

## Readers' Theater Advances to State

By: Rachel Rausch



**Readers' Theatre: Coach Jolinda Finley, Kate Finley, Tessa Rush and Blake Toennies. Front Row: Codi Sparling, Andrea Rausch and Allison Braun. The team excitedly accepted the second-place award at Regions.**

The Northwestern reader's theater members participated in the state oral interpretation competition Dec. 5 in Huron, where they performed their original piece, "Starbucks Apocalypse," for the final time this year.

Thirteen other schools competed in the reader's theater category. Unfortunately, Northwestern did not place, but the reader's theater

group is happy to have made it all the way to state. A lot of hard work was put into the piece to perfect both the writing and the acting.

The reader's theater consists of seniors Tessa Rush and Blake Toennies and juniors Allison Braun, Kate Finley, Andrea Rausch and Codi Sparling, and is coached by Mrs. Jolinda Finley.

"Our piece was pretty good. We did good for the first time writing a piece. We felt pretty good about it. State was pretty intimidating to be honest. Districts was in the basement of a church, so to be in a large convention room was a shock!" Toennies said.

"It was really fun and nice to be able to hang out with the people in it. It was very scary because it was the most people we have ever performed in front of. It was awesome that we made it all the

way to state," Rush said.

"I thought that they did one of their best performances. There were 16 top schools, and only eight could get superior. I want to say we got ninth, but so does every other school. I was very proud that they wrote their own piece. They've improved a lot as a group since they started. They should be very proud they made it to state," Coach Finley said.



**Northwestern Oral Interp members smile anxiously waiting for awards at the State Oral Interpretation contest.**

## Thinking Outside the Cube

Story and photo by Madison Styles



**Psychology Class: Sadie VanderWal, Josie Clemens, Darby Duncan and Derek Boekelheide. Front Row: Ali Johnson, Mrs. Jennifer Schell and Chelsea Sorenson showcase their own completed Rubik's Cubes.**

In psychology teacher Mrs. Jennifer Schell's class, freshman Sadie Vander Wal and sophomores Darby Duncan, Josie Clemens, Derek Boekelheide, Klaryssa Schnoor, Ali Johnson, Chelsea Sorenson and Destinee Zens learned how to complete a Rubik's Cube in four class periods.

"I was skeptical at first, but as time went by, it was quite enjoyable. Now I practice all the time," Clemens said.

Boekelheide, the only student who knew how to master the cube prior to the assignment, step by step taught the students how to put the pieces in the correct spots.

"I have solved a Rubik's Cube in 18 seconds before," Boekelheide said.

Students were instructed to write down their emotions and different types of frustrations they experienced throughout the project, while being taught by a peer to incorporate the psychological portion of the project.

"I felt relieved and exhilarated

once we finally solved it," Duncan said.

The students all felt like the process was extremely difficult to explain the process without ever attempting or completing one before.

The Rubik's Cube is a 3-D combination puzzle invented in 1974 by Hungarian sculptor and professor or architecture Erno Rubik.

Originally called the Magic Cube, the puzzle was licensed by Rubik to be sold by Ideal Toy Corp and became an instant 1980s phenomenon.

In a classic Rubik's Cube, each of the six faces is covered by nine stickers, each of one of six solid colors: white, blue, red, orange, yellow, and green.

An internal pivot mechanism enables each face to turn independently, thus mixing up the colors. For the puzzle to be solved, each face must be returned to consisting of one color.

The psychology class enjoyed this new challenge and brought back an '80s classic.

# We Wish You a Merry Christmas... Concert

Story and photos by Kate Finley



The girls group choir sings "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" during the high school concert Dec. 8 in Mellette.



The high school band members keep a close eye on their music and change in keys during the high school concert Dec. 8.

This year's high school Christmas concert held Dec. 8 showcased Christmas classics as well as new favorites. Vocal skills and instrumental talents were shown in a grand way that night.

The chorus began the night with a beautiful version of "Carol of the Bells" moving into a mixed version of "Holy Night" and "Silent Night." The full chorus ended with an interesting song called "Christmas... In About Three Minutes," which truly introduced the Christmas season.

Unfortunately, our choir has shrunk in numbers this school year, but that surely did not affect their musical talent. Smaller choirs usually equal more attention and more effective practices.

Miss Jaime Kessler, Northwestern's new high school choir teacher, definitely brought out our students' glorious vocal skills with her direction. Following the large group choir was the girls' ensemble "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas," which truly was merry. A smaller girls group followed featuring Kendra Bohlen, Hope Bowar, Allsion Braun, Darienne Frericks, Andrea Rausch, Rachel Rausch, and Cara Spielman singing "Sleigh Ride." A jazzy saxophone ensemble featuring Darby Duncan, Kate Finley, Peyton Groft and Halle Sieve performed their

version of "Green Sleeves." Later into the concert, Darienne Frericks performed a vocal solo called "The Christmas Song."

