build a go-kart!

In Algebra II, Mr. VanderHoek is teaching his students about matrix to solve problems with three variables.

Mrs. Schnobelen's Biology students are learning about genetics. Chemistry classes are studying the periodic table. In Advanced Biology, students are learning about the muscular system.

In Mr. White's Algebra 1 part 1, they are learning to go across the equal sign and to put like terms together. In Algebra 1 part 2, the students are learning about exponents. Mr. White is teaching his Algebra 1 class about slope, parallel and perpendicular.

Mrs. Staats's freshman English classes are learning about propaganda.



Photo by Mariah Charlton

Left: Xander Brensing, freshman, tells his classmates about his Propaganda project that the Freshmen are learning about.



Photo by Mariah Charlton

Left: Lance Ralstin, freshman, shows the rest of his class the work he's done with propaganda.

Turkey, turkey and more turkey

By Catherine Kibel

Thanksgiving is here and many of us have all but forgotten what it stands for. We all remember hearing the stories about how the Pilgrims landed in Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1620 and how the Indians helped the pilgrims to survive. We all learned about how both groups got together for the first Thanksgiving and how everyone had something to be thankful for that year. Thanksgiving is a time to travel back and realize what our ancestors realized. We all have our hardships, but that shouldn't keep us from celebrating the positive notions in life. This holiday has been going on for hundreds of years.

200 years after the first Thanksgiving, President Abraham Lincoln declared the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day. Congress officially made Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1941. In 2001, the U.S. Postal Service

issued the first commemorative Thanksgiving stamp. This stamp depicted cornucopia overflowing with fruits and vegetables and adorned with the saying, "We give thanks."

Along with many of the Thanksgiving traditions, many Americans make it a point to watch the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. The parade has been going on for 85 years. It stretches from Central Park West all the way to Macy's Herald Square. Many characters from classic children's movies or shows are flown high for everyone to see. Some of these popular characters are Popeye, Clifford, Mickey Mouse, Snoopy, Yogi Bear, etc.

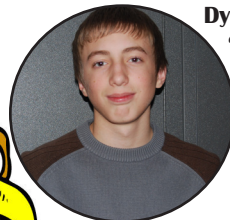
As Americans, Thanksgiving means family, friends and food, but individually Americans have their own personal meanings for the holiday.

What does Thanksgiving mean to you?

Mr. White (Math Instructor)
"Family and lots of good food."



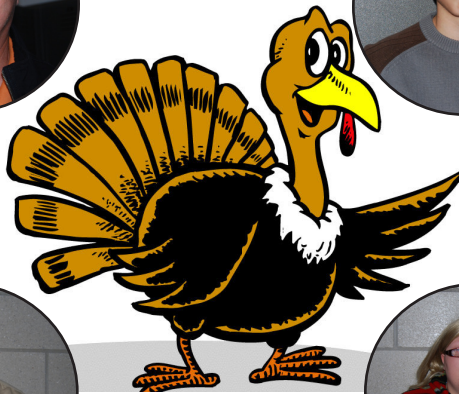
Dylan Trujillo (freshman)
"Getting together with family and having a good time. Remembering not to take things for granted."



Dillon Crumpler (Senior)
"A part of the year to spend time with your family and eat a lot of food that will last you till Christmas"



Mari Adams (sophomore)
"Spending time with friends and family."



By Creighton McDonald

Happenings

ACT Reg.

The ACT deadline for the Dec. 10 test was on Nov. 4. Students who registered have the option of where they will take the test. Information about the test can be found on their website at ACT.org. The test is a good idea for juniors and for people who are planning on going to a four year college. But no worries, if you missed the first one there will be two more, one on Feb. 11 and one on Apr. 14.

Basketball Practice

On Nov. 14 the high school boys and girls started their basketball practice. They will practice for four weeks before their first game which is against the Cunningham Wildcats.

Veterans

On the 11th of Nov., the Kiowa County High School hosted the Veterans assembly. The students and the faculty participated in showing appreciation to all veterans for their dedication and bravery in the war they fought in.

Hunting

Pheasant and Quail season started Nov. 12 and lasts through Jan 31. Bow season began in September and runs until Nov. 29. Then it resumes on Dec. 12 and goes until the end of the year. Rifle season for deer starts on Nov. 30 and goes on until Dec. 11.

Men need fashion advice too!

By Shelby Butler

Shirts

One can seldom go wrong with a simple V-neck or crew-neck t-shirt; a solid color works best. A polo shirt is also nice... just be sure it fits properly. Now that it's getting colder out, the focus shifts more toward keeping warm. Try a warm sweater or flannel shirt paired with a cozy fur-lined leather jacket.

