

THE MAVERICK MAYHEM

KINDNESS THROUGHOUT KC

BY AUBREE GILCHRIST

"Kindness is doing what you can, where you are, with what you have." This quote from RAKtivist explains the meaning of kindness. The Junior High Impact Leadership Team helped KCJH and KCES show lots of kindness during National Kindness Week, which was the 11th through the 17th this month. Each day of the week, a member from the Impact Leadership Team gave a small speech over the intercom after the morning announcements. These messages gave a brief explanation of why National Kindness Week is so important. On Monday, the team handed out stickers to the elementary students. From Wednesday to Friday, the group made and handed out gift bags with candy and other fun items for Valentine's Day.

The Leadership Team also went to each classroom in the elementary school and told them about a new project they're starting, which will take place until the end of the school year. The project was explained as a chain of random acts of kindness written down. What that means is that each time someone did something nice for another student, that student would tell the teacher, and their teacher would write it down on a small piece of paper, which would later be added to the Chain of Kindness. The Impact Leadership Team is hoping that this chain will expand throughout the whole hallway by the end of the year. The chain is helping to encourage younger students to show kindness to their peers.



Members of the KCJH Impact team worked on packing Kindness Bags for the Elementary students. (photo by Mrs. Ballard)



7th-grader Lincoln Piester & 6th-grader Bodie McDonald visit an elementary class to explain the kindness chain. (photo by Aubree Gilchrist)

WE'VE GOT SCHOOL SPIRIT

BY CHARLEE JANTZ

The 2024 Homecoming candidates and attendants were selected earlier this February. This year's attendants included Cooper Fulton, Malachi Greene, Caden Oren, McKenna Kern, Camryn Buck, and Jasmine Sandoval. With Homecoming Week came a very entertaining spirit week. Students and staff kicked the week off with pajama day and continued the fun on Tuesday with accessory day. On Wednesday, the Mavs sported their Super Bowl gear and on Thursday classes battled for Color Wars. To end the week, the student body wore their Maverick gear to support the high school basketball teams for their game. Students in all grades participated in the fun, making the week full of enjoyable memories!

Below: The junior high students show off their school spirit in the pep section at Homecoming.



Photo by Aubree Gilchrist

WRAPPING IT UP WITH WINS

LADY MAVS WITH A 3RD PLACE FINISH & AN IMPRESSIVE 12-4 RECORD

BY FAITH COSS

As the 2023-2024 Lady Mavs' basketball season came to a close, the heart and determination wasn't lost when entering their final 3 games of league play. The girls traveled to Protection to play their play-in game to the tournament against the Spearville Lancers, taking the win 31-19 and moving to the semifinal game against South Gray. The ladies were ready for revenge, as their past two games against the Rebels had ended as heartbreakers, coming down to the last minute. Once more, the game was intense with a final score of 32-36, sending the Mavs to the 3rd/4th place game. Though the ladies were upset about their loss, they bounced back against the Meade Buffaloes, taking the 3rd Place League Title.

Head Coach Katelynn Alderfer shared that she was "proud of the way the girls finished their season" and that even though experience and size was against the girls for the majority of the games, "the heart, drive, and will to win that the girls exhibited led us to have a very successful season."

8th grade starter Alyson Taylor stated, " Though we got third place, I don't think I would have changed anything we did; sometimes the pieces just fall where they fall. I know it wasn't the place we wanted, but we learned to win and lose as a team, making this season one I will always remember. Looking back, our whole team has grown from the beginning of the season, and I am excited to play and continue to excel together in the future."