Following the solo was a brass sextet including Derek Boekelheide, Kendra Bohlen, Tyler Braun, Isaac Groft, Rachel Rausch and Sadie VanderWal playing "Christmas Medley." Another wonderful vocal solo "Christmas Must Be Something More" by Taylor Swift was performed by Madison Styles, which stood as something more. Up next, Andrea Rausch and Tessa Rush performed a lovely duet rendition of "Silent Night" on their flutes.

To conclude the very merry night, the high school band, directed by Mrs. Wendy Thorson, made sure to get the audience into the Christmas spirit by performing three exceptional pieces. The songs played were "Jingle Bell Fantasy," "Cantique De Noel" and "Silver Sleigh." "Silver Sleigh" had been a particularly interesting piece played by the high school band, which left the audience hungry for more Christmas tunes. The band and choir would like to thank everyone who helped make the concert a success! And a great big thank you for all the support provided by the teachers and parents of the music program here at Northwestern.

## Elementary and Middle School Jingle All the Way

By: Rachel Rausch

The elementary and middle school concert took place on Wednesday, Dec. 10 at 2 p.m.. Miss Jaime Kessler directed the chorus while Mrs. Wendy Thorson directed the band. To start off the program, the preschoolers, directed by Mrs. Marissa Harms, sang two songs.

The next group up was the kindergarten and first and second grades. Each grade sang one song each, along with two songs as a group. Following this was the third, fourth and fifth grade play. Each grade had a song by themselves along with a group song. Each song, except for the third grade piece, featured soloists or an instrumental group.

Next came the middle school portion of the concert. The chorus sang three songs and the band played three. One of the chorus songs featured two soloists and one of the band songs featured a Stage-

Front Dixieland Band. Thank you to everyone who come out to watch.



Elementary students dressed in their very best entertained the crowd at the concert Dec. 10.

## Football Highlights

By: Nolan Peterson and Isaac Groft

The college football world has been transformed into the playoff series for the first time ever.

Only four spots exist in the playoffs, and the top four teams are the ones to compete. The rankings stand on how the teams perform in the regular season determine its fate at the end.

The four teams that have qualified in play offs are ranked No. 1 Alabama Crimson Tide, No. 2 Oregon Ducks, No. 3 Florida State Seminoles and No. 4 Ohio State Buckeyes.

Alabama is led by senior quarterback Blake Sims and Heisman candidate junior wide receiver Amari Cooper, who have led the Crimson Tide to an SEC Conference Championship and a 12-1 record.

Oregon is led by redshirt junior quarterback and Heisman winner

Marcus Mariota, who has led them to a Pac-12 Championship and a 12-1 record so far.

Florida State is led by 2013 Heisman winner, redshirt sophomore quarterback Jameis Winston, who has led them to an ACC Conference Championship and a perfect 13-0 record.

Ohio State led itself to an 11-1 record with freshman quarterback JT Barrett, after losing Heisman-hopeful quarterback Braxton Miller to a season-ending injury in Week 1.

The college football world has been rocked by this new change in post-season format, and time will tell whether or not the new system is effective in selecting a national championship team.

# HONORABLE STUDENTS

By: Kate Finley

## Honor Choir

Congratulations to sixth-grader Sydney Schell for being chosen for the Elementary Festival Honor Choir!!

The Elementary Festival Honor Choir is an independent honor choir of fourth, fifth and sixth-grade students who are chosen by recorded audition.

The actual event takes place Feb. 12 in Brookings. At the event, students will practice during the day and end with a concert at the Performing Arts Center. This year's choir will be conducted by nationally renowned conductor Tom Shelton.

Schell recorded a taped audition of four different tonal memory exercises and an A cappella version of "My County 'Tis of Thee." Honor choir officials reported having a record turnout this year with more than 700 hundred auditions submitted from all over South Dakota. From that 700, only 180 students were selected for the honor choir.



By: Abby Fischbach

## Honor Band

Junior Rachel Rausch and freshman Peyton Groft recently had the privilege of playing in the Northeast Area Honor Band held at Aberdeen Central High School in the Thomas F. Kelly theatre.

"We spent a lot of time learning the songs and spent a couple of hours working in sections to learn the individual parts of the music better," Rausch said.

Rausch and Groft practiced for two days prior to the concert with students from many schools around the area. The band performed on Saturday, Dec. 6 at the CHS theatre.

"The conductor was very good and taught me a lot. I liked sectionals because the conductor got to work with just the alto saxophones," Groft said.

The guest conductor, a professor of music from the University of South Dakota, spent two days teaching the earnest students new music.