Pants

It's getting cold outside guys, so get ready to put away your athletic shorts and Bermudas! It's time for jeans. Be it a high-end pair with a fashionable wash and intricate stitching or just a simple pair or Wranglers, jeans are a small-town fashion staple. As long as they aren't too tight or too baggy, wear whichever styles and brands you want. Skinny jeans are a growing trend for guys, but it DOES take a certain type of body type (and confidence level) to make them work. Wear at your own risk. Sweatpants are also popular here at KCHS, but old holey ones are not acceptable.

Shoes

Tennis shoes or moccasins are great, along with boots and top-siders. And as far as formal occasions go, as long as your pants aren't ripped, you have on a nice shirt, and your belt matches your dress shoes, you'll be okay.

Student of the month- Cole Cobb

By Laina McMurry

Preparing for college in an unusual way



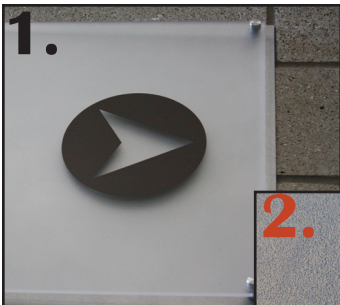
Photo by Laina McMurry

- Q. Why did you join the National Guard?**
A. Money, recognition and college benefits
- Q. When did you join up?**
A. When I turned 18 last year
- Q. What is expected of you?**
A. A lot, show respect to get respect, be on time, behave at all times, no exceptions.
- Q. What is a typical weekend in the National Guard?**
A. A lot of exercise and some class room work. People think it's all just exercise and getting yelled at but you actually have to sit in a class room and listen to the instructor.
- Q. What will you do with the National Guard after graduation?**
A. Get promoted, excel where I can, maybe transfer to the active army. I'm not sure yet.

By Laina McMurry

Where Is It Found??

You have to be specific. Tell Mrs. Stevens when you have them all figured out.
No second chances. The first person who has all four will win a prize.



What's your motto??

motto: a short phrase chosen to portray the beliefs guiding an individual.

Sherrie Schnoebelen Science Teacher

I know not what my future holds, but I know who controls my future.

Rayne Jamison- 12

Just go with the flow.

Erica Bertram- 11

Make every moment a memory.

Denisse Ramos- 9

"Be the change you wish to see in the world."

-Ghandi

Grace Sirois- 11

"Everybody is a genius, but if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree it will live its whole life believing it's stupid."

-Albert Einstein

Rachel Schmidt- 11

"Beautiful pictures come from negatives in dark places."

-Unknown

David Perez- 11

A healthy attitude is contagious, but don't wait to catch it from others. Be a carrier.

Shannon Hall- 12

"Imagination is more important than knowledge."

- Albert Einstein

By Audrey Wheeler

Maverick Nation Sports

By Kayleen Stevens

New tournament starts season off



Photo by Jimmy Hoyt

Freshman Elias Lopez keeps control of the ball in a ball-control exercise.

The 2011-12 basketball season is off and running, literally. With whistles blowing to start each sprint, drill and play, the men of KCHS are working on perfecting their skills with hopes of bringing home a league, regional or state championship.

Coach Nick Perez is in his second year as head coach with Coach David White assisting.

The team has 22 guys out, each vying for a starting position for the Mavericks. Leading the team will be seniors Ross Blanford, Montana Ralstin, Keith Prosser,

Jordan Wyrick, juniors Caleb Davis, Damien Odle, Kendall Watson, Rustin Ardery, Terran Alderfer, Mikal Behm, Tucker McKinney, Cody McVey, David Perez and Trevor Tyree. Joining the team will be Magnus Gundersen, sophomores Payton Miller, Trever Powell, Michael Tedder, Corbin VandenHoek, Shad Butler, freshmen Xander Brensing, Cole Kendall, Elias Lopez and Daniel Smith.

With experience returning to the court, the team anx-

iously awaits their first game of the season, which will be Dec. 2, against the Wildcats of Cunningham. A new twist for the team this year is their pre-season tournament. Instead of playing in the tournament hosted by Skyline, the team will travel to Larned to play in the Keady Classic. Although this will be new to most of the team, Coach Perez is very familiar with this tournament. Before hiring on at Haviland, Coach Perez was an assistant at Larned, and also assisted Coach Josiah Williams in his first year at Haviland; both teams participated in this annual tournament.

Starting the season on the sideline, Binford stated "It's going to be hard to sit on the side as the team starts the season, but having played at the Keady Classic before, hopefully I can give some advice about some of the teams we will be facing at the tournament." Binford hopes to be back on the court after the Christmas break.

See TOURNAMENT pg. 5



Photo by Jimmy Hoyt

Junior Caleb Davis prepares to pass the ball to a teammate in practice, while junior Tucker McKinney tries to prevent that from happening.

