

The Scratchin' Post

Volume 20, Issue 4

Northwestern School District

221 3rd St., Mellette, SD 57461

January 2017

FFA excels at district and state competitions

By Fernanda Orsi and Sadie Vander Wal

FFA members exhibit phenomenal performances on district and state levels.

Members of the Northwestern Area FFA Chapter competed at the District VI Fall CDE in Miller on Nov. 15. Members included juniors Addison Sparling, Mackenzie Engels, Darien Watson and Sadie Vander Wal competing in agricultural communications, sophomores Gavin Bohl, Jarret Haven, Seth Wood and junior Tyler Braun in ag sales, Haven and eighth-grader Mitchell Vander Wal in ag broadcasting, sophomores Caleb Schentzel and Wood competing in extemporaneous speaking, freshmen Christine Stoltenberg Tomlyn Toy competing in creed speaking, and S. Vander

Wal competing in job interview. Results from the district competition included the following:

Jarret Haven placed fourth in ag broadcasting. Haven, Wood, Braun and Bohl placed third in ag sales.

State advancers included the following:

S. Vander Wal placed first in job interview

Engels, Sparling, Watson and S. Vander Wal placed second in agricultural communications.

Haven and S. Vander Wal also applied and interviewed for district offices. S. Vander Wal was elected District VI president and Haven was elected secretary for the 2016-2017 year.

"It is a cool opportunity. I'm excited to have breakfast with the legislators and learn about

additional opportunities as a district officer" Haven said.

After qualifying at the District VI competition, the agricultural communications team and Vander Wal advanced to the state competition in Pierre on Dec. 4 and 5 for the FFA State Fall Leadership Career Development Event. Junior Tyler Braun and sophomore Gavin Bohl also attended to time competition rooms and were accompanied by their adviser, Mrs. Noelle Swanson.

After taking an editing test, a grammar test, submitting their communications plan about using different media tactics to promote an agricultural product and presenting the plan to judges, the ag communications team received 4th place at the

state event.

"It was a great experience and I am really glad we started a FFA chapter and that we have Mrs. Swanson!" Watson said.

S. Vander Wal, after submitting her resume, cover letter, filling out a job application, interviewing with judges and completing a follow-up letter, placed first in job interview. Because of her gold medal placing, S. Vander Wal will advance to the national competition in Indianapolis, Indiana next October.

"I am so incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to go to state in job interview, let alone having the opportunity to attend nationals next October and compete. To think that a year ago I did not have the opportunity to compete and participate in FFA seems surre-

al, and I can never stop thanking my parents, school, community, or Mrs. Swanson for giving me such opportunities. FFA has been a tradition in my family for generations, and the ability to finally fulfill my own dreams by winning an event in my first year in FFA is an indescribable feeling. I am so excited not only because of my upcoming trip to nationals, but for the future of FFA at Northwestern," S. Vander Wal said.

"I am incredibly proud of how everyone did at districts and state and also incredibly excited for Sadie. I am looking forward to next year and seeing what all they are going to accomplish in FFA," Swanson said.



Courtesy Photo

Junior Sadie Vander Wal awarded at state FFA



Courtesy Photo

FFA members include juniors Tyler Braun, Mackenzie Engels, Darien Watson, Addison Sparling and Sadie Vander Wal and sophomore Gavin Bohl

Northwestern High School named Josten's 2016 National Yearbook Program of Excellence

By Caleb Schentzel

Jostens, the leading producer of yearbooks and student-created content, announced that Northwestern School's yearbook program has been named a 2016 Jostens National Yearbook Program of Excellence. The National Yearbook Program of Excellence

recognizes engaging yearbooks that reflect a broad representation of the student body while helping students develop 21st century skills such as communication, collaboration, and information and communication technologies literacy.

The Northwestern School award-winning

yearbook program is led by Rachel Rausch and Kate Finley under the direction of Mrs. Nora Groft, Northwestern School yearbook adviser.

Jostens' National Yearbook Program of Excellence Awards are twice a year, in spring and in fall for yearbooks delivered during the

school year. The award was presented to the Northwestern yearbook program for achieving the defined criteria in each of three following categories: creating an inclusive yearbook, generating school engagement, and successfully managing the yearbook creation process.