Sixth-grader Sydney Schell will represent Northwestern at the elementary honor choir on Feb 12 in Brookings.



Junior Rachel Rausch and Freshman Peyton Groft played in the Northeast Area Honor Band Dec. 6 in Aberdeen.

## Middle School Honor Roll

**6th Grade: Straight A:** Seth Heidenreich, Kyle Peterson, Mitchell Vander Wal; **"A":** Hayden Bohl, Jace Haven, Bailey Heim, Jackson Mielke, Alexis Rahm, Sydney Schell, Hannah Schentzel; **"B":** Joclyn Haven, Cody Rausch, Hunter Schipke, Hailie Stuck, Kiarra Stuck.

**7th Grade: Straight A:** Hailey Boekelheide, Cassidy Frericks, Madalyn Groft, Christine Stoltenberg, Miranda Thorson; **"A":** Tristan Dvorak, Danielle Watson; **"B":** Zechariah Clemens, Ezekiel Duncan, Kaitlyn Lefforge, Eric Nelson, Dalton Peterson, Danille Seymour, Talley Sparling, Tya Weideman.

**8th Grade: Straight A:** Gavin Bohl, Jarret Haven, Caleb Schentzel; **"A":** Moira Duncan, Caitlyn Fischbach; **"B":** Riley Grandpre, Zachary Toennies, Seth Wood.

*Great Job, Wildcats!*

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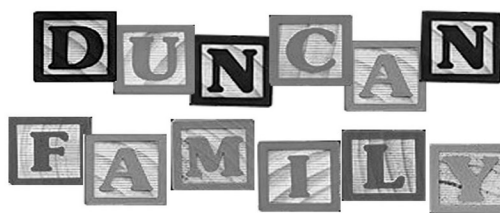
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## Robotics Team Competes at Regionals in Fargo

By: Madison Styles

On Dec. 4-6, the Northwestern robotics team took 15 high school students to Fargo, N.D., for the national-regionals competition. Being one of the smallest teams there, they competed against others from Pennsylvania, Ohio, Minnesota, Canada and many more.

“My favorite part was right before the competition started when all the lights went out and they shined spotlights everywhere,” junior Chance Sale said.

For exhibit day on Friday, teams put on marketing presentations, checked in their robots and tested robots for the competition Saturday.

“It was a good experience and a good way to look at career opportunities,” junior Nolan Peterson said.

Northwestern attempted to make the marketing and exhibit portion

of the competition more professional, as well as making the robot faster and made with a stronger arm to be able to earn more points.

They did not place but competed extremely well.

“It was a very solid team effort, and I thought we represented our school very well,” teacher Mrs. Denise Clemens said.



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## Scrub Up

By: Cameron Bohl

A few students from the junior class attended a scrubs camp in Mitchell on Wednesday, Dec. 19. The students visited different career options based off of the SD My life website, which helps students look at colleges, tells how and where to apply and lists different careers that would be suitable.

The camp had many health departments along with: radiology, medical lab technician, human services technician, a simulation lab, speech language, pathology assistant, medical office professional and SIM-SD EMS careers.

In the medical lab, students practiced giving a shot to a banana, took X-rays and took blood pressure from a simulation.

The radiology department had

students create a cancer patient mask on which they could perform.

Students interested in the medical field were encouraged by guidance counselor, Mrs. Kari Brenner, to check out the scrubs camp. Students have attended similar camps in the past and found them to be a good way to find out if a career in the medical field is for them.

“It was a good eye opening experience and made students realize what they might have to do in that career that they didn’t know they would have to before. It gave me useful information and helped with my knowledge. It almost made me want to switch careers,” Brenner said.



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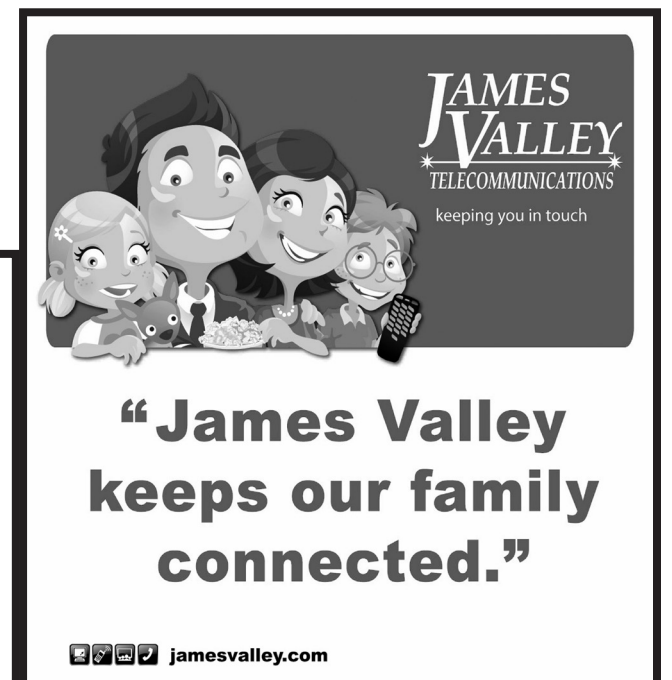
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## Student of the Month: Josie Clemens