Top L): 8th-grader Norma Espericueta drives to the basket. (photo by A. Gilchrist) Top R): 8th-grader Aly Taylor is about to rip and take the ball off of her teammate Addi Mineyard's screen. (photo by F. Coss) Bottom: Head Coach Alderfer talks to the ladies during a timeout while playing Spearville. (Courtesy photo)

LADY MAVS SCOREBOARD

2/1 Play in game vs Spearville
A Team (W): 31-19

2/5 Semifinals game vs South Gray
A Team (L): 32-36

2/8 3rd place game vs Meade
A Team (W): 26-22

Final Record: 12-4
Iroquois Division Placing: 3rd place



7th-grader Charlee Jantz works to drive the ball toward the middle. (photo by A. Gilchrist)

FANTASTIC FINISH FOR THIRD PLACE

BOYS' TEAM BATTLES IN THE LEAGUE TOURNEY, ENDING WITH 9-6 RECORD

BY BRODY HOFFMAN

To begin the final month of the junior high basketball season, the Maverick's efforts earned them a #2 seed and a bye in the league tournament.

After their bye, they battled once more against their rivals, the South Central Timberwolves. The game was a dogfight, coming down to the last 3 minutes with the final scoreboard reading 31-37 in the T-wolves favor.

Then, the Mavericks took on Hodgeman County for the 3rd place game. The game had a tight first half with the Mavericks having a 3-point deficit. But the second half was a whole different ball game and the Mavericks took care of business and got the dub 37-26.

8th-grader Garrett Kern led the way with Kiowa County Media Center commentator Cameron Birney describing him as "a man amongst boys" due to his efforts of scoring points and hounding the Shorthorns offensively and defensively. 8th-grader Eli Roberts believes the season went "...pretty well for how many younger guys we played."

The Mavs will be sending nine 8th graders to high school next year, and the 2024-2025 junior high team will be exciting to watch with a whole new dynamic.



Top: 8th-grader Eli Roberts shoots a freethrow as the rest of the team works on boxing out. Bottom left: 8th-grader Javan Oberle goes up for a shot. Bottom right: 6th-grader Brody Hoffman shoots a three. (photos by F. Coss)



8th-grader Adan Coyne jumps, working to tip the ball the Mavs direction. (photo by F. Coss)

MAVERICK SCOREBOARD

2/1 Bye Week

2/5 Semifinals game vs South Central
A Team (L): 31-37

2/8 3rd place game vs Hodgeman
A Team (W): 37-26

Final Record: 9-6

Iroquois Division Placing: 3rd place



STELLAR START FOR SCHOLARS BOWL

VARSITY & JV TEAMS WITH TOP 3 PLACINGS AT EVERY MEET

BY AUBREE GILCHRIST

When asked what he thought about the Scholar's Bowl season so far, 7th-grader Varsity scholar Grayson Ballard said, "I think that our team has been performing well for the most part. We all have a main goal to beat Pawnee Heights, since we have taken 2nd to them 3 times in a row now. We did beat them at their home meet in head-to-head action. Everyone on our team has done a good job of answering questions and being confident to buzz in."

In Scholar's Bowl, 2 teams go head-to-head with 16 question in subjects of: 3 social sciences, 3 language arts, 3 math, 3 science, 1 fine arts, 1 miscellaneous, 1 year-in-review, and 1 sports question. Each question is worth 10 points, making it possible to have 160 total points per round. Scholars can buzz in before the question is fully done being read, but if it is answered incorrectly, 5 points are deducted from the team's score. After 16 questions, the team with the most points is declared the winner of that round, though each meet has a different amount of rounds.

At Meade, there was pool play, which consisted of 7 rounds then on to semifinals and finals for the top 4 teams. At Pawnee Heights and Ashland, there was a Round Robin, where scholars participated in 7 and 11 rounds. Coach Cade Lohrding reports that he has, "been incredibly proud of both varsity and JV teams. I am excited for us to continue our domination in the league...and BEAT PAWNEE HEIGHTS!!!" Next up for the Mavs is traveling to the Satanta meet on March 5th.