The Northwestern School yearbook program received a plaque to display in the yearbook classroom and a banner to display in school so the entire school community will be aware of the outstanding achievement.

**December Student of the Month:
Noa Tonga**



By Riley Grandpre

Noa Tonga has been selected as the December Student of the Month.

Tonga's parents are Taniela and Lueane Tonga. Her siblings include Lineni, Nafetala, Popua, Daniel and Loko.

Tonga's activities consist of Future Business Leaders of America, basketball and track and field. Her hobbies are eating, sleeping and art. Tonga's future plans are to attend the University of Utah.

Her favorite quote is "... either way you are trying because if you put "try" backwards it would stand for You R Trying." - Close family members.

Tonga's favorite athlete, role model or inspiration would be everyone because they all had their way of shaping her into the person she is today.

Her favorite class includes both art and biology.

When asked about her most embarrassing moment Tonga said, "I have none, every day is an embarrassing moment for me!"

NW FBLA saves lives

By Riley Grandpre

Northwestern's Future Business Leaders of America chapter hosted a blood drive on Nov. 30.

The students, teachers and community members had the opportunity to save lives by donating their blood.

For many of the high school students, this had not been the first experience donating blood. One of the qualifying factors include a minimum age of 16.

Donating blood means more than sticking a needle into a vein.

"It was a great experience and great knowing that my blood is going to a hospital and helping a person with a transfusion," said sophomore Caitlyn Fischbach.

"We started holding blood drives in 2005 and have had 19 so far,"

said advisor Mrs. Anne Frericks.

This year the blood drive had 31 donors scheduled, seven walk-ins, 38 signed in, three deferrals, 35 successful donations, eight donors that gave doubles and 43 products. The next blood drive will be held March 20.

Help the Northwestern FBLA chapter save lives and donate next March!



Courtesy Photo
Junior Dawson Smith donates blood

Vander Wal Livestock
Jeff, Beth, Sadie & Mitchell
Brentford, SD

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Booster Club**

The Northwestern Booster Club is made up of every Northwestern parent and raises money to give every classroom \$50 to use on supplies throughout the year.

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Robotics completes competition

By Caitlyn Fischbach

The robotics team participated at the national robotics held in Fargo, N.D. Overall the team had a great weekend, and competed against tough competition. The team took 18 overall out of 35 teams. The robot took 23 place. The marketing and presentation took 13 place along with the notebook taking 17. The team exhibit took 12, and the software eighth.

"It's cool to see the different kinds of ideas the other teams think of with their robots and exhibits. It was a great experience, because you get to meet new people and eat free food at the luncheon," sophomore Moira Duncan said.

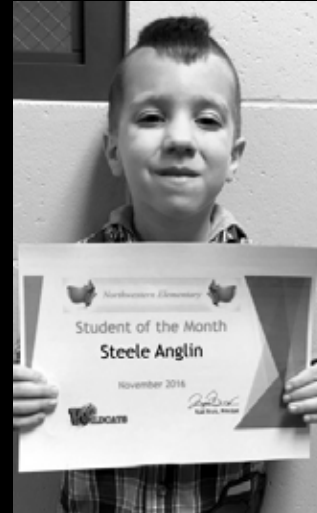
Northwestern has been working on their spirit, which had been one of the main goals for the students this year. The robotics team helped accomplish this and placed 15 for spirit and sportsman ship.

Elementary November Students of the Month:

By Josie Clemens

Steele Anglin

Ashley Haven



Kindergarten



Third-grade

The elementary teaching staff voted on nominations for grades K-2 and 3-5 for the awards.

NEWS BRIEFS

FBLA officers travel to Madison

By Caleb Schentzel

The Northwestern Future Business Leaders of America chapter officers took a trip to Madison, South Dakota on Dec. 7 for an Officer Leadership

Institute. The students who went to the workshop included juniors Megan Heidenrich, Jaidyn Kramp and Sadie Vander Wal.

Students excel in Math Counts

By Caitlyn Fischbach

Simmons Invitational Jan. 11 will be the last competition before the big chapter competition in February.

Megan Nash took 2nd place team award in the 8th grade division.

Holgate 6th Grade Invitational-

Nov. 16

Ethan Boekelheide, Tanner Ewalt, Fehi Faonelua, and Ella Haven took the 3rd place team award. Ethan Boekelheide placed 3rd individually.