By: Madison Styles

Sophomore Josie Clemens received student of the month for January. Her parents are Bill and Denise Clemens, and she has one older brother, Josh Clemens, one older sister, Ashley Clemens and two younger brothers, seventh-grader Zech Clemens and Will Clemens.

Clemens’s activities include Future Business Leaders of America, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, robotics, volleyball, basketball, cross

country and track and field.

She loves playing cards, reading and playing with Rubik’s cubes.

Her favorite class is Algebra II, and her favorite athlete is Maya Moore, a basketball player for the Minnesota Lynx.

Her future plans are to attend a four-year college, but her major currently is undecided.

“Josie’s been nominated every month so far; she must be excited to come to school. She’s here every

morning, and every time I see her in the hall, she’s working on something,” principal Mr. Richard Osborn said.

Her favorite quote is “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,” Phil 4:13.

“Josie is the kind of student who loves a challenge. It doesn’t matter if it’s her favorite thing or not, she wants to be good at it, and she wants to do well,” English teacher Mrs. Nora Groft said.



# A-Positive Blood Drive for Northwestern School

By: Nolan Peterson

The Northwestern Future Business Leaders of America put on a great blood drive at the Northwestern High School on Nov 24.

The United Blood Service came and worked very professionally and treated every donor with care.

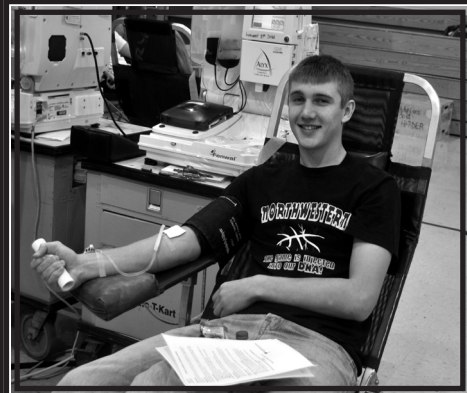
This was the first blood drive of the year and another one will be held at the end of the school year in April.

"It is good to know that at just 17, we are saving lives," junior

Isaac Groit said.

Many juniors and seniors took part in the event, along with staff and community members.

It was a very good blood drive every donor was taken care of properly and were given food and drinks after they gave blood. The blood drive was a very successful day full of new experiences. A special thank you goes out to all those who donated and worked for Northwestern's blood drive.




Junior Abby Fischbach and seniors Hans Leonhardt, Haley Grandpre and Halle Sieve love those needles and love to save lives.

Photos credits by Abby Fischbach and Kate Finley

Mrs. Jennifer Schell, junior Darienne Frericks, junior Kaylee Hoel-lein and senior Corbin Smith are all ready to give to those in need.

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# Meet the Northwestern Girls' Basketball Team...



Senior, Julia Sparling



Senior, Haley Grandpre



Senior, Kennedi Sparling



Senior, Jordon Peterson



Senior, Hannah Palmer



Senior, Darvella Dotson



Junior, Kirstin Borge



Junior Codi Sparling



Junior, Madison Styles



Junior, Kendra Bohlen



Sophomore, Darby Duncan



Sophomore, Josie Clemens



Freshman, Addison Sparling



Freshman, Peyton Groft



Freshman, Evy Peterson



Freshman, Darien Watson

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# Meet the Northwestern Varsity Boys' Basketball Team...



Senior, Corbin Smith



Junior, Isaac Groft



Junior, Nolan Peterson



Junior, Logan Schentzel



Junior, Trey Bierman



Junior, Cody Lefforge



Sophomore, Derek Boekelheide



Sophomore, Andrew Lefforge



Freshman, Isaac Bauer



Eighth-grader, Caleb Schentzel



Eighth-grader, Jarret Haven

Basketball photos taken by Abby Fischbach

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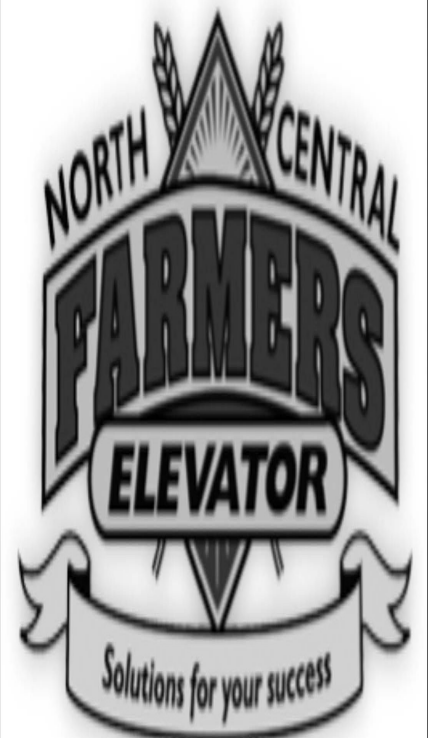


