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710 South Main

Greensburg, KS 67054

By Jimmy Hoyt

## One Act Play Captures Audience

**O**n Dec. 1, the Kiowa County Drama & Forensics class, helmed by drama teacher Kim McMurry performed *Cricket County Academy* by Eddie McPherson.

The play's narrative revolves around a stereotypically "hillbilly" clan called the Taylors. The Taylors' elder, Elkin (played by junior Cody McVey), inherits a large source of income from his late uncle Zeke and decides to enroll all of his relatives in the prestigious Gold Leaf Academy. The Taylors have trouble fitting into the school at first, getting into various shenanigans during their first few days of school.

Much of the cast from last year's play, *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon*, did not return, leaving only three veterans of McMurry's class, who were senior Laina McMurry, juniors Cody McVey and Kadie Larsh. The cast had a total of eleven students, most of which had little to no experience in stage productions. Sophomore Lillian Hinshaw was an exception, as she had experience from grade school stage productions in her previous home of Sacramento, California.

"I didn't realize how much I missed acting until I got up on stage again," said Hinshaw. Hinshaw, whose last acting experience was a lead role in her sixth grade production of "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown," played the part of Mrs. Ward, the titular academy's eccentric drama teacher. Her role proved to be a crowd favorite. "I was channeling Ms. Darbus from "High School Musical", but I always have to add a little bit of Lillian into everything."

"The problem wasn't experience or cast size, because I knew the class had talent and they exceeded what I had hoped for them," McMurry said about the process of making the production. "The main problem was overcoming the small size of the theatre that I'd like to thank the city of Mullinville for letting us use."

The KCHS drama class will perform the play again for the KSHAA Forensics One Act Play contest in Bucklin in early April.



Photos by Jimmy Hoyt

Far Left: Junior Cathrine Kibel as Miss Langley, pressures Lillian Hinshaw as Miss Ward into treating the Taylor kids specially.

Middle: Sophomore Payton Miller as Michael gives some reassuring advice to sophomore John Colclazier as Zack.

Left: Junior Cody McVey as Elkin Taylor watches a drama class as they are practicing.

By Creighton McDonald

## Outside the Classroom

### Book Fair

Starting on Dec. 5 and ending on Dec. 8 the Kiowa County Schools Media Center sponsored a Book Fair for all students and families. During this time students could go into the library and buy books and some school accessories. Overall the book fair was a success. The library was able to get new books and the sells were excellent.

### Stuco Candy Cane Sell

The Kiowa County Student Council sold Candy Canes to earn money to purchase a gift for one of the children on the Angel Tree. Candy Canes could be purchased for \$1.00 or flavored for \$1.50, and delivered by a Stuco member to a special someone. The organization raised over \$100, and was able to purchase five gifts for two children.

### Christmas Break

The school's Christmas break starts on Dec. 21, for students and Dec. 22 for staff. The teachers will have their first work day on Jan. 2 with students returning on Jan. 3. Between then students will spend time with family and friends.

### Basketball Practice

The basketball practice schedule for Christmas break is as follows:

#### Thursday, Dec. 29

9:00-11:00 JH girls

9:00-11:00 JH boys

#### Friday, Dec. 30

8:00-10:00 JH boys

8:00-10:00 JH girls

10:00-12:00 HS girls

10:00-12:00 HS boys

#### Saturday, Dec. 31

10:00-12:00 HS girls

12:00-2:00 HS boys

#### Monday, Jan. 2

JH 3:15-4:30

HS 4:30-6:30

### FCA Soup Supper

The FCA students had a soup supper on Dec. 4 to raise money for the FCA's various activities and also to purchase a gift for one of the angels on the angel tree.

# What is your favorite family Christmas Tradition?

*Trudi Greig*



**"We go to Papamoa Beach on Christmas and swim."**

*Mrs. Breeden*



**"I always put out my nutcracker collection. When we open gifts, we go around in a circle and everyone opens one at a time so that everyone sees what everyone receives."**

*Taylor Amerine*



**"We make ornaments and put them on the tree."**

*Jasmine Williams*



**"We have different kinds of fondue on Christmas Eve."**



**By Cathrine Keibel**

## Christmas Word Search

S	T	O	C	K	I	N	G	R	C	A	G	J	L	W
L	P	W	T	I	N	S	E	L	H	I	O	O	C	R
F	L	O	D	U	R	E	S	A	R	R	N	L	E	V
Y	L	L	O	H	D	W	U	C	I	G	G	L	K	B
X	W	G	H	N	E	F	L	F	S	C	G	Y	T	B
C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	T	R	E	E	V	C
F	S	E	E	N	E	S	B	V	M	Q	K	G	A	S
A	R	N	K	A	G	I	T	G	A	D	D	N	Z	T
M	T	B	O	A	T	E	Y	H	S	C	D	I	C	F
I	H	N	E	W	L	H	R	M	G	Y	V	L	O	I
L	Q	H	A	L	M	F	Y	B	C	I	K	O	O	G
Y	A	U	O	S	L	A	W	A	R	K	L	R	K	A
R	E	T	N	I	W	S	N	O	E	E	S	A	I	M
E	L	V	E	S	K	E	Q	W	N	K	A	C	E	Q
E	O	T	E	L	T	S	I	M	G	S	I	D	S	I