Groton Area Invitational-

Oct. 5

Mitchell Vander Wal took 6th place

Warner 6th Grade Invitational-

Oct. 19

Tanner Ewalt took 6th place, Ethan Boekelheide took 5th place, and Brooke Heim, Chase Neiber, Ethan Boekelheide, and Quintin Fischbach took the 2nd place team award (out of 22 teams)

Roncalli Elementary Invitational-

Megan Nash took 2nd place in the 7th grade 1st division; Sam Groft took 1st place in the 7th grade 2nd division; Mitchell Vander Wal took 3rd place in the 8th grade division; Sam & Megan also took the 2nd place 7th grade team award

Roncalli Invitational-

Nov. 2

Mitchell Vander Wal took 4th place; Mitchell Vander Wal, Seth Heidenreich, Sam Groft,



Photo by Beth Vander Wal

Northwestern exhibit team stands in front of their display

Music students perform in Christmas concert

pictures by Fernanda Orsi



High school band



High school chorus



High school jazz band



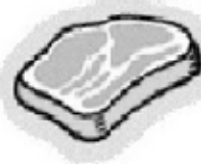
Above: Middle school band



Below: Middle school chorus

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NW boys' basketball team ready for season

By Josie Clemens

Northwestern basketball program drove into the season with new coaches and hope for success.

The program has 16 athletes participating this season, including seniors Derek Boekelheide, Chris Johnson and Andrew Lefforge, juniors Isaac Bauer and Dawson Smith, sophomores Gavin Bohl, Jarret Haven, Danny Orr, Caleb Schentzel and Zach Toennis and freshmen

Sebastian Beckwith, Zech Clemens, Zeke Duncan, Dalton Peterson, Dylan Rush and Kyle Stahl.

The Wildcats play their first game against Edmunds-Central at Northwestern on Tuesday, Dec. 13.

"We plan on pushing the ball, taking care of it, and executing what we have been doing in practice," Lefforge said.

After the home game on Tuesday, the team

will travel to Aberdeen to play against Aberdeen Christian.

"I feel the team is getting into good shape which will help us push the pace on both the offensive and defensive sides of the ball," Boekelheide said.

The Northwestern Wildcats basketball program plays a total of 20 regular season games this school year.

The Wildcats begin season with a 2-0 record

By Caleb Schentzel

The Northwestern girls' basketball team is on a two-game win streak with a 2-0 record. The girls have played the Roncalli Cavaliers and the Aberdeen Christian Knights.

The Wildcats beat the Cavaliers in a very close game that came down to a missed last second shot by the Cavaliers. The Wildcats beat the cavaliers 59-56. The team was led by senior Josie Clemens with 16 points, seven assists, seven rebounds and five steals.

Junior Evy Peterson had also led the team with 12 points along with junior Addison Sparling's 10 points and six rebounds.

"The season has been good so far, but there are definitely areas of improvement. We are working hard in practice and looking forward to upcoming games," Clemens said.

The Wildcats also claimed victory against the Knights. They beat the Knights 57-17. The Wildcats were led by junior Peyton Groft

and Sparling who both dropped 11 points. Sophomore Caitlyn Fischbach pulled down 5 rebounds and Clemens added 10 assists and eight steals.

After settling into the season, the girls' basketball team stays focused on its fundamentals while still looking to advance its game.

The team plays the Warner Monarchs on Thursday, Dec. 15 and the Miller Rustlers on Saturday, Dec. 17.

Boekelheide signs with SDSU

By Riley Grandpre



Courtesy Photo

Senior Derek Boekelheide competed in the Miller Invitational on Sept. 26
Derek Boekelheide signed in the last week of November to South

Dakota State University to run cross country and track and field.

Boekelheide has a reputation for his speed. Athleticism runs in his family. His father and his uncle both played basketball at Northern State University while his mom ran cross country and track.

Boekelheide weighed his options but chose SDSU for multiple reasons.

"I liked the coach and the program. Also they have agronomy, and

that's what I want to go into," Boekelheide said.

This student-athlete heads into the final half of the school year with goals in mind as well.

"I'd like to continue to improve and dropping my times and break 1:50 for the 800," Boekelheide said.