New strategies for the new season

By Dottie Housworth

The Kiowa County High School girls' basketball season started on Nov. 14. Head coach, second year, Mr. VandenHoek's thoughts about the season are, "We will be competitive at all levels. We have a lot of girls going out, so we should have good competition in practice or for playing time."

This season will be the first season that Kiowa County plays at the Larned tournament. VandenHoek stated, "I'm glad to be going back to the Larned tournament. They run a good tournament and have good competition."

There are no new strategies for the new season, but there will be a lot of conditioning. VandenHoek said, "I like to do conditioning through drills and lots of it. We will do lots of conditioning for full court pressure defense."

Just like any other sport, the team will have challenges from within the team.

"The biggest challenge is keeping players committed to being a team and the effort to get better," stated VandenHoek.

By the end of the season Coach VandenHoek thinks that the varsity should be playing well enough to advance in the play offs.

"The biggest challenge of the year would be the size of the team and that there are a lot of young players," stated Kimber Hayes.

Sarah Spicer, freshman stated, "I'm scared to play basketball in high school, because I might not get to play since I'm a freshman." Spicer is nervous for the first game of the season.

After three weeks of practicing, the season starts off Dec. 2 at Kiowa County vs. Cunningham. The first away game will be at South Central on Dec. 13.



Photos by Jimmy Hoyt

Far Left: Senior Kimber Hayes tries to pass the ball to another teammate, as sophomores Heather Melton and Riann Heft defend against the pass.

Left: Freshman Skylar Odle tries to maneuver around junior Trudi Greig and freshman Shantae Wheeler.

Life inside...KC High

By Dottie Housworth

Senior Spotlight



Is your senior year what you'd thought it would be?

"No, my classes

and stuff I thought were going to be easy aren't, and I have to study hard to graduate."

What would you do for a Klondike bar?

"Kill the polar bear with my bare hands."

Do you think our school should have a dance crew?

"Yes, so the girls and Kahl have something to do."

Advice for next year's freshmen:

"Don't let drama control your life, just go to school and be happy."

Favorite thing about Thanksgiving:

"All the food!"

Dillon Crumpler



What would you do for a Klondike bar?

"Wouldn't you like to know?"

Being a Maverick means:

"Just about as much as being a Dragon."

Do you think our school should have a dance crew?

"Uh, no, because half the people here can't dance, and I don't want anyone to embarrass themselves."

Favorite television show:

"Family Guy, there's a lot of life in that."

Favorite thing about Thanksgiving:

"Not having to come to school is a plus and the food is another one."

Rayne Jamison



What would you do for a Klondike bar?

"Test out the saw stop."

Being a Maverick means:

"To be an unbranded range animal, like a stray calf."

Goal to accomplish before graduation:

"Acquire a six pack."

Advice for next year's freshmen:

"Keep your head up and don't worry about what other people think."

Favorite thing about Thanksgiving:

"The olives..."

Kyle Stevens

FB and VB League & District Honors

Football



Offense:

Ross Binford - First Team (All-District First Team)
Quarterback

Lymon Morehead - First Team (All-District - First Team)
Interior Line

Jordan Wyrick - Honorable Mention
End

Trever Powell - Honorable Mention
Back

Defense:

Lymon Morehead - Second Team (All-District - HM)
Down Lineman

Jordan Wyrick - Honorable Mention
Down Lineman

Volleyball



Angela Liggett - First Team
Middle Hitter

Riann Heft - Second Team
Setter

Heather Melton - Second Team
Outside Hitter

Trever Powell - Honorable Mention
Linebacker

Colter Brown - Honorable Mention
Linebacker

TOURNAMENT from pg. 4

Spearville will be one of the teams at the Classic who the Mavericks might face. Playing them before conference play actually starts might be a benefit.

"The teams at Larned are tougher than the ones we faced at Skyline. Playing the tougher teams will make our team better as a whole. It will also give us a chance to see what some of our league teams will be like before league play begins," stated Davis.

Last year's younger team will now be the leaders on the court. Having a year playing together under their belt, the team anticipates a strong start and finish for their 2011-12 season.

The Maverick Monthly

The Maverick Monthly is produced monthly by the journalism classes of Kiowa County High School, 710 S. Main, Greensburg, KS 67054.

It is created on PC computers using the programs Microsoft Word, Excel, Adobe Indesign and Photoshop. It is distributed through the schools of Kiowa County and Haviland. It is also available

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 Mariah Charlton

KCHS Adviser:
 Kayleen Stevens
KCJH Writer:
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By Lillian Hinshaw

PERFORM from pg. 1

The choir students have also been working on the Variety Show. The show is put on every year, as it gave choir students the chance to showcase their talents. The choir split up into small groups. These groups put together songs of their choice to perform. The Variety Show was held on Nov. 14 in the main gym at 7:30.