BELLS  
CAROLING  
CHRISTMASTREE  
EGGNOG  
FAMILY  
GINGERBREAD  
JOLLY  
MISTLETOE  
RUDOLF  
SNOWFLAKE  
STOCKING  
WINTER

CANDYCANE  
CHRISTMAS  
COOKIES  
ELVES  
GIFTS  
HOLLY  
LIGHTS  
REINDEER  
SANTA  
SNOWMAN  
TINSEL  
WREATH

LESBL

CYENACDAN

CIRGANLO

SIRCHSAMT

RSTAHIRMECEST

SOCIKOE

NEGGOG

LESEV

FYAMIL

SITFG

DENRERGIBAG

LOLHY

LYJLO

SILTHG

TEIMOTELS

REDENIER

RUFLOD

SAANT

SENKOWLAF

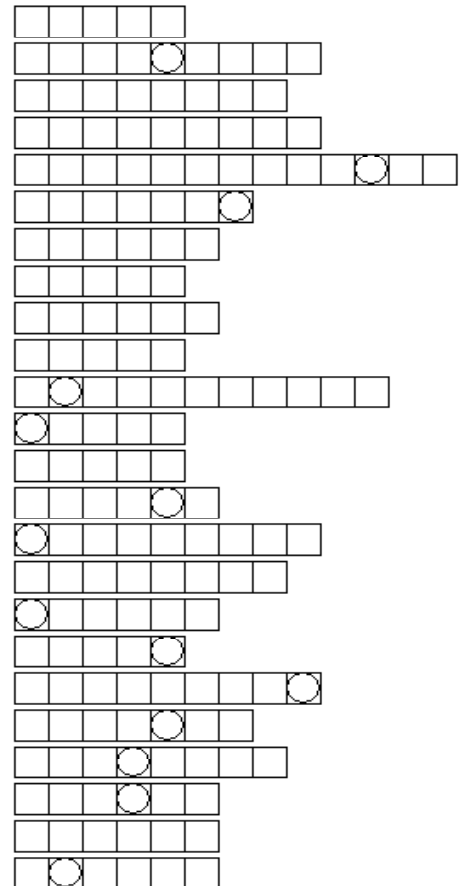
SOAWNMN

NOKIGTCS

TESLIN

TIRWEN

HEWRAT



Unscramble each of the clue words.

Take the letters that appear in boxes and unscramble them for the final message.

Unscramble each of the clue words.

Take the letters that appear in boxes and unscramble them for the final message.

By Heidee Prosser

## Dear Santa

Despite the awful rumors going around that Santa is not real, the students and staff of KCHS know the truth and haven't stopped believing in him. They took the time to write down all their Christmas wants and wishes to help Santa out, and these are only a few of them that were all sent off to the North Pole.

For Christmas, I would like a zebra-print Centaur with machine gun turrets on his sides. He also should have a bow with explosive tip arrows.

Love, Trever

Dear Santa,  
All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth... to be uncovered by these annoying braces. Also, a little bacon would be nice.

Love, Montana

Dear Santa,  
I want some new video games! Also a new skateboard, an iPad 2, a toy train, and a remote control monster truck.

Love, Justin

For Christmas, I would like an iPod touch, an iPad, to have my brother (Vince) home, money and candy (or puppy chow).

Love, Sammy

Dear Santa,  
I want a new carburetor for my Barbie Jeep, a square foot of Ireland, Pink Flamingo lawn ornaments, a Burger King Crown, oh yeah and a 40-watt light bulb. Also, one tall glass of whole milk... wait... a pad of post it notes, the Hubble Telescope, back stage pass to HANNAH MONTANA... AKA Miley Cyrus. A patch for my spare bike tube, a gold egg... ostrich... a Japanese pillow pet, and one... no two packages of Grandma's Cookies (chocolate chip). Oh yeah, my own river full of fresh salmon or rainbow trout that are 20 pounds plus. I would also like the 2010 December Issue of Maverick Monthly, two pairs of Night Vision Goggles (used in the army), and a bid towards an auction of my choosing. Also, I want a baby reindeer, preferably one of yours. And last but not least, a new tube of toothpaste. But I also want a Cherokee tipi, one with the Chinese writing on it that the Indians used. One more idea is to meet Donald Trump. Also, a turkey farm, and 24 acres of Yellowstone National Park or of the Grand Canyon and I would like a Suzie Talks A Lot, and a box of Elmer's Glue, and a large 20 ft deep swimming pool. Also, a great white shark to put in my pool, and last but not least, socks.

Love, Kendall Watson

Dear Santa,  
I would like to receive the whole Twilight Series, the boots with the fur, and a nice warm coat. Also, I would like a basketball goal and a service dog that can help my older brother with the disabilities he has.