Boekelheide surely makes Northwestern proud, and we will continue to cheer him on as he begins to close his running career as a high school athlete.

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and Instagram!
@nw_journalism**

Wrestlers have competed in three events

By Caitlyn Fischbach

The Warner-Northwestern wrestling team has already competed in three events consisting of Ipswich/Britton, Kimball Tournament, and the Faulkton Tournament.

"The first tournament went well, and I am looking forward to the

upcoming tournaments and state," said junior Tyler Braun.

The upcoming tournaments will be hosted at Lyman on Jan. 6, Lyman on Jan. 7, Potter Country on Jan. 11 at 10:00 AM, Arlington on Jan. 21 at 9:30 AM.

STATE CH

Northwestern volleyball team takes home the gold!

By Caleb Schentzel

The Northwestern Wildcats volleyball team ended the season with the 2016 Class B State Champion title.

Northwestern was the first seed heading into the state tournament.

In the first round the Wildcats played Sanborn Central/ Woonsocket, winning 3-0. The Wildcats were led by junior Addison Sparling with four aces, sophomore Caitlyn Fischbach with 16 kills, senior Darby Duncan with 20 assists, freshman Madalyn Groft with 14 digs and sophomore Riley Grandpre with 25 blocks.

Northwestern then advanced to the semifinals and faced the fourth-seed Parker.

In the semifinals, the Wildcats beat the Parker Pheasants 3-0. The team

was led by M. Groft with two aces, Fischbach with 15 kills, Duncan with 19 assists and senior Josie Clemens with 12 digs and two blocks.

This victory led the Wildcats to the championship match.

The Wildcats faced the number three seed, Chester Area Flyers. Chester had a season record 21-6. The Wildcats won the first two sets against the Flyers but lost in the third set. The team rallied back and took the title in the fourth set.

The team was led by Duncan with four aces, junior Evy Peterson with 21 kills, Duncan with 32 assists, Clemens with 27 digs and Grandpre with seven blocks.

Not only did the team take home the title, but individual awards had

been received as well.

Congratulations to junior Peyton Groft, Peterson and Fischbach for receiving Class B All-Tournament team.

Also congratulations to assistant coach Elissa Reppe for receiving AVCA 30 under 30 award winner and SDVBCA Middle School Coach of the Year. Congratulations to assistant coach Alex Smith for receiving SDVBCA Class B Assistant Coach of the Year. Also a huge shout out to head coach Nora Groft for winning her sixth state tournament championship as a head coach.

"I feel fantastic that we won another state title!" N. Groft said.

The Wildcats ended the season with a record of 36-1.



Photo by South Dakota Public Broadcasting
Junior Addison Sparling serves against Parker.



Photo by South Dakota Public Broadcasting
Head coach Nora Groft and assistant coaches Elissa Reppe and Alex Smith cheer on the opposing team during lineups.



Photo by Roxanne Beardemphl

The Wildcats cheer before starting their warmups in the championship match.



Photo by Roxanne Beardemphl

Junior Peyton Groft, #1, lunges for the ball as junior Evy Peterson, #11, waits to hit.



Photo by South Dakota Public Broadcasting

Senior Darby Duncan, #8, sets the ball.

CHAMPIONS

All photos taken by Roxanne Beardemphl



Sophomore Caitlyn Fischbach, #3, swings hard.



Eighth-grader Sydney Schell, #11, and freshmen Miranda Thorson, #13, and Dani Watson, #14, shake hands after the Parker match.



Sophomore Riley Grandpre



Freshman Madalyn Groft



Freshmen Chrissy Stoltenberg, #16 and Miranda Thorson, and junior Moira Duncan, #9



Junior Evy Peterson, #11, pounds a kill.



Freshmen Hailey Boekelheide, #7, and Tya Weideman, #10, with senior Darby Duncan, #8

FFAQ

By Fernanda Orsi



Photo by Fernanda Orsi

Senior Fernanda Orsi

Q. Are there any different new year's tradition in Brazil?

A. Yes, we do have some new year's traditions. If you spend your New Year's Eve on the beach you are supposed to jump over seven little waves and make seven wishes. We also eat seven grapes and keep the seeds in our wallets to give us luck and bring wealth.