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## Journalism Students Write to Santa

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me lots of chocolate and puppies.  
Love,  
Abby Fischbach

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas I would really love my own tour bus equipped with unique guitars from all over the world. I suppose some bedazzled microphones wouldn't be too bad either. I would also really like a good Angus steer and a couple Angus heifers to add to my show string this year.  
Maddie Styles

Dear Santa,  
Can you please give me the patience to create and edit the newspaper for the rest of the year?  
Love,  
Kate Finley

Dear Santa,  
All I want for Christmas is more candy for my candy bucket because my journalism students ate it all :(  
Mrs. Groft

Dear Santa  
I would really like to have a new electric ice auger for my new ice shack I just received. This auger would work very handy for me. If that doesn't work that's ok, I'm good either way.

Sincerely, Nolan Peterson

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I would like to ask for more animals. The Bohl household seems to be running low on all types of animals, so all kinds are welcome. I would also appreciate enough money to adopt all of the homeless animals to be able to give them a loving home.

Cameron Bohl

Dear Santa,  
Can I please have a horse? Preferably a dapple grey. Thank you!

Rachel Rausch

Dear Santa,  
I would like more Oregon Ducks shorts and T-shirts to wear because that's all I wear. Ever. Also, I would like more cats because I can never have enough kittens to snuggle.

Love,  
Isaac Groft

## School Board Highlights: Decmember

- \*33 HATS students are planning to take the NCR test.
- \* Butler-Cat will be coming to the automotive class to introduce diesel engine mechanics to the students.
- \* Next year, new classes planned at the new Tech Academy will be Engineering Design and Principles of Engineering.
- \* Mr. Osborn, along with Mrs. Anne Frericks and Mr. Sauer attended CTE meeting in Aberdeen on December 4 to meet the federal Perkins requirements for program improvement. NW goal for next year is to increase the non-traditional students in the architecture and construction fields by 5%.
- \* The math department is in the process of choosing curriculum. The teachers are evaluating the materials
- \* Dual credit enrollment for spring semester has begun. NW will have 4-6 students taking these courses in the spring.
- \* Elementary staff reviewed the English/Language Arts sample curriculum at the November 14th professional development day.
- \* The Veterans Day Program was very successful for the community and the students.
- \* A Claims Associate representative will be here on Monday, Dec. 15 to conduct a valuation appraisal of NW property to assess our insurance needs.
- \* NW has been working with James Valley Telecommunications to develop a public access channel. We plan to broadcast school activities, such as games and concerts, and any other appropriate activities.
- \* NW will be evaluating our building project needs in the next few months to plan for the upcoming budget year.
- \* Approved a contract amendment for Anne Frericks.
- \* South Dakota Department of Legislative Audit has reviewed and accepted the audit report for June 30, 2014.
- \* Approved the Superintendent Evaluation Tools.
- \* Discussed the Wellness Policy. We will be putting a committee together to make recommendations to update our current policy.
- \* Approved surplus of a smart phone.
- \* Tentative snow make-up days, if needed, would be Feb. 13, Feb. 16, March 13, March 20 and March 6.
- \* Congratulations to Christine Morgan, Senior Snow Queen & Tyrae Circle Bear, Junior Snow Queen. Also congrats to Darby Duncan and Jackson Mielke, our talent winners.
- \* Congratulations to Derek Boekelheide for being chosen Student of the Month.
- \* Congratulations to the Readers Theater for placing second at Regions and advancing to State.
- \* Congratulations to Jordon Peterson for being selected First Team All-State by the South Dakota Volleyball Coaches Association.
- \* Congratulations to Peyton Groft, Darby Duncan, and Jordon Peterson for being selected to the All-Lake Region Conference Volleyball Team.
- \* Congratulations to Peyton Groft and Rachel Rausch for being selected to the North East Area Honors Band.
- \* Congratulations to Sydney Schell for being chosen for the Elementary Festival Honor Choir.
- \* Congratulations to Jordon Peterson and Darby Duncan for being selected to the Aberdeen American News All-Area Volleyball Team.
- \* Next regular meeting of the board is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 7 at 7 p.m.
- \* The minutes of these proceedings will be published in their entirety in the Aberdeen American News during the week Dec. 14, 2014.