Love, Shelby

Dear Santa, I would like money for my kindle, the new Jack and Jill movie and the new Zoo-keeper movie.

Love, Mari

Dear Santa, for Christmas I would like a pony, since I never get one whenever I put it on the grocery list. Love, Tucker

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas all I want is to witness a miracle!

Love, Mariah

Dear Santa,  
I would enjoy a nice jar of Nutella. And a spoon... to eat the Nutella with. Also, clothes are good. I like clothes. Oh and dear Santa, tell Tucker to get me a Forever Lazy. Preferably pink. As far as clothes go... check my Pinterest. Cookies... I like cookies. (Especially ones made with Nutella). Music... Justin Bieber. He's a great guy. Annddd... a new car. A nice one. A cute one. And one that gets good gas mileage. Also, I would enjoy a boyfriend that would buy and name a star after me.

Love, Lillian

For Christmas I would like money, World Peace, a baby pig, free Wendy's, a llama, I'd like to meet Santa Claus, a snipe named Kevin, a car, a pony, a train, my own personal McDonald's, dancing skills, glowing contacts, a computer, a new iPod, a tomato, a candy cane, the Disney Princess Castle :), the Transformers Optimus Prime and some chili.

Love, Heather

Dear Santa,  
I want all of my family to "make it home safe and sound" so we can celebrate Christmas together. I also want a horse "that is broke" and a pair of black cowboy boots. (My chances of getting either one of these two are pretty slim!)

Love, Sherrie

## 10 Most Commonly Broken New Year's Resolutions

1. Get fit and lose weight  
I know we've all thought about that one...

2. Quit smoking  
This was actually quite surprising for me.

3. Learn something new  
pretty sure you learn something new every day.

4. Eating healthy and going on a diet  
hahaha, yeah. Right.

5. Getting out of debt and saving money  
Good thought, harder to do

6. Spend more time with family  
FAMILY TIME!!

7. Travel to new places  
Always sounds fun, but is it really ever gonna happen??

8. Be less stressed  
Probably the hardest one to actually accomplish.

9. Volunteer  
When do we have time to volunteer?!?

10. Drink less  
Shouldn't have to worry about that one anyway..

By Audrey Wheeler

Dear Santa,

For Christmas I would like a unicorn. If that isn't possible, then a unicorn pillow pet. I would also like a One-Z (It's pretty much a footie pajama). An "Easy" button for when life gets difficult would be great. I would also like a Flying Carpet, an Invisibility Cloak, and some Amnesia Dust. I would appreciate it if you didn't eat the cookies I have set out and drink all of the milk. And don't dent the roof of my house this time, please. (Tell the reindeer to calm it down a bit and don't give them so much hay!) Have fun delivering and thank you!

Love, Denisse

Dear Santa

For Christmas I would like for Hommer to come home, money, a platypus, an alpaca, to be taller, a swimming pool filled with Jell-O, Green Day tickets, to live in a pineapple under the sea, a snipe, a car, a UFO, a maverick mascot costume, a really bouncy bouncy ball, cheese powers, glowing contacts, Mermaid Man and Barnacle Boy BFF rings. Also an iPad, the Fairly Odd Parents, a tomato and Taylor Keller.

Love, Emily

Dear Santa,

For Christmas I would love to have a pet hippo! But I understand that they are quite heavy, so my second option would be a pillow pet hippo. OH! If by chance you just happen to come across a plane ticket to Italy, I would be more than happy to have that end up in my stocking! :) I just want to eat their food though. Which leads me to my last wish... a big, big fridge, so I can put lots of food in there and never go hungry.

Love, Tosha! :) P.S. Please and thank you!

Dear Santa

For Christmas, I would like a NERF gun and bullets, Billy Currington... hehe. :) Also, a plink pony, lots of pink fluffy dresses, a house with a pink, sparkly fence, a baby moose, a pink truck, a German Sheppard puppy and a lifetime supply of Red Bug Juice. :)

Love, Remington



## Lakin's Christmas Survey



- 1.) How many wise men came to see baby Jesus? 86% of the students got this correct.
  - a.) Two—1%
  - b.) Three—86%
  - c.) Four—7%
  - d.) Don't know—6%
- 2.) What did Mary ride into Bethlehem? 87% of students got this correct.
  - a.) One horse open sleigh—4%
  - b.) Donkey—87%
  - c.) Young colt—1%
  - d.) Don't know—8%
- 3.) What were the "good tidings of great joy?" 35% of students got this correct.
  - a.) Peace on earth, goodwill to men—54%
  - b.) All the world must be taxed—3%
  - c.) In the city of David a savior is born—35%
  - d.) We have seen his star in the east—8%
- 4.) What most represents the meaning of Christmas? 43% of students got this correct.
  - a.) No room in the inn—3%
  - b.) The name "Immanuel"—43%
  - c.) 'Tis the season to be jolly—22%
  - d.) The worship and gifts of wise men—32%
- 5.) What is the meaning of the word "Immanuel?" 57% of students got this correct.
  - a.) God with us—57%
  - b.) Peace to the world—7%
  - c.) Holy child—25%
  - d.) No one knows—11%
- 6.) What was the primary reason that God became a man? 21% of students got this correct.
  - a.) To make the world a better place—24%
  - b.) To die—21%
  - c.) To heal and teach people—52%
  - d.) To get gold, frankincense, and myrrh—3%

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am Chief." — Paul (1 Timothy 1:15)

GOOD JOB AMANDA KOEHN  
GETTING ALL THE QUESTIONS CORRECT!