Q. How do you like the weather?

A. I have been asked this question every day since it started becoming cold. At first I did not like the weather, except for the snow, but now I am getting used to the weather and I do not mind it anymore, unless I am out in the open, then I hate it. I am also really excited about the snow since it is the first time I have seen an abundance of it.

Q. What does the Brazilian flag colors stand for?

A. I am almost sure that the green represents our forest and green areas, the yellow represents the gold and the wealth of the country and the blue represents the sky and the oceans



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Merry Christmas and a happy new you

Staff Editorial

As Thanksgiving quickly vanishes, the holiday fun begins.

Families hang ornaments on their Christmas tree. Neighbors decorate lights on every branch in their yard. Grandma makes her favorite holiday sugar cookies.

Not only do people prepare for the holidays, but they also await another significant event: the beginning of a new year.

Amazingly, the simple switch of a number could turn a person's life

around.

Somehow, a life-altering phenomenon occurs between Dec 31, 2016 at 11:59 PM and 12:00 AM on Jan 1, 2017.

The dread and despair of life develops into an abundance of potential and hope with desires to have a life better than the year before.

A new year's resolution has become yet another sad excuse to procrastinate a healthy change of character, diet or other dissatisfying aspect of one's life.

Why wait to make that transition into a better life?

People believe that their willpower will be stronger in the new year. Their urge to eat the cookies on the platter will weaken. Maybe their resolution would be to change their pessimistic attitude into a cheerful personality.

That resolution seems possible because after 40 years of complaining and grumbling, changing a bad attitude is just so simple.

In some cases, the New Year's resolutions do work, but not based on the time factor. The wishes work because the people making the wish do not call their change a "New Year's resolution." Rather, their timing coincidentally occurs with the change of the new year.

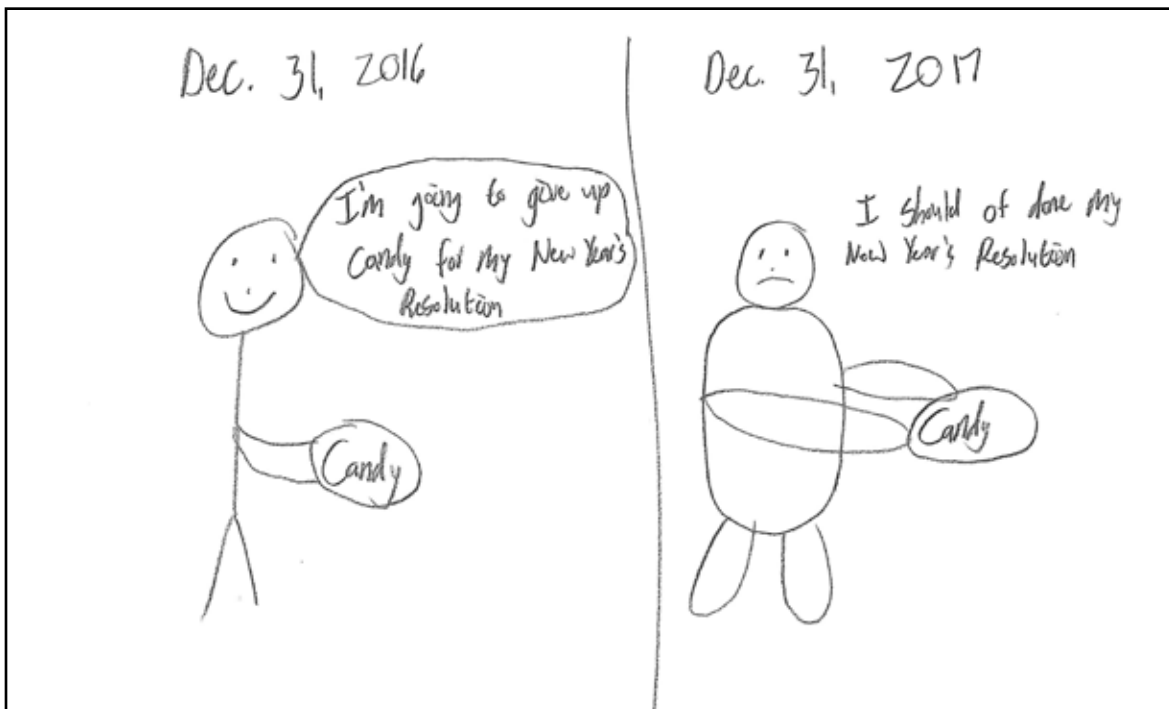
More often than not, the resolve to change a certain aspect of life fails because it diminishes in significance as the months wash away. A "New Year's resolution"

does not seem as "new," causing people of this generation to lose interest.