# FIRST GRADE LETTERS TO SANTA

Dear Santa,  
 Am I on the naughty list? What I want for Christmas is Frozen comes back. what would your Reindeer like to eat for Christmas? Maybe some carrots  
 your friend,  
 Teresa Melius

Dear Santa,  
 for Christmas I would like some 100 dollar bills and if you forget that's ok then I'll take some sanitizer.  
 Your friend,  
 Layla Ortmeier.

Dear Santa,  
 Am I on the good list or on the naughty list? For Christmas I would like Barbies and singing Barbie doll. How are your Reindeer?  
 Your friend,  
 Bella Kramp

Dear Santa,  
 For Christmas I would like a baby puppy.  
 Your friend,  
 Madeline Schnell

Dear Santa,  
 What do you want for Christmas? I hope I am on the nice list for Christmas. I would like stuff  
 your friend,  
 Ella Boekelheide

Dear Santa,  
 What Do and your Reindeers want for cookies For Christmas I would like to be your friend.  
 RYlynn niclle Berry

Dear Santa,  
 How are you doing? what do you want for Christmas? maybe some milxk? what do the reindeer want? carrots? well I'm not sure but I would like these things please and Thank you For The Thiigs I would like a robot Dragon and some gum  
 Your friend,  
 Josie Sparling

Dear Santa  
 I hope all of my friends are on the nice list at the Northpole and the people that I do not no are on the nice list too. santa what kind of cookies would you like? I would like a puppie and a cat.  
 Your friend,  
 Ashley Haven

Dear Santa,  
 How was your Thanksgiving? I hope you have an awesome Christmas! For Christmas I would like a Surprise!  
 Your friend,  
 Wyatt Rahm

Dear Santa,  
 For Christmas I would like some Legos and some Clothes. Can I please get a reindeer Santa?  
 Your friend,  
 Carson Ewalt

Dear Santa,  
 How are you doing? Do you want cookies and Milk? What do the Reindeer want? carrots?  
 Your friend,  
 Shelby Fortin

Dear Santa,  
 What are your elves like and Mrs. Claus like? For christmas I would like snoglobe and angelsnoglob.  
 Your friend,  
 Mareya Maas

Dear Santa,  
 How are your Reindeer? I can not wait for Christmas. For Christmas I would like the New Barbie.  
 Your Friend,  
 Rain Anglin

Dear santa,  
 For Christmas I would like 100 dollars  
 Your friend,  
 Eddisen Engels

Dear Santa,  
 I would like a reindeer for Christmas.  
 Your friend,  
 Dylan Harmon

Dear Santa, You are always so nice to me. For Christmas I would like a doll. For Christmas I would like a barbie.  
 Your friend,  
 Brenna Storly


Dear Santa,  
 How many reindeer do you have? What do you do on Thanksgiving? What did you do on Christmas? For Christmas I would like clothes for my American doll.  
 Your friend,  
 Molly Van Hatten

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Journalism Students Editorial

**Precautionary Strategies Should Be Taken to Make the Highway 281 Intersection Safer**

This is no secret that there have been many accidents at the intersection between Mellette and Northville. We also know that some of these accidents were not just “fender benders.” No. These accidents have caused death. The intersection that we send most of our students through every day has caused tragedy, grief and pain among many family members. not just within our community but outside as well.

Recently, we have taken some measures to keep our drivers safe, but is it enough? To our intersection we have added two street lights, two wide stop signs and two flashing yellow signs that can cut through fog. That is great. That is wonderful. It ONLY took several people dying and several close calls over the course of several years for that to happen. Is it enough? Should we, as a community, settle for this when it comes to the safety for our families’ lives? Should we really be grateful that they actually did anything at all!? We do not know about you, but we think we can do better.

Thankfully, we have made it through the scary harvest season. Semi drivers, we encourage you to be extra careful as our students are traveling to and from school. They do not have as much experience driving as you do, and we ask that you please take the time to look out for them.

Winter time seems to have snuck up on most of us, and along with winter comes icy, snowy roads. Many people find themselves caught up in the rush of life and

forget to slow down and drive cautiously during these times, causing many accidents and sometimes deaths around the holiday season. With family members and friends traveling home to visit, there will be many more drivers on the road. Among these drivers, lie young teens with not nearly as much experience with driving, who tend to be distracted by texting, music and just about anything in general. Please, look both ways, stop for just a second longer at stop signs, slow down just a hair and do anything to drive safely this holiday season.