Top L: Varsity dominates their first round against Hodgeman at the Meade meet, the first meet of the season. Top R: At the Varsity meet in Ashland, the JV team placed third. Bottom Left: The Varsity team poses after taking second at the Pawnee Heights meet. Middle R: Both teams proudly smile after placing 2nd (Varsity) and 3rd (JV) at the Meade meet. Bottom R: The Varsity Team placed second at their first meet at Meade.(Photos by Mrs. Ballard)

SCHOLARS BOWL SCOREBOARD

2/12 @ Meade, V/JV

Varsity - 2nd Place, record 6-1

Junior Varsity - 3rd Place, record 4-3

2/15 @ Pawnee Heights, V/JV

Varsity - 2nd Place, record 5-2

Junior Varsity - 3rd Place, record 5-2

2/26 @ Ashland, V

Varsity - 2nd, record 10-1



The Varsity & Junior Varsity teams show off their medals at Pawnee Heights. (photo by Mrs. Ballard)

FUN FACTS

WITH THE 8TH GRADERS

Article & Photos
by Preston Coss

JAVAN OBERLE



Javan drives to the basket in a game at Protection. He has been a varsity starter for 2 years.

CIERRA PRICE



Cierra is passing the ball to her teammate. Her favorite sport is volleyball.

ELIJAH ROBERTS



Eli enjoys playing basketball. Here he is after the teams 3rd place League Title.

Q: Would you rather not know or know exactly what you're doing every day for the next 10 years? A: "Not know because knowing would be boring."

Q: Would you rather be able to converse with animals or speak every language? A: "Be able to converse with animals because then I could hear their opinions."

Q: Would you rather always be one hour late or one hour early to everything? A: "Be an hour early to everything because if you're not early, you're late."

Q: Would you rather give the best gifts or the best advice? A: "The best advice because then I could tell people what to do."

Q: Would you rather be known for your good taste in movies or in art? A: "Taste in movies because I don't know anything about art."

Q: Would you rather live in a penthouse flat or a huge mansion? A: "A huge mansion because I would hate living that high up."

Q: Would you rather own a horse or a dog? A: "I would rather have a dog because it's less expensive to take care of."

Q: Would you rather live with your best friend or your partner? A: Live with my best friend because it would be funnier."

Q: Which shoe would you rather wear every day for the rest of your life: pink Ugg boots or pink Crocs? A: "Light Pink Crocs because Crocs are legit and pink is cool."

Q: Would you rather wear a constantly changing outfit or a constantly changing hairstyle? A: "Constantly changing hairstyles because that happens in my culture anyway."

Q: Would you rather go without shampoo or toothpaste for the rest of your life? A: "Without shampoo. You don't need to wash your hair often anyway but you always need to brush your teeth."

Q: Would you rather listen to an annoying laugh for a whole day or get tickled for one hour? A: "An annoying laugh all day because I already deal with that at school..."

A LIL' PEP IN THEIR STEP

BY AUBREE GILCHRIST

As Gabby Douglas once said, "Cheerleading is not just about stunts and pom-poms; it's about spreading joy and inspiring others." This year's Kiowa County Cheerleaders and Little Pepsters helped to spread joy and inspire others by performing at both the KCHS pep rally and basketball game against South Gray on February 16th. The KCJH Cheer team this year consists of 8th Graders Alyson Taylor, Aubree Gilchrist, Adrianna Derley, and McKenzie Banta. There are two 7th Graders on the team: Charlee Jantz and Delaney Little. The KCJH Cheerleaders assisted the KCHS Cheerleaders in teaching this year's Little Pepsters. They taught a dance to "Ready or Not" by Bridgit Mendler, along with 3 cheers. There were 65 kids out for Little Pepsters this season. They all did amazing and brought smiles to the crowd!

Below: The Little Pepsters participants perform their "Cookie Monster" cheer at halftime of the game against South Gray.



Photo by Amelia Barnes

AROUND THE SCHOOL

FEATURING ALL THE ACTIVITIES IN KCJH

MORE THAN COWS & PLOWS

BY ALYSON TAYLOR

“Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve,” is the FFA motto recited by students and members of the organization all over the nation. At Kiowa County, FFA, AG, and Food Science classes are offered as electives to students from 8th to 12th grade. Mr. Alpers, the teacher of all these classes, shared how “FFA is more than just cows and plows.” He explained how agriculture uses a variety of skills and is a career full of experiences that suit anyone, no matter your interests. Mr. Alpers additionally shared that FFA teaches students learn “leadership and social skills to build good character and help them...serve others.”