The year drags on and rubs away any optimistic determination people may need to see their New Year's resolution through until 11:59 PM of Dec. 31.

Overall, the goal of a New Year's resolution often fails miserably, making the idea of having a resolution more significant than the change itself.

Caleb's Cartoon *By Caleb Schentzel*



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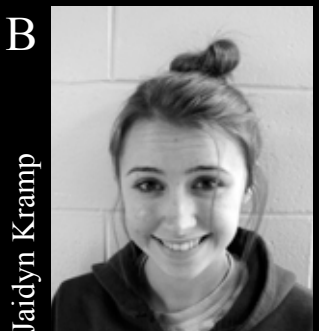
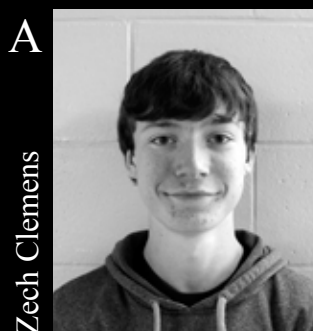
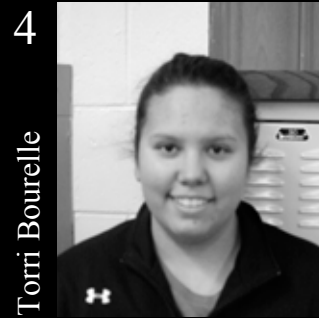
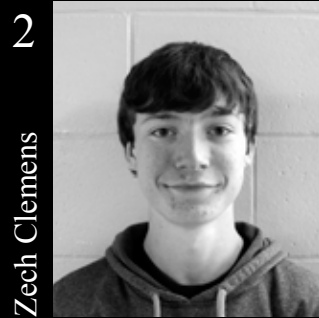
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IT'S A MATCH!

Can you match each person to their best friend?

Photos and story by Josie Clemens



Answers: 1B, 2E, 3A, 4D, 5C (5C is correct)

First-graders write letters to Santa

Dear Santa,
 Will you please give me a my life doll that tock. If you do I would love it. And can you give me a cute doll citty that can tock.
 Love Victoria Age 6

Dear Santa,
 I want a gloe in the dark race trac. And a puppy. And a cool drume set.
 Love Will

Dear Santa,
 I really want Pok'emon card's and shop kin movie.
 Love Isabella.

Dear Santa,
 I want a magic track and a drum set.
 Love Emily.

Dere Santa,
 Can I ples have a gtoor for crismis
 Love Aiden

Dear Santa,
 I want a kitty and kitty toys.
 Love Tailynn

Dear Santa,
 I hope you have a happy Christmas. I hope you can mack a bangeo.
 Love CColton!
 Ho Ho Ho

Dear Santa,
 I wish for a rmote conchrol rascar.
 Love,
 Beckett

Dear Santa,
 I rele want a scad board and some roolrbads and a TV and a ipad.
 Love Isaac

Dear Santa,
 I want a mindcraft play set and a pet owl
 Love Issy

Dear Santa,
 I wish I had a pretty pretty dress with gols and sporracos like a pissess
 Love Umylah

Dear Santa,
 I wont lots of presentes
 Love Faith

Dear Santa,
 I want a goldfish.
 I want a drum set.
 I want a gloop ras track
 LOVE Drew

Dear Santa,
 What do you look like? What do you eat? Anyway I want a Doc Mic stuffin toy hospital. hay santa, remember to take my picher I made and Wyder's to.
 Love Anneliese
 (ps write back) HO HO HO
 All the children love you!!!

Dear Santa,
 For christmas I relle relly want a chut puppy and a helmet and pads for christmas
 ps Jarren

Der Santa,
 For christmas I wont a toy spix dron
 Love Andrew

Dear Santa,
 I thinc you r osam. I wish for a xbox for crismis ad mindcraf whith my xbox
 Love Remmy.