**Please remember to stay safe this winter!**

With the winter season and icy road conditions approaching, drivers need to take more caution while driving. Early mornings for basketball players could be a dangerous activity when the temperatures drop. Drivers should prepare cars with needed supplies such as a blanket, rope, jumper cables, water and a small snack in case of an emergency. Try to carry a cellphone with you in case you have car troubles. The winter conditions could make the area hard to see everything, so be extra careful when driving. Always make sure to have a winter kit in your car including a blanket, tow rope, jumper cables, windshield scraper, and a flashlight in case you do become stuck somewhere. Never leave your car if you become stuck during a snow storm, always stay in your car until someone arrives to help.



Our famous intersection between Mellette and Northville should not have to be a scary place to be driving. Unfortunately, it is, and several accidents are reported every year. Please slow down and use some common sense!

**Take Action!**

Do you feel an intersection needs a traffic light because it’s too dangerous, or there is never a break in traffic to allow someone to cross? Here are some tips on how you can get on installed.

Ask your town engineer and/or police chief if the intersection has ever been studied. If it has, find out the last time it was and request a new study. If it has not, make your argument to the engineer and the town council why a study is warranted. A traffic light will only be installed if the intersection meets at least one of these criteria:

- \*Excessive volume in eight- and four-hour periods.
- \*Rush-hour congestion.
- \*Pedestrian delays.
- \*School crossing hazards.
- \*Traffic flow problems.
- \*History of collisions.

Once the study is completed, and if the intersection meets one of these criteria, a request can be made by the town to the state Department of Transportation, which will make the final decision.

Spink County Sheriff: Kevin Schurch

<http://www.spinkcounty-sd.org/sheriff.html>

South Dakota Department of Transportation: <http://www.sddot.com>

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# In the Hallway...

Photos and story by: Cameron Bohl

What is your favorite Christmas movie and why?



"A Christmas Movie because we watch it at my grandma's house every year," freshman Megan Heidenreich said.



"White Christmas because it is a musical, and it has Bing Crosby and Rosemary Clooney in it," sophomore Darby Duncan said.



"The Santa Clause because it is part of a series, and it is funny," junior Kendra Bohlen said.



"Elf" because it is funny and a classic," senior Hannah Palmer said.



"It's a Wonderful Life because it's an older movie with Jimmy Stewart," Mr. Scott Boone said.

# In the Middle School...

Photos and story by: Madison Styles



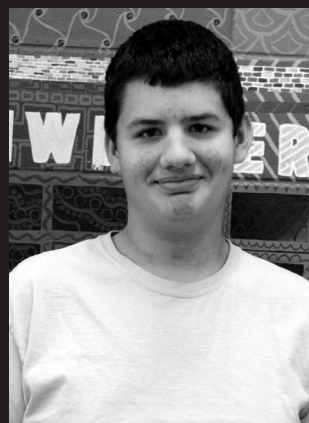
"The Night before Christmas, because I've been watching it since I was three. It's the best," sixth-grader Danika Berry said.



"Home Alone, because he tricks everyone, and it's funny," seventh-grader Tya Weideman said.



"The Santa Claus franchise, because it's funny and has a unique story to it," eighth-grader Sean Shepherd said.



"The Polar Express, because it showed Santa Claus, and it was my favorite childhood one that I always watched," eighth-grader Brandon Ashalintubbi said.



"The Santa Claus series, because they are hilarious," Mrs. Marissa Harms said.

# In the Elementary...



"The Grinch, because he was mean then saved Christmas," kindergartner Steven Harmon said.



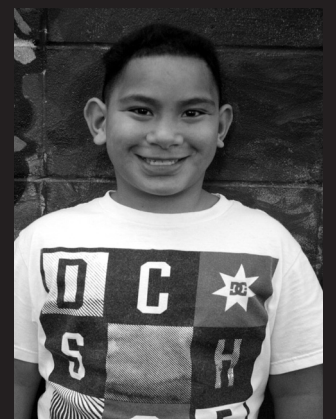
"Car's Christmas, because it's funny when Mater goes on the road and yells, 'I'm the first one on the road!' and it's really bumpy, and he loses all his tools," first-grader Wyatt Rahm said.



"The Polar Express, because I like the part when he opens the presents when he's not supposed to; it's really funny," second-grader Landon Storly said.



"How the Grinch Stole Christmas, because I like when the dog dresses up as a reindeer," third-grader Jevon Berry said.