# Maverick Nation Sports

By Kayleen Stevens

## Mavericks trying to find rhythm



Photo by Jimmy Hoyt

Top: Junior post Rustin Ardery goes up for a shot over two Cunningham defenders.

The 2011-12 basketball season started off with a home game against the Cunningham Wildcats. With 24 players on the men's basketball team, they were able to play a "C" game to get the year going. With quick hands and good teamwork the Mavericks were able to take the game, starting the night right. The beginning of the junior varsity game was a little shaky as the team went into the locker room trailing by a large margin. However, because the Wildcats needed to conserve quarters for their varsity players the

second half was played mostly by their junior varsity team who had played in the "C" game. The Mavericks were able to overcome their huge deficit and took the second game of the night from the Wildcats. The Maverick varsity team continued the winning streak, defeating the varsity Wildcats by a score of 69-58. Leading the team in scoring was junior Rustin Ardery with 23 points. Juniors Caleb Davis and Damien Odle followed with 14 and 12 points respectively. Odle led the team in total rebounds with seven, Davis had eight steals on the night and junior David Perez helped his team out with three assists.

Heading off to Larned, the Mavericks faced the Hoisington Cardinals in the first round of action at the Keady Classic. Hoisington used their two big men well against the Mavericks. KCHS couldn't keep the ball out of the hands of junior Cody Stetler, 6'8", who shot inside and senior Derrick Kaiser, 6'5", who shot outside, as the two com-

bined for 42 of the Cardinals 60 points. Ardery continued to score in double digits for the Mavericks putting in 11 of the 25 points for the night, junior Kendall Watson added seven to the effort. Leading rebounding was shared by senior Montana Ralstin and Ardery, both having four a piece. Odle gave two assists to his teammates and Perez, Davis and Ardery each had one steal.

"They are a good team, their big guy was hard to stop once he got the ball inside, and their other big guy shot from the outside. We also didn't play as well as we should have," commented Ardery.

Coming into the second game of the tournament with a record of 1-1, the Mavericks took on the Otis-Bison Cougars. Needing to bounce back after their loss on Tuesday, the guys rallied to outscore the Cougars by a score of 35-31. Outscoring the Cougars in the first quarter by four points, which was the deciding quarter in the game, the Mavericks battled the rest of the night. Fighting off the attempts made by the Cougars to decrease the four point difference, the Mavericks held on to win, giving them the chance to play for fifth place in the tournament. Davis was high man for the night with 17 points, followed by Watson with six. Leading the team in rebounds was Odle with eight, Davis had four steals and Ralstin and Odle both contributed to the night with three assists each.

Saturday, Dec. 9, found the Mavericks facing off against the Coyotes of Kinsley. Odle led the Mavericks in scoring with 16, followed by Davis with nine. With only four guys scoring, the Mavericks added another loss to the record. The night ended with a score of 35-39. Odle had a double-double for the night bringing down 11 rebounds, Watson had two steals and Davis contributed with three assists on the night.

Continued on pg. 6



Photos by Jimmy Hoyt

Left: Junior guard Tucker McKinney fires off a pass across the court.

Right: Junior guard Caleb Davis takes an opportunity to get a shot off from the three point line.

# Lady Mavs keep pressing on

By Heidee Prosser and Lillian Hinshaw



Photos by Jimmy Hoyt

Left: Junior Halie Headrick gets in close and takes a shot over a Cunningham player's head.

As the 2011-12 season progresses, the Lady Mavericks work hard to improve both offensively and defensively. Randy VandenHoek is the team's head coach, and he is assisted by Staci Derstein.

On Dec. 2, the Mavericks played on their home court against Cunningham. Finishing the first half trailing 13-20, the Mavericks knew they were going to have to step up their game. Even though they outscored

the Wildcats in the second half, it wasn't enough to win the game, and the final score was 28-33.

The following week, the team traveled to Larned for a non-league tournament. Their first game was against Hoisington on Tuesday, Dec. 6. Although the Mavericks put up a good fight, the Cougars still managed to pull through, winning 34-45. During this game, Kiowa County's lead scorer was junior Halie Headrick, who finished the game with 12 points.

Headrick commented on the team. "We just need to improve because we're young. We need to get used to how everyone plays. Everything will come in time."



Photos by Jimmy Hoyt

Far Left: Sophomore Heather Melton tries to take the ball above several Cunningham defenders under the hoop.

Left: Sophomore Katelynn Gamble takes the ball down the court past two Cunningham defenders.