This year there were 9 performance groups. The choir, as a whole, sang two songs: "Joshua and the Battle of Jericho" and "Kyrie". After the choir was done, the mixed groups began their performances. The night was filled with music as students were given the chance to show off some of their musical talents.



Photos by Jimmy Hoyt

Left: Freshmen Maddie Cannon, Addison Price, Chelsye Racette and sophomore Heather Melton sing "Beautiful" as a quartet.

Right: Sophomores Patty Torres and Charity Schmidt sing "Stand" by Rascal Flatts.

By Corbin VandenHoek

Run For Missions

On Oct. 29, Haviland hosted an annual fundraiser called "Run for Missions." Participants could choose to run 5K (3.1 miles), 10K (5.2 miles) or a half-marathon (13.1 miles) to raise money to send missionaries to other countries. The half-marathon started at eight o'clock in the morning and the 5k and 10k started at nine. The races started and ended in front of the Barclay College gym in Haviland.

Many Kiowa County students ran in the races. Juniors Audrey Wheeler, Erica Bertram, Caleb Davis, seniors Jordan Little and Weston Jantz all ran a 5k. English Teacher Marshall Ballard ran the half-marathon, finishing with a time of 2:15:21.

When all the racers made it back, with only one contestant getting lost, everyone headed into Hockett Auditorium (Barclay College Gym) to find out the results of the races.

Prizes were given to the top three male and female finishers of each race. The prize for the first place male and female winners was a \$75 gift certificate to GoRun. Second place a \$50 certificate and third a \$25 certificate. Many of the prizes were homemade food items that were donated by women in Haviland. Other prizes were sunglasses that were donated by a sports company that sponsored the run.

After the event was over, the overseer of the races, Adam Monaghan, headed out for his 104.2 mile run to Wichita. If anybody was interested, they could have contacted Monaghan to sign-up to run different legs of the race with him. Monaghan started around 11:30 a.m. and ran all through the night. He finished around 8:00 a.m. the next morning.

If interested in running next year and would like to find out more information go to www.runformissions.org.

How to...
 Fall Asleep

1. Find a place to sleep. A bed, couch or chair.
2. Find a comfortable pillow.
3. Find a warm blanket.
4. If the temperature in the room you are in is too hot or cold, find a heater or a fan to place in the room.
5. Lay down on the bed, couch or chair.
6. Put your head on the pillow.
7. Find the position that you find the most comfortable.
8. Try to clear your mind of any thoughts.
9. If it is taking a while to fall asleep, try thinking: "breathe in, breathe out, breathe in, breathe out." Or, you could try counting sheep.

By Corbin VandenHoek

Get up. Get out. Go get it.

By Heidee Prosser



Photo by Cody McVey

Junior Creighton McDonald and Jimmy Hoyt, senior, help Laymon Hicks with a demonstration. "If they are talking behind your back, then they are standing behind you."

On Nov. 9, motivational speaker Laymon Hicks came to Kiowa County to speak to students from KC, Fowler, Hodgeman County, Ingalls, Minneola, Pawnee Heights and Spearville high schools. Along with being a motivational speaker, Hicks is the author of two books: *A Treasure Chest of Motivation: 8 Jewels of Wisdom for a Young Adult's Success*, and *'N Laymon's Terms...Words of Wisdom | Inspiration to Guide You on Your Life's Journey*. He is also co-author of *Ignite Your Dreams: How to Build and Accelerate Your Life as a Top Notch Student*.

Before the assembly began, Hicks played music from his iPod and let students come down to the court to show off their dance moves. He also taught them a new dance of his own. During the assembly, Hicks told the students about how he came from a rough past, but didn't let it determine his future. He finished high school and he graduated college as the student body president. Hicks showed the crowd a pair of shoes that had holes in the bottoms of them and said that while he was running for student body president in college, he literally walked holes in them while giving tours around the school campus.

In his speech, Hicks told the students three main keys for life: "Get up. Go out. Go get it." He was emphasizing that if you want something in life, you can't just sit there and expect it to come to you. You have to take charge and go after what you want.

After the assembly, students were able to go down and talk to Hicks personally. Also, they had the chance to buy bracelets that said, "I Am A Leader, Yes I'm The Bomb.Com". Hick's books were also on sale. Many students later found Hick's Facebook page so they could tell

him why they are the "bomb.com." Other students also made their personal facebook statuses about how much they liked him as a motivational speaker and that they hoped he would come back again.

Words of advice from Hicks: "You are like a sharpened pencil without an eraser. You can't erase your past, but you certainly can write your future! Go get it!"