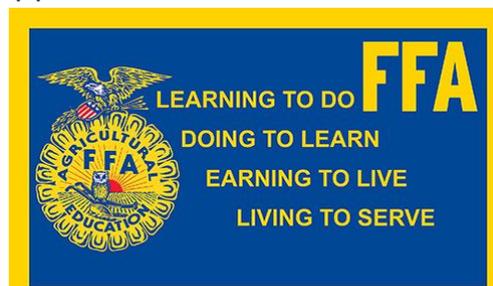
For FFA Week, which occurred February 19th-23rd, the students put together a teacher appreciation breakfast on Friday. Mr. Alpers’ students were also in charge of making and distributing Valentine's truffles purchased by KC students and parents. A total of 666 truffles were made, which fulfilled the 158 orders, keeping this successful Maverick tradition alive.

FFA has a spot for everyone, so don't be afraid to get involved. 8th-grader Maddie McAdoo said that even though it is her first year in AG, it has impacted her and made her realize the value of so many everyday items.

Be sure to join Mr. Alpers in his journey of “growing the KC FFA chapter by adding more students to agriculture education classes and providing more opportunities to interact with local businesses.”



Top: FFA students serve breakfast to high school P.E. teacher and boys basketball coach Mr. Hoffman. Middle: High school English teacher Mr. Ballard lathers up his delicious pancakes with syrup and butter. Bottom: The staff enjoys their breakfast provided by the FFA students while visiting before their day . (Photos by Charlee Jantz)



KEEPIN' UP WITH KIOWA COUNTY

ALL THE LATEST HAPPENINGS IN GREENSBURG, HAVILAND, & MULLINVILLE

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AT EMBLAZON

BY IVA BROWN

If you're looking for new clothes and items to enjoy, Emblazon Designs may pique your interest. Being a boutique as well as a business, Emblazon Designs offers many cute things as a retail store on Main Street in Greensburg. They have loaded tea packets of a wide variety, a big selection of clothes, fashionable shoes, water bottles, jewelry, hats, candles, blankets, lots of gift items, seasonal wardrobes, and more things that you should take a look at!

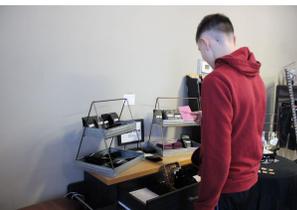
Emblazon Designs has also made generous amounts of donations, which consist of funds and prizes, to different groups in the community of Kiowa County. Kiowa County schools and those surrounding them have been the main targets of these said donations. Emblazon Designs sponsors different groups and individuals in Kiowa County, as well.

Emblazon recently had a fun, successful Galentine's Day event with prizes, food, and shopping with "gal" friends.

Emblazon Designs is owned and operated by Heather Powell. She has been in business since January 2015, starting her business making custom shirts and apparel in the basement of her home. Emblazon Designs have been on Main Street in Greensburg since 2022. Powell stated that she doesn't have any upcoming events, but tries to plan several ladies nights and special events throughout the year.

Emblazon is located at 114 S Main St. Powell's hours vary depending on the day, but are pictured to the left. Customers can also join the Emblazon Facebook page for announcements and exciting events.

So, if you ever find yourself wanting some new items at a reasonable price, Emblazon Designs would be a perfect place to look.