Later that week on Thursday, Dec. 8, the team traveled back to Larned to play the home team, Larned Indians. They finished the first half a few points behind, 15-20, but came back ready to fight. Although they did not come home with a win, they did outscore the Indians in the second half and finished the game 35-39. Coming home with another loss, the Mavericks were looking forward to Saturday to redeem themselves.

Saturday, Dec. 10, KC faced Macksville for seventh place. They finished the game 58-40, and got the win they had been wanting. Sophomore Riann Heft scored the most points out of the Mavs in their game, with 13 points.

Being a sophomore, Heft commented on what it is like to have to step up and be a starter. "It's quite a bit of pressure, but I love basketball so I'm glad to be in the position."

Tuesday, Dec. 13, Kiowa County traveled to Coldwater to play South Central. They finished the first half behind, 16-35, and couldn't catch up by the end of the game, which finished at 25-60. Despite the loss, there were still many highlights of the game, including sophomore Dena Liggett being the team's lead scorer, with eight points.

Later that week, on Friday Dec. 16, the Lady Mavs travelled to Macksville hoping to come out with a win against them again.

Senior Kimberlyn Hayes and Sophomore Heather Melton each had a total of eight rebounds that night. Halie Headrick led the team in steals with a total of five. Heft and Liggett each had one assist. Liggett also scored the most points with a total of 13.

The scheduled home game on Tuesday, Dec. 20 was cancelled due to weather.

Mens Basketball Continued from pg. 5

Starting their league contests the Mavericks traveled to South Central, Coldwater, on Dec. 13 to face the Timberwolves on their home court. Knowing that Clay Jarnigan, senior guard for the Timberwolves, would be the man on the outside to watch and keep under wraps. Perez had the assignment of staying with Jarnigan, hoping his quick hands would cause problems for the Timberwolves.

"He was tough to stay with, every time I had him stopped he would make a great pass or pull up and make a quick shot," stated Perez. "His play is definitely a level above. We came out flat and never really got into the rhythm of the game."

The Mavericks came away with a 38-59 loss, putting their record at 2-2. The junior varsity squad also went home with a loss.

Friday, Dec. 16, the teams traveled to Macksville to take on the Mustangs in a non-league battle. Ralstin led the Mavericks with 11 points, sophomore Trever Powell and Davis add two assists each and Ardery brought down seven rebounds. Although the team worked hard their efforts came up short, ending the night with a 39-68 loss.

The Mavericks next game, which was scheduled for Dec. 20 against Fairfield was post-poned due to inclement weather. It is rescheduled for Saturday, Feb. 11.

# Life inside...KC High

By Dottie Housworth

## Senior Spotlight



**What would you do for a Klondike bar?**

"I would punch Kahl."

**Favorite Christmas song:**

"Jingle Bombs"

**What does it mean to be a Maverick?**

"A wild, untamed beast."

**Favorite 2011 movie:**

"Captain America and Thor"

**What sport should our school have?**

"Hockey, because hockey is pretty much football on ice and you can fight. And Kahl would have my back in a fight."

Colter Brown



**Who is your hero?**

"My mommy and superman!"

**What would you do for a Klondike bar?**

"I don't like Klondike bars, but I'd probably wrestle a panda bear just for fun."

**Favorite Christmas song:**

"Santa Baby or His Favorite Christmas Story."

**Where is one place you want to go?**

"Maine, because it seems really pretty. There are a lot of lighthouses and history."

**What sport should our school have?**

"Swimming, because it would give us an excuse to have an indoor pool."

Laina McMurry



**Who is your hero?**

"Chris Ledoux"

**What would you do for a Klondike bar?**

"Saddle break a cow."

**What would you have done differently this semester?**

"Kept up on my homework."

**Where is one place you want to go?**

"Las Vegas, NFR"

**What sport should our school have?**

"Rodeo"

Roy Lothman

By Laina McMurry

## Student of the Month- Rustin Ardery



**Q. What was your favorite hunting experience?**

**A.** The first deer I shot, even though it was a bad one, it was my first one.

**Q. What kind of game do you hunt?**

**A.** Deer, pheasant and quail.

**Q. How long have you been hunting?**

**A.** I started pheasant hunting in third grade and deer in fifth grade.

**Q. What was the first animal you shot?**

**A.** I shot a little tweety bird with my BB gun.

**Q. If you could hunt any animal in the world what would it be?**

**A.** A moose or a grizzly bear, probably a moose though.

**Q. How many points was your buck this year?**

**A.** Ten.



# What really goes on in our classrooms

By Mariah Charlton

- Ms. Richard's Art classes are still working with clay and using the wheel. Students are finishing up their projects before semester ends.

"I love Ms. Richard's music, and I also like painting my projects," stated freshman Skylar Odle about what she enjoys most about art.

- English 2 has recently started studying and writing poetry.

"I think it's fun and easy. My favorite is to make sonnets," stated Emily Sarber, sophomore, about English poetry.