Do you know who's teaching you everyday??

By Rachel Schmidt

1. Favorite color? 2. Favorite sport? 3. Favorite hobby?
4. Where did he graduate? 5. How many kids?

Student Guesses



Maddie Cannon

1. Blue
2. Basketball
3. Riding his motorcycle
4. Barclay College
5. Four kids



Nahu Colclaghan

1. Blue
2. Basketball
3. Teaching
4. Pittsburg State University
5. Five kids



Audrey Muuauer

1. Blue
2. Basketball
3. Playing basketball
4. Barclay College
5. Four kids



Keith Prosser

1. Blue
2. Basketball
3. Playing basketball/ riding his motorcycle
4. Barclay College
5. Five kids



Mr. Nauden Hack

Answers

1. Orange
2. Basketball
3. Water skiing
4. Fort Hays State University
5. Four kids

Opinion Page

By Audrey Wheeler

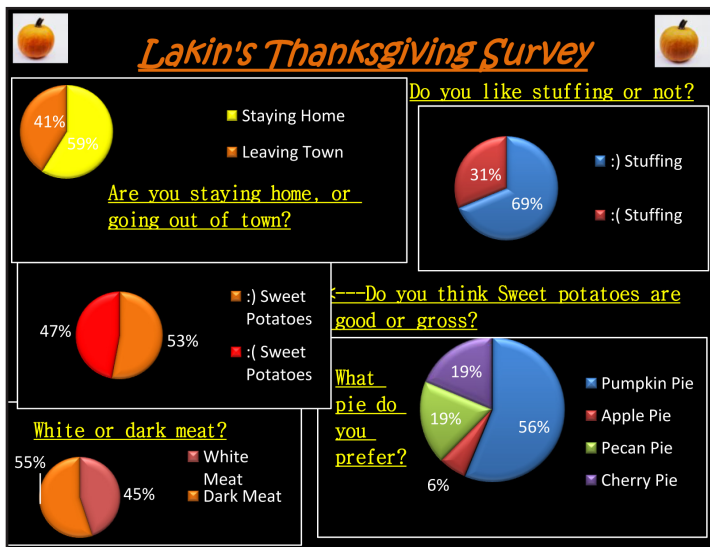
Words from the Editor



Busy, busy, busy. Sometimes I feel like a bumblebee just flying everywhere trying to find the perfect flower, then when I do I have to fly all the way back to the hive and make some stinking honey! I think we can all agree that as a high school student things are just gonna be hectic. And I'm not even in sports! I look forward to days when I know that I'll just get to relax and watch a movie or something. But I know that a lot of people in our school don't have a day off like me. Man, I don't know how you do it!

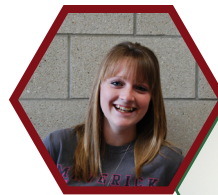
I have Scholar's Bowl practice on Monday and Wednesday and meets on Tuesday and Thursday that I have to miss school for, which isn't that bad - but then I have make-up homework. On Mondays I go to an art class at Kaelie Kendall's house that her mom teaches, and then I go to a tumbling class. On Wednesdays I have piano lessons and then, of course, youth group. Basketball is coming up and I will get to go to those games too, to cheer. I know you don't need to know my whole schedule, but I hope it makes a point that I'm just down-to-earth busy!

When I say this, most people come back saying, "Well, you know, Audrey, you don't have to do all those things." But really, we're in high school. This is what we're supposed to be doing: Getting involved in everything, finding new outlets, discovering what we love to do. This is really the only time in our lives that we will get to do half of the things we are doing. I mean, how many people will actually play a sport out of high school? A few will, but not most. And I guarantee that I'm not gonna be on a professional Scholars Bowl team after high school. So, let's enjoy the activities that we have right now, because later on in life we will wish that we could have it back.



By Lakin Titus

Is it ever really too soon to start listening to Christmas music???



Remi- 9
Definitely. You can't play it when there's no snow on the ground and no Christmassy smells...like cinnamon.



Heather- 10
Yeah. Christmas music is for Christmas. Mr. Ballard has already started and it's annoying!

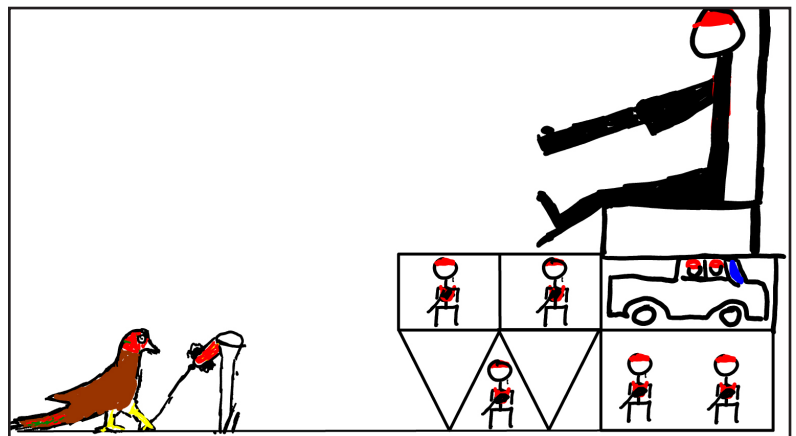


Kahl- 12
Yes! It makes me want to shoot myself.