Top: 6th-graders Nela Heide and Iva Brown smell the nice candle fragrances offered at Emblazon. Upper Right: Emblazon offers many festive options for different holidays. Middle Right: 7th-grader Charlee Jantz looks at the cute jeans. Bottom Right: 6th-grader Brody Hoffman looks intrigued by the loaded tea flavors. Bottom Left: Emblazon hours vary as seen in the picture displayed here. (Photos by Preston Coss)

MEET THE PUBLICATION TEAM

(Photos by InterState Studios)



Alyson Taylor
Grade 8
Editor



Aubree Gilchrist
Grade 8
Writer/Photographer



Faith Coss
Grade 7
Writer/Photographer



Preston Coss
Grade 7
Writer/Photographer



Charlee Jantz
Grade 7
Writer/Photographer



Amelia Barnes
Grade 8
Photographer



Iva Brown
Grade 6
Writer/Photographer



Sebastian Favela-Clayton
Grade 6
Writer/Photographer



Nela Heide
Grade 6
Writer/Photographer



Brody Hoffman
Grade 6
Writer/Photographer



Mrs. Ballard
Junior High
Advisor



Kwynn Blanton
Grade 7
Photographer



*Top Left: 6th-grader Bodie McDonald and 8th-grader James Greenleaf flex the JV warrior sign.
Top Right: Daylight Donuts provided the Publications class with donuts as their way to show gratitude for the article the class wrote for them last month. Bottom Left: 7th Grade ELA had a debate about Edgar Allan Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart," on whether the murderer was sane or insane. Mr. L judged, and he came to the verdict that the murderer was sane at the time of the murder, due to the convincing evidence from the students.. (photos by Mrs. Ballard) Bottom Right: The KC student section followed the pink out theme when cheering on the high school boys against South Gray. 7th-graders Delaney Little & Addison Minyard show their love. (photo by Aubree Gilchrist)*

SOUP IN YOUR BOWL SUCCESS

BY NELA HEIDE

“Soup in Your Bowl” is an annual fundraiser, held since 2016, by the 5.4.7 Art Center in Greensburg. “Soup in Your Bowl” is a Super Bowl gathering ran by Stacy Barnes, an employee at the 5.4.7 Art Center as well as the art teacher for Kiowa County Elementary. She makes 100+ ceramic bowls every year for this event. There are a handful of steps required to make these bowls, including shaping the bowls and bisque-firing them, then glazing the bowls and giving them a final wash. After the bowls have been fully and properly finished, the Art Center holds a soup lunch annually on Super Bowl Sunday, where people around the community grab a handmade, unique bowl of their choice to fill with soup. The lunch is then eaten with friends and neighbors in the Art Center, making this a fun way to support and donate to the local artists.



MARCH CALENDAR

BY ALYSON TAYLOR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1 DC3 Tech Tour (Dodge City) KSHSAA Sub-State BB (Semifinals) 9:30am: DC3 Tech Program Tour 2:30pm: Classes Dismissed	2 KSHSAA Sub-State BB (Finals)
3	4:30pm: Student-Led Conferences	7:45am: Save for America Banking 4:00pm: KCJH V/JV Scholars Bowl @ Satanta 4:30pm: Student-Led Conferences 7:00pm: SPIAA All-League BB Meeting	6 KSHSAA State BB Tournament Art Field Trip to Mark Arts 3:05pm: Tornado Drill	7 KSHSAA State BB Tournament K-5 Art 12:00pm: USD 422 Board of Education Mtg.	8 KSHSAA State BB Tournament ACT Registration Deadline for April 13 Test Date NO SCHOOL	9 KSHSAA State BB Tournament
10 Daylight Saving Time Starts	11 SPRING BREAK-NO SCHOOL	12 SPRING BREAK-NO SCHOOL 7:45am: Save for America Banking	13 SPRING BREAK-NO SCHOOL	14 SPRING BREAK-NO SCHOOL	15 SPRING BREAK-NO SCHOOL	16
17 St. Patrick's Day	18 5:30pm: PreK-5 Stem Night Sponsored by the Cosmosphere 6:00pm: Cheer Tryout Practice	19 JAG-K State Career Development Conference 7:45am: Save for America Banking 3:00pm: KCJH V/JV Scholars Bowl @ Bucklin 6:00pm: Cheer Tryout Practice	20 10:00am: Conservati Presentation K-8 10:00	21 KCHS Forensics @ South Gray Invitational 4:00pm: KCJH V/JV Scholars Bowl @ Minneola 6:00pm: Cheer Tryout Practice	22 2:30pm: Classes Dismissed	23 6:30pm: Promenade 7:00pm: KCHS PROM 10:30pm: After-Prom
24	25 7:00pm: 3rd-5th Grade Vocal Performance 8:00pm: USD 422 Board of Education Mtg.	26 7:45am: Save for America Banking 11:30am: SPIAA League Meeting 6:00pm: Cheer Tryouts	27 8:00am: SPIAAHS Forensics Tournament @ Satanta	28 7:00am: DLT Meeting 3:00pm: KCHS JV Golf @ St. John 3:00pm: KCJH T&F @ Skyline 3:00pm: KCJH V/JV SPIAA League Scholars Bowl @ South Central	29 Good Friday-NO SCHOOL	30
31 EASTER						