A sonnet is a lyric poem of fourteen lines made up of three quatrains followed by a couplet. The sonnet must follow a special pattern.

- The English 4 class is studying Medieval History such as King Arthur.

- The vocal class is working on five Christmas songs and getting ready for the Christmas program on the 19.

Sophomore Patricia Torres stated, "My favorite thing about vocal is that we can express ourselves freely. We can all sing and no one will judge us."



Photo by Kayleen Stevens

Santa and his helpers (a.k.a alumni Clint Scott, Cody Headrick and Thomoas Derstein) helped the kitchen staff hand out lunch to all the students on Monday before Christmas break.

## Ugly Sweater Contest!!

Photos by Kayleen Stevens

The "Ugly Christmas Sweater" winners were Katelynn Gamble, Riann Heft, Trever Powell and Lymon Morehead.

Students and staff joined in the spirit of Christmas wearing either an ugly or pretty Christmas sweater.



## How to... Make Puppy Chow

1. Find the ingredients to make the chow. Peanut butter, chocolate chips, powder sugar, vanilla, butter and Crispix cereal.
2. Combine the peanut butter, chocolate chips, and butter together in a bowl.
3. Put the bowl in the microwave and heat it for one and a half minutes. Add the vanilla and stir the ingredients.
4. Put the cereal in a different bowl.
5. Pour the peanut butter, chocolate, butter and vanilla mix over the cereal.
6. Put the powdered sugar in a zip-lock sack.
7. Put the covered cereal into the sack with the powdered sugar.
8. Shake the sack intensely, covering all the cereal.
9. If you are planning on sharing the bag, put the puppy chow into a large bowl.
10. If you would like to add any other sweets or candies, you can also place them in the bowl and shake it again.
11. Find a friend and share the bowl.

By Corbin VandenHoek



# Do you know who's teaching you everyday??

By Rachel Schmidt

## Student Guesses



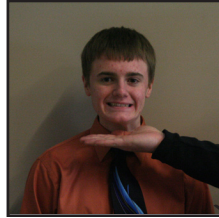
Cole Rendall

1. Red
2. Volleyball
3. Reading
4. Garden City CC
5. 1



Charity Schmidt

1. Red
2. Basketball
3. Reading
4. FHSU
5. 1



Tucker McRimm

1. Blue
2. Volleyball
3. Reading
4. K-State
5. 1



Shannon Hall

1. Blue
2. Basketball
3. Reading
4. K-State
5. 2



Mrs. Staats

## Answers

1. Blue
2. Figure skating
3. Reading
4. FHSU
5. 1

By Corbin VandenHoek

## Scholars Bowl

Throughout the month of November the Scholars' Bowl team traveled around the league, taking on other teams to answer some very random and unusual questions. The questions are from a variety of categories such as Fine Arts, Social Science, Year in Review, Miscellaneous, Math, Science, Foreign Language and Language Arts.

On Nov 3 the junior varsity team traveled to South Central. They won three out of eight rounds, and afterwards they headed to Dave's Pizza in Coldwater. Nov 8 brought the next challenge to the team. Mrs. Case, the Scholars Bowl coach, took the varsity and the JV teams both to Fowler. This meet brought some trouble to the teams, with varsity losing all ten rounds, and JV winning only one round.

The varsity competed on Nov 15 and 17. On the 15

they went to South Gray, where they played nine rounds, winning three. On the 17 at Hodgeman County, the varsity played ten rounds. Again, they won three rounds. The JV was up next. Traveling to Minneola on Nov 21 where they played nine rounds, winning two.

On Nov 30, both teams and traveled to Pawnee Heights, where they each played nine rounds. Varsity won four of their rounds, and JV won three.

Dec 7 was a great day for the varsity team. Both teams traveled to Bucklin. JV played ten rounds, winning only three. Varsity, on the other hand, won 11 of their 13 rounds, coming in second place.

The Scholars' Bowl season is nearly over. The varsity has three more meets: a meet at Kiowa County, League, at Ashland, and Regionals.

Photo by Jimmy Hoyt

Santa and his helpers delivered Candy Canes to those "good little boys and girls" who received treats from someone special. The KCHS Student Council used the Candy Canes as a money making project to help out children in the community who may not receive a Christmas present this year.



## American Soldiers Come Home

By Jimmy Hoyt

After eight years, 270 days, and over 4,476 American lives lost, the Iraq War is over.

On Dec. 15, a flag-lowering ceremony was held in the Iraqi capital city of Baghdad, with the flag of the American military command being lowered as the last of the American forces left the country.

Iraq has come a long way since March 20, 2003, when the U.S. invaded the country while it was still being ruled by the late genocidal dictator Saddam Hussein, with a mission to find Hussein's "weapons of mass destruction". Although said

WMDs were never found, Hussein was ousted from power and a new government was installed. After a bloody period between the invasion and the troop "surge" of 2007, the beleaguered Middle-Eastern nation finally caught a break and started to rebuild itself under the watchful eye of the Coalition militaries.