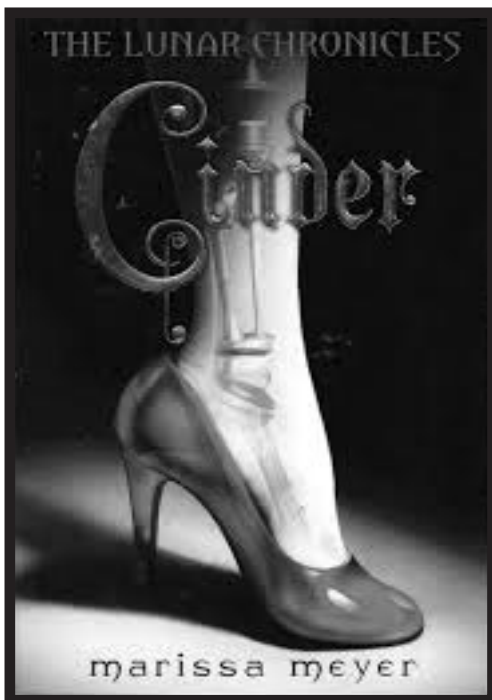


"The Grinch, because in the beginning of the movie he acts like he's going to die, but he doesn't; it's really funny," Loko Tonga said.

## Rachel's Book Shelf

By: Rachel Rausch

### Cinder



“Humans and androids crowd the raucous streets of New Beijing. A deadly plague ravages the population. From space, a ruthless Lunar people watch, waiting to make their move. No one knows that Earth’s fate hinges on one girl. . . .”

*Cinder* by Marissa Meyer tells the story of Cinder, a girl who lives in a world of humans, androids and cyborgs. She is a gifted mechanic who lives with her stepmother and two stepsisters. At a glance, Cinder appears to be a normal teenage girl, but in reality, she is a cyborg, despised by everyone who knows the truth.

One day while she is at her

booth in the market, Prince Kai stops by and asks her to fix an android of his. After this encounter, Cinder’s life seems to become mixed with Kai’s. Every new run-in with the prince brings her deeper into the potential war between Earth and the Lunar people. Caught in a whirlwind of emotions, Cinder searches for the answers to her past and a way to save the future.

*Cinder* is a spinoff of the classic fairytale “Cinderella.” The book is full of suspense. Meyer did a wonderful job writing this book, earning herself a place on The New York Times Bestseller list.

Check it out!

## Pass the Popcorn

By: Kate Finley

### Mockingjay Part 1.



The first part to the final installment of the Hunger Games film is FINALLY here! Since the producers had overwhelming information to go through in the *Mockingjay* book, the movie had to be spilt into two parts. Some fans find that atrocious and see it as a way for producers to suck every dime out of the Hunger Games franchise. I see it as what it is. All the information packed within the last book was so vast, the producers needed to expand the movies in order to develop the plotline and execute the films correctly. Therefore, do not be astonished when you find the movie ending on somewhat of a cliffhanger.

Continuing from where we left Katniss in the *Catching Fire* film, Katniss finds herself waking up in the “nonexistent” District 13. The rebellion has finally spread across most districts, and war had begun. While there's much less hand-to-hand fighting, the violence can still be intense and nail-biting. Katniss’s job throughout the film is to keep

the districts on her side and fight against the Capital’s tyranny. Her only request: to go into the Capital and remove Peeta and the other tributes from the President’s grasp. What Katniss does not know is that no one knows if they are even still alive.

Even more than the previous films, *Mockingjay* is full of compelling talking points about media, war, socialism, tyranny, women's roles and the idea that people need a symbol to rally around and have faith in during difficult times.

I, of course, recommend buying the movie once it hits stores. I more so recommend reading the books and finishing the series, especially if you find cliffhangers tedious and annoying, like me.

However, regardless of whether or not you have read the books--which you should--you should go see this movie. Just don’t forget to pass the popcorn!

By: Madison Styles

## Maddie's Music Review

Twenty-two-year-old English singer-songwriter Sam Smith grew up in Great Chishill, Cambridgeshire, in the UK and graduated from Overbrook High School in Philadelphia.

He turned down MIT to pursue his career in music.

Smith began performing at the age of eight. He was placed in formal vocal training with a local jazz singer after his parents heard him sing a Whitney Houston song on the drive to his Catholic primary school.

From the age of 12, his career was handled by six different managers with guarantees of fame that never seemed to come.

In 2013, Smith released the “Nirvana” EP which included an acoustic version of “Latch” that eventually reached No. 1.

By the end of February of 2014, he was at the top of the U.K. singles chart once again with his claim to fame “Money on My Mind.”

“Too much of a good thing won’t be good for long... I watch where I walk before I fall,” Smith said.

Smith has only released one album with 10 songs making it to the charts since 2003. Total, the songs spent 1794 weeks on the charts, and the album a total of 407 weeks.

His most popular songs

“Stay With Me” and “I’m Not the Only One” have sky-rocketed through the charts.

Everyone seems to be falling in love with this young British singer, and he will continue producing many hits in the future.

Go to the iTunes store to check out a preview of his songs or check out his performances on YouTube.

You will be impressed with his range and his ability and will want to continue to listen to his music.