Canyon- 11
Yes. Thanksgiving should be appreciated. I'm all for jumping in after though!

A picture's worth a thousand words

Editorial Cartoon by Creighton McDonald

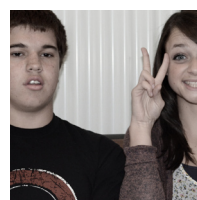
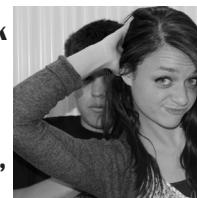
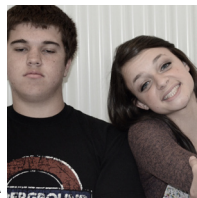
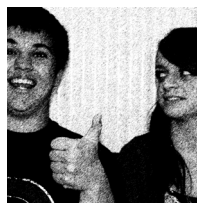


Thanksgiving

1. Food. At my house, a literal truckload of food is served at Thanksgiving. We can't even sit at the dinner table, there's so much food just sitting on it for serving.
2. Eating food. I wake up hungry. Really hungry. Filling that gap in my soul with food is satisfying and makes me proud to be an American, to enjoy this holiday of Thanksgiving where we celebrate the discovery of America by slaughtering millions of turkeys.
3. Eating delicious food. The food's good. Plain and simple.
4. Eating lots of delicious food. The sheer volume of the food served at my house is astounding. I don't even know how I fit it into my gut. It just kind of disappears somewhere.
5. Eating lots of delicious food 24/7. This goes on all day. And weeks afterward, if there's enough leftover turkey. And trust me, there's always leftover turkey. To America's turkeys: we honor your service to your country.

Christmas

1. Presents. There's no better feeling than having a ton of people give you stuff for free. Seeing that huge pile of stuff you didn't even have to earn just fills you up with this great warm sentimental feeling of "I'm so thankful I got all this stuff!"
2. Opening presents. Some people like to take their wrapping paper apart all neatly, like a pansy. I think that is a stupid and inefficient way to go about it. You gotta act like you want it! You need to take that wrapping paper, and go medieval on it! It's your worst enemy! It needs to be torn to shreds so you can take your present! Faster! Rip it to pieces! Kill! KILL! Suffice to say, I get a little worked up when I open my presents. It's just the man in me.
3. Opening expensive presents. The more money spent on my presents, the better. That goes for both sexes, I guess. I don't want your homemade picture frame you spent \$5 on. I want an M1A2 Abrams tank that costs \$5 million.
4. Opening and using expensive presents. The difference between men and women on Christmas is the types of presents we get. I'll admit: we are really, really hard to shop for. Us men want stuff we can use, while girls are happy with getting stuff they can put on their shelf or in their closet and never actually do anything with besides maybe wear it once or twice. Men want useful things, like video games, camera lenses, power tools, beef jerky, flamethrowers, Apache helicopters... everyday goods like that. Nothing too special.
5. Food.



Thanksgiving

As the cool weather begins to lighten the air, the holiday season is underway. As I think about the holidays to come, such as Thanksgiving and Christmas, I get too excited to even contain myself. Things that matter most to me about Thanksgiving:

1. My family from California is coming, and I'm always grateful for some quality time with the fam.
2. The good food. Thanksgiving wouldn't be Thanksgiving without food. Food is kind of a big deal.
3. The traditions. I love family traditions and always look forward to the endless games of Uno played with my grandma.
4. Mashed potatoes fall into a whole separate category. Everything about them is just so good. They're just...good.
5. The end of Thanksgiving. The end of Thanksgiving means that it's almost time for Christmas. And Christmas music. And presents. And more Christmas music. And more good food. And candlelight services.

Things that matter most to me about Christmas:

1. The story. The Christmas story never ceases to amaze me.
2. Setting up the Christmas tree. That's always quite the extravaganza in my family.
3. Waking up on Christmas morning. There's just something about waking up knowing that there's a bunch of stuff waiting for you upstairs. I love the gift of receiving...oh, and giving is good too.
4. Hanging out on Christmas day, just chillin' with your family and your new belongings.
5. The sheer excitement on my little brother's face every time he opens a gift. Even if it's something lame like batteries.
6. Christmas dinner. My dad always makes us some sort of gourmet meal (which almost always includes mashed potatoes).
7. The overflow of presents that come in the mail during the weeks after Christmas is already over. Ahh yes.