With the U.S. military gone, it remains to be seen if the American-trained Iraqi Army and police forces can keep the country on a steady path and escape from its history of violence. In the meantime, America still has a fight on its hands in Afghanistan.

By Audrey Wheeler

## Words from the Editor



What's the real meaning of Christmas?? Some will say that it's about celebrating Jesus' birth while others will say that it is about getting loads of awesome gifts and getting to miss school. I think that it is a mixture of things. Christmas is when we recognize Jesus' birth; when he came as a human child down to earth in order to spread the word of God and ultimately, die for people's sins. Because my family is Christian, we read the nativity story every Christmas morning before we dig into our presents. So besides celebrating the birth I also think that Christmas is a great time and opportunity to just hang out and goof around with family. For me, we all go to Wichita and get the whole family together all under one roof, which luckily only happens a few times of the year, because everyone knows that you love 'em, but family can be a little hectic sometimes!

In addition to celebrating Jesus' birth and having some family bonding time, I also think that Christmas is a time to just relax and take a break from life's ongoing cycle of business. I personally take a yearly vow to stay in my pajamas, never put make-up on and eat whatever I want for a least a few days over break. We need it!

I remember when I was a child and I looked forward to the presents and everything, but now that I'm older I pretty much just ask for money and get excited about being around my family and sleeping in until noon. So whatever Christmas break means to you, just make sure to enjoy it because it will fly by and soon we will be back in the old swing of things.

By Jessica Moore

## What is Christmas?

When most people think of Christmas, they think of snow on the ground, lights on the house and presents under the tree. I used to think the exact same thing, sometimes I still do. After thinking for awhile, I realized that in a way, it's a variety of holidays wrapped into one package, topped with a pretty little bow. At first, that thought seemed crazy but the more I thought about it the more it began to make sense.

Don't get me wrong, I love Christmas. I'd be a complete liar to say anything else. I'm a teenager. I appreciate the break from school and the presents are always icing on the cake. In fact, I don't know if I've ever met anybody who was a "Scrooge" about Christmas. I personally don't think it's possible. There's too much spirit circling around us all.

Christmas has always been looked upon as one of our biggest holidays, at least it seems that way to me. However, if you really think about it, Christmas is a holiday that combines different aspects of every other holiday we celebrate. I'm not saying that Christmas is a spin-off of those or that they're a spin-off of it. It's just that they're all incorporated into each other in some way.

Comparing them, Thanksgiving and Christmas both have the huge feast where family is gathered around, catching up and making jokes about the good 'ole days. New Years has the parties and the friends. Halloween pulls off the costume and decorations effect. Even though Santa and his elves aren't high on the list of costumes for this holiday, if a kid wanted to be one of those, it would be their choice. I've found out that Christmas is alot about your loved ones, and there's Valentine's Day for that. Then there are presents, which we don't get on most of the other holidays, but each of us do have a birthday.

After reading those thoughts, one might think that

Christmas wasn't quite as special as everyone has always thought, but that can't be true. Thinking about it later, I came up with an entirely different conclusion. Christmas is different from all the other holidays we go though, no matter what characteristics it has in common with any other celebration we have.

Christmas is the one holiday that hasn't changed over time. In my opinion, it stays completely true to its name. We've all heard the saying, "Giving is better than receiving," and I think in this holiday that's something everybody can show.

Editorial Cartoon by Creighton McDonald



This Christmas, at the top of a lot of peoples' Christmas lists are video games.

Video games: the mere mention of those two words makes girls (and adults over 30) think of sweaty 300 pound acne-ridden *World of Warcraft* nerds in their mother's basement who are afraid of the sun. For young men, video games are just another way to pass the time with your friends.

Just like TV, music and movies, video games have become a staple in our modern culture. In fact, the first-person shooter *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3* smashed all entertainment release records in history upon its release. If that's not mainstream, I don't know what is.

I heard a girl say this the other day: "I don't see what's so fun about running around with guns and shooting each other!" I don't see what isn't fun about that. Video games allow you to escape into another reality, and make it fun at the same time. Being able to pit your skills against your friends online is always fun, too. Horrible, awful things like war, zombie apocalypses, and kart racing get turned into fun contests emphasizing teamwork and skill (or in the case of *Mario Kart*, just how much you hate your friends).

Instead of being boring old Jimmy Hoyt, I'm JimboSlice7K (my Xbox Live username), a soldier who flies jets, drives tanks and mows down Russians in *Battlefield 3*. In *Mass Effect*, I'm saving the galaxy as Commander Shepard, a heroic space marine. In *Wii Sports* I'm viciously pounding my step-brother Alan's face to a pulp in boxing. In *Fallout: New Vegas*, I'm an adventurer in a post-apocalyptic wasteland. I think a tagline from a *Call of Duty: Black Ops* commercial summed it up best: "There's a soldier in everyone."