(Photo from usd422.org web page)

To find upcoming events, information and more, go to usd422.org

JUST FOR FUN

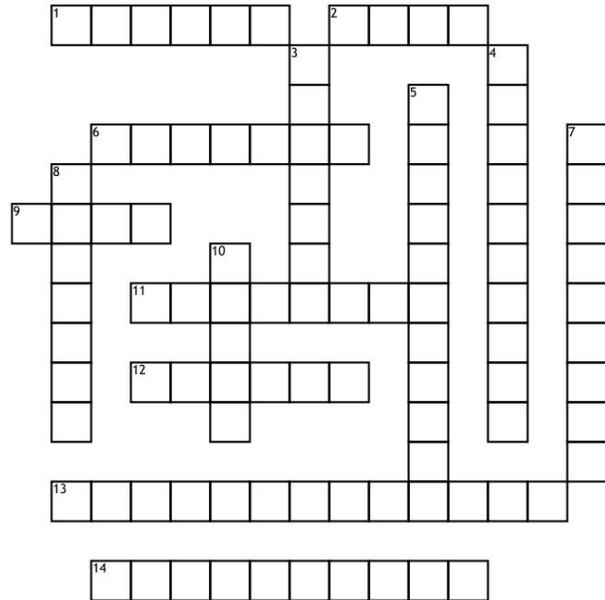
The Single Section



That moment you realized your milk has a Valentine's Day date & you don't...



February crossword



Across

- 1. How people feel during this month
- 2. Another word for going out
- 6. What some gift givers buy instead of chocolate
- 9. This flower means love
- 11. Princesses get this

- 12. Temperature during February
- 13. What is the holiday of this month?
- 14. A relationship pet name

Down

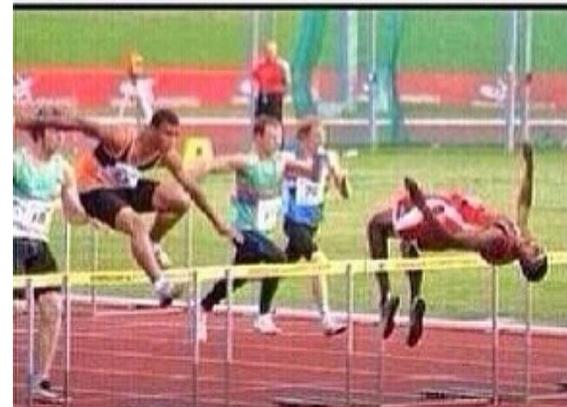
- 3. Type of filling in chocolate
- 4. Some people have this happen on Valentines day
- 5. Old fashioned lovers write these
- 7. What you give someone on Valentines day
- 8. a controversial chocolate filling
- 10. Little winged baby with a bow and arrow

Valentine's Day WORD SCRAMBLE

- KINP _____ VEOL _____
- ERAHT _____ URYBRAEF _____
- WETES _____ DRE _____
- YDCNA _____ TELCOHACO _____
- SWOFELR _____ SIKS _____
- PIUCD _____



"Coach got me in so many events I got confused" 🤔



(All images taken from Freeprint.com)