By Mariah Charlton

Because of the past

Editorial about how kids feel when their parents give them advice.

How many times have your parents or other adults thought that they know what you're going through because they were once your age? When I was your age...It isn't that we don't want advice or the wisdom from them, it's more of: don't assume you know or understand. C'mon adults, it's been a whole generation or two since you were in high school; you can't possibly believe that nothing has changed.

One of my pet-peeves is when one or both of my parents says that they know how it is to be a teenager; I know how you are; when I was that age this is how it went... Yeah, you knew when you were an actual teenager but it's different now.

We all know being this age isn't easy for many social and personal reasons. It certainly doesn't help if you feel like you have no one to talk to, and then when you try to talk to your parents and then that doesn't work because they are so set on telling you everything.

Bottom line – It's annoying when adults try to relate to us.

By Jessica Moore

K-4 sang the night away

The first vocal program of the year started off with a victorious bang towards the patriotic side of things. Monday the seventh, preschool through fourth grade participated in an hour long singing program devoted entirely to our veterans and the freedom America has.

The night started off with piano preludes performed by Tina B., Ellery M. and Allison K. These three girls each performed a song of their choice. Next, the fourth graders brought out their recorders and played four songs they've been practicing all year.

After the fourth graders finished, the preschool came out and performed three selections. Among those three, they added a new twist to the original Pledge of Allegiance. They stomped and waved flags as they chanted along. Then, the kindergarten and first graders stood up along with the preschool and finished off with one more song.

"I didn't have a favorite song. I liked them all. They were all my favorite songs and this was my favorite concert." Maverick Titus commented on his class' performance.

Full of even more American spirit, the kindergarten through fourth graders then stood up and performed two more songs. On "We Celebrate America," solos were sung by Raygan H., Tina B., and Emma T.

"I felt really excited before we performed, but after it was over I felt really relieved because I didn't have to do anything else." Third grader Haley M. stated on the concert.

Three more songs were sung, varied between different classes. Then the whole student body gathered back again to sing once more. This time, during "Put Your Hand on Your Heart," an ensemble was performed by Angie L., Ridge E., Cooper Z., Caydan P. and Abby D.

Throughout the night the students showed what it meant to be an American with their boosts of pride and their spirited songs of freedom. They showed what it meant to be proud of our Country.

Junior High News

By Liz Ballard

JH basketball fights onward

Starting out 2-1, the junior high girls' basketball team is "sharing the responsibility well", according to head coach Mallorie Ballard.

They started their season against Ingalls on Nov. 10 at home. They lost, 22-48. Seventh grader Janessa Zinger was the lead scorer with nine points.

But in the next game against St. John, they won at home. Seven team members scored in the 33-17 contest.

At a tough South Central on Friday, Nov. 18, the girls came out with a win, 29-23. They made nine of 12 free-throws, and eighth grader McKenzie Heft lead scorers with seven. They were able to hold the Timberwolves to five points in the first half.

"The team does not give up in terms of effort. They played through the final seconds of a 30 point deficit against Ingalls without losing motivation. It made me very proud. Now they are start-

ing to believe in their talent and trust their teammates," said Ballard.

Heft wishes her team was more consistent. "We do some good things in one game, and then don't do them in the next," she said.

The coaches are emphasizing patience in passing and ball handling in practice, and seeing options before playing impulsively. "We are trying to show them that slow play is smooth and smooth play is fast," she said.

On the boys' side, there have been a couple close games. Against Ingalls they lost 25-30, and then the St. John Tigers beat them 26-41.

But at South Central, the game went to the wire. The Timberwolves came out on top 22-23.

Eighth grader Aaron Heft sees his team playing good defense right now. "We held South Central to only 23 points," he pointed out.

Head coach Travis Powell is working on finishing easy shots and communication on defense now in practice. "We have been pretty resilient so far after losing a couple of tough games," he said. They are holding opponents to 31 points per game, but offensively scoring 24. "The defense needs to hold up and the offense needs to get better."

On Nov. 22 both teams traveled to Ashland, and then are home against the Pawnee Heights Tigers Dec. 8.

Photos by Corbin VandenHoek

Left: Eighth grader Blane Liggett looks down the floor to find a teammate, although the boys gave a valiant effort the night ended with the Tigers on top.

Top right: Eighth grader Jansen Miller shoots a freethrow to help give the Mavericks their first win of the season.

Bottom right: Landon Davis drives to the basket against a Tiger defender.