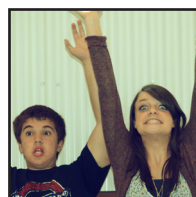
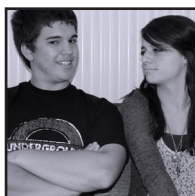
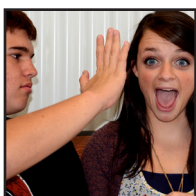
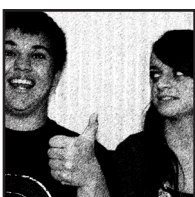
Video gaming isn't just a thing for sweaty nerds with no life. It's a way of escaping from our humdrum ordinary lives to become a different person in a different world, and as a way of having fun with our friends even when they aren't around. A lot more people play video games than you think. Girls and old people think that only children and losers play video games, but that's just a false generalization. Video gaming is as much a part of our culture as TV and music, and it'll probably stay that way, ladies. Get used to it and stop complaining about your boyfriend ignoring you every time a new *Call of Duty* comes out. Who knows, maybe if you pick up the controller for a change, you'll have fun with it too.

Video games these days are amazing. Have you seen the graphics on some of them? You can practically see sweat running down people's foreheads as you maneuver a character through a battle field. But what is it that makes video games so great? Is it the violence? The imagination? Or are guys simply intrigued by being able to be in complete control yet completely lazy...all at the same time.

Sure, video games are pretty technologically advanced. Sure, video games are well thought out and made with intense tactful precision. But, as you sit there and move your thumbs in a circular motion, you're not only killing off imaginary creatures and inhuman-like male figures but you're also killing off brain cells. I don't know about you, but to me, that sounds like a blast! Hah. Why yes, I would be just delighted to sit on the couch and viciously rip a guy apart, limb by limb. Just kidding... I have better things to do. Oh and no, I will not make you a sandwich while you beat the next level of *Modern Warfare 3*.

Now guys, you may be asking, "What else could I possibly do with my life?" Hmmm.. let's see. You can go exercise, you can learn an instrument, read a book, do your homework, take a hike...off a cliff. Even better, you can make ME a sandwich. I like sandwiches.

In all seriousness, there are so many ways to spend your time that would be a lot more productive than playing video games...like a boss. So while you "men" are at home eating junk food and blowing up imaginary stuff, us ladies will be going out and becoming successful. There will come a day when your success in video games will ultimately add up to a whole lotta nothing. But in the meantime, bask in your laziness, men. Us ladies appreciate the opportunity to exceed in the real world.





# Junior High News

By Liz Ballard

## JH Basketball

Half way through the season, the junior high girls' basketball team is 3-2. With a Thanksgiving break in the middle of the last two games, they went won one and lost one.

At Ashland Nov. 22, they lost 28-11. Turnovers were a problem, according to head coach Mallorie Ballard. They made double the turnovers to their points. Eighth graders McKenzie Heft and Jansen Miller had 7 and 4 points, respectively.

But home Dec. 8 against the Pawnee Heights Tigers, they won 32-9. Seven players scored and seventh grader Janessa Zenger led with 10 points. "We were able to control the pace of the game, converting quickly after full court pressure and also slowing down to half court offensive sets. Our girls gained confidence by applying new ideas in a low stress game. We should be in a better place to use those ideas against a quicker South Gray team (on Dec. 15)."

Miller said, "St. John (first game) was our toughest opponent so far because they pressed us and we weren't ready. Guess we had to get our first game jitters out." She cites ball handling and passing skills as areas needing improvement for the second half of season.

The boys' team is 1-4 so far, having won and lost in their last two games. At Ashland they went 29-36, staying ahead or fairly close the whole game. Against Pawnee Heights they led the whole game and won 38-19. Eighth

grader Erik Torres had a career high of 18 points that led the team in scoring.

"South Central was tough because of their outside shooting and we kind of have a mental thing with them because they've beat us," Torres said. He thinks talking more on defense and shooting with confidence is what they need to improve on for the second half.

Head coach Travis Powell said, "Most people just pay attention to records and see that we are 1-4, but they don't see that we are getting better and working hard in practice. We are starting to shoot the ball a little better and we are taking care of the ball better."



Photos by Rachel Schmidt

Left: Eighth grader Eric Torres shoots over the Rebel defenders outstretched arms to add two points to the Mavericks' score.

Right: Jensen Miller, eighth grade, fights to bring down the rebound while four teammates are ready to help if needed.

By Liz Ballard

## Christmas Party

Grades 6-8 will be "rinking" out the new year and celebrating the end of the first semester when they travel to Pratt to go roller skating Tuesday, Dec. 20. After skating they will eat at Pizza Hut. When they return about 1:30 Impact is sponsoring a movie viewing with popcorn.

In order to go, they must have completed their first semester Accelerated Reader requirement of 20 points, unless they are exempted from that because they scored Ad-

vanced or Exemplary on their Kansas Reading Assessment last spring.

"It was fun last year with the disco ball and fog going. I crashed into a couple of walls when the fog machine was on, and it didn't help I was going backwards either," said seventh grader Josh Cannon. Pepperoni is his pizza choice and he reports eating five pieces off the buffet last year.

## The Maverick Monthly

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