Letters to Santa from journalism class

Dear Santa,
 All I want for Christmas is for you to send a toy to every boy and girl in an orphanage. And also, an unlimited gift card to Barnes and Noble would be cool too. Thanks!
 Yours truly,
 Josie ☺

Dear Santa,
 This year for Christmas I would like some black Nike tennis shoes, spandex, sweatpants, salt gun, beats wireless headphones.
 ~ Caitlyn Fischbach

Dear Santa,
 Can you possible wrap one of your elf's for me? He will become well educated for he will be doing my homework! I also would like an unlimited amount of M&M's. On a more serious note I would like a black North Face vest, and white high top converse.
 Yours truly,
 Riley Grandpre

Dear Santa,
 I am really looking forward to Christmas. It is one of the best times of the year. This year for Christmas I would like a new iPhone because right now I have an iPhone 5s and everyone else has a 6+ or a 7. I would also like some more guns for hunting because you can never have too many guns. I would also really enjoy getting a new snowmobile. Preferably a 2016 Polaris 800 Pro RMK 163 track. This is all I want for Christmas. Thank you Santa
 From Caleb Schentzel

In the Hallway...

In the Elementary

What is your favorite part about winter?

By Caitlyn Fischbach



"It's three days after my birthday on Dec. 18," fourth-grader Annie Dvorak said.



"It is during my birthday during my birthday [Jan. 2]," second-grader Tara Blachford said.



"Having Christmas," first-grader Jarren Haven said.



"Building snowmen and playing in the snow," first-grader Emily Brick said.



"Playing in the snow and throwing snowballs," kindergartner Noah Grenier said.

In the Middle School

What is your New Year's resolution?

By Riley Grandpre



"I need to give up pop," eighth-grader Hannah Schentzel said.



"I want the Colts to win the Super Bowl," seventh-grader Christopher Toennis said.



"I would like more chickens," sixth-grader Rian Gehring said.



"I need to get my work done," seventh-grader Dominic Koch said.



"I would like to get better grades," eighth-grader Joclyn Haven said.

In the High School

What is your New Year's resolution?

By Josie Clemens



"I want to get good grades," junior Tyler Braun said.



"I plan on keeping my room clean," sophomore Riley Grandpre said.



"I want to make it through one Spanish class video with Riley without laughing or messing up," sophomore Caitlyn Fischbach said.



"It never works anyways, so why even try?" freshman Cassidy Frericks said.



"I want to catch a monster fish," senior Derek Boekelheide said.

Caitlyn's Cuticles

By Caitlyn Fischbach

Tools

1. Nail polish
2. Makeup sponge
3. Clear top coat

The "sponge" technique

An easy way to do your nails is using a sponge technique. To do this technique all you need is a make-up sponge and your nail polish. First, choose at least two or more colors. Then paint the colors you choose onto the sponge. Finally, dab the painted sponge on your nails. After it dries, add a top coat and a design if you wish.

Riley's Closet

By Riley Grandpre

Before everyone starts to eat all the good Christmas food, maybe stop and think about what clothing will stretch as you keep eating food! Here are some few comfortable clothes idea for Christmas. A crew neck sweatshirt or a long sleeve would go perfectly with a vest over top. This style has recently become more seen. Many college students have started to follow this trend. For pants, jeans or leggings go perfectly with the vest. A pair of shoes that would go well could be high top white Converse sneakers. These have really popped up this past summer. If you would like to wear this brand of shoe, yoga pants or skinny jeans would match perfectly. A scarf would top off this outfit nicely, along with a beanie to stay warm. Have a very merry Christmas!

Peterson Meats

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Cookin' with Caleb

By Caleb Schentzel

Gingersnap Cookies

First, mix...

- 1 cup brown sugar
- ¾ cup shortening
- ¼ cup molasses
- 1 egg

Then add:

- 2 ¼ cups flour
- 2 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp ginger
- ½ tsp cloves

Cover and chill for one hour.
 Form into round balls and roll in sugar.
 Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes.
 Enjoy the delicious gingersnap cookies!

Josie's Jigsaw

BASKETBALL WORD SEARCH

The following words can be found across, up, down, and diagonally:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| BASKETBALL | SCORE |
| DRIBBLE | SHOT |
| DRIVE | TEAMWORK |
| FOUL | VICTORY |

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