By Liz Ballard

Soil Conservation Poster Contest

Seventh and eighth graders in Kirk Miller's Science classes are making posters for the Kiowa County Conservation District's Soil Conservation Contest. They will be receiving a grade for them in his class.

Whether they enter them into the contest is left up to each student. Miller said, "I think this is an opportunity for the students to become aware of soil conservation and the agency and what they do for us in an agricultural community." According to Miller, "Soil to Spoon," this year's theme, really "fits us in Kansas well."

"I probably wasn't going to enter the contest again this year until Mr. Miller said he was going to give us a grade," said eighth grader Brylee Conrad. "But I like making post-

ers and it's something fun to do."

Seventh grader Mackenzie Kendall is a long time entrant in the contest. She said she's entering her poster again this year so she can try to win a place. She thinks the contest and assignment is a good thing because "they are trying to help the earth."

Winners will be announced at the annual awards and agency dinner meeting on Jan. 17. The posters are due for Miller around the first of Dec. The winner in the Grades 5-8 division will receive a \$50 savings bond from the KCCD, and it will be sent on to the State Poster Awards Program for judging.

New AR exemption

Junior High Principal Staci Derstein has brought back an Accelerated Reading Program incentive. Only this time it's when the student scores an Advanced or Exemplary rating on the Kansas Reading Assessment, the reading test given each year. Before the tornado, only those that scored Exemplary did not have to earn the required 40 points for the year, just 20. This exemption incentive started when the Kansas Assessments started.

"We have the AR requirement so they'll practice reading," said Derstein. "We started this incentive to motivate the students to give their best effort on the KRA. If you score Advanced or Exemplary you are a pretty good reader and less practice doesn't hinder you."

Last spring, 75 percent, or 15 out of 20, of this year's seventh graders and 55 percent, or 12 out of 22, of this year's eighth graders scored Advanced or Exemplary on the KRA.

A questionnaire was given to all the exempted seventh and eighth graders. Out of 27 respondents, 56 percent said their strategy for AR this year was to get done as fast as possible. Thirty percent said they are "reading along and taking tests." And 11 percent said they are reading AR but not taking tests yet. Three eighth graders are finished for the year and three have no points.

Seventh grader Jenner Little said, "I'm reading as fast as possible so I can get it done and read books for fun."

His classmate Josh Cannon doesn't want to be worried about AR, so he's getting it done now.

Eighth grader Jansen Miller is finishing soon "because there's testing at the end of school and it's easier to get it

done and over with."

The questionnaire asked why they choose the books they do. "The books with the most points," is why eighth grader Cody Kibel picks his.

Eighth grader Brylee Conrad likes to read suspense novels and classmate Sammy Cervantes mystery and adventure. Miller said, "I choose a variety of books because I don't like the same thing."

"I want to be a police officer, so I like to read mysteries," said seventh grader Tierra West. Her classmate William Enfield said mythology interests him.

Seventy-seven percent read series of books. Some of them include *Twilight* by Stephanie Meyers and the *Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins. Several students have read all the books in a series.

Cervantes said, "In Dodge City where I came from, you only had to read for AR through the sixth grade. Last year as a seventh grader I read anyway, and bigger books because I didn't have to get points. This year with this requirement, I'm reading smaller to medium-sized books."

Students are given the AR Starr Test each fall, which measures their appropriate grade reading level range. The seventh grade's reading zones range from grades 3.7-12.9. The eighth grade's zones range from 2.8-12.9.

Eighth grader Erik Torres said, "The chance to not have to read for as many AR points makes me work harder in class."

By Liz Ballard

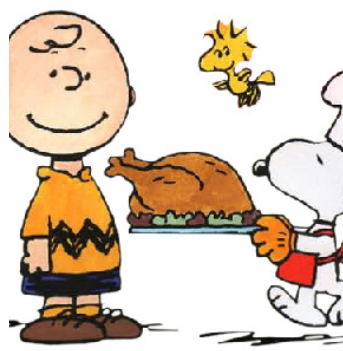
5-8 Band/ vocal concert

Junior high band and choir students are rehearsing for their holiday concerts. The choir and seventh grade band students will have their concert on Monday, Dec. 12 at 7:00. The eighth graders in the high school band will perform on Monday, Dec. 19 at 7:00.

Choir Instructor Amber Campbell will be directing a 1950's musical "Jingle Bell Jukebox," with costuming and some speaking parts. They are accompanied by Heather Rogers.

Both band concerts are Christmas music. Band Instructor Tim Rogers said for the seventh graders "Our goal is to play our music well." They will be playing several pieces in different styles. Our most challenging piece is called 'Bobsled Run.'"

There are 13 eighth graders in the high school band.



If you would like a hard copy of this issue, please notify Mrs. Stevens at kstevens@usd422.org