

FFA Goes to Districts and State

By Madalyn Groft

The Northwestern FFA district teams won overall, the sweepstakes award for the entire chapter. The FFA crew went to State FFA held in Pierre, South Dakota on Dec. 3 and 4. Senior Tyler Braun, junior Jarret Haven, junior Seth Wood, and junior Gavin Bohl participated in the Ag Sales at State FFA. Bohl, junior McKay Petigrew, fresh-

man Mitchell Vander Wal, freshman Jackson Weideman, freshman Kiarra Stuck, freshman Alexis Rahm, and freshman Hannah Schentzel were all part of the Ag Issues team at state. M. Vander Wal participated in Creed Speaking. On Sunday night, Ag Communications and Ag Sales took tests as part of their scores, Ag Communications pre-

sented their media plan for an ag advocacy event they created from the event prompt. Ag Sales also competed Sunday night by using their persuasive abilities to try and sell ag products to judges. Ag Issues team presented a current ag issue on the scene, to judges and had to take a neutral stance on the topic by presenting both sides of the argument. M. Vander

Wal also competed in Creed Speaking event Sunday night where he recited the FFA creed by memory to judges. On Monday morning, senior Sadie Vander Wal and M. Vander Wal competed in Extemporaneous Speaking where they each drew topics out of a hat and had 30 minutes to prepare a four to six-minute speech on the topic. S. Vander

Wal, senior Mackenzie Engels, senior Darien Watson, and junior Sam Olson were on the team placed first overall in Ag Communications. They will be going to National FFA next October. M. Vander Wal placed second and S. Vander Wal placed fifth in Extemporaneous Speaking.



Courtesy Photo

FFA students pose in front of a sign at nationals



Courtesy Photo

Senior Sadie Vander Wal and freshman Mitchell Vander Wal pose for a picture after receiving fifth and second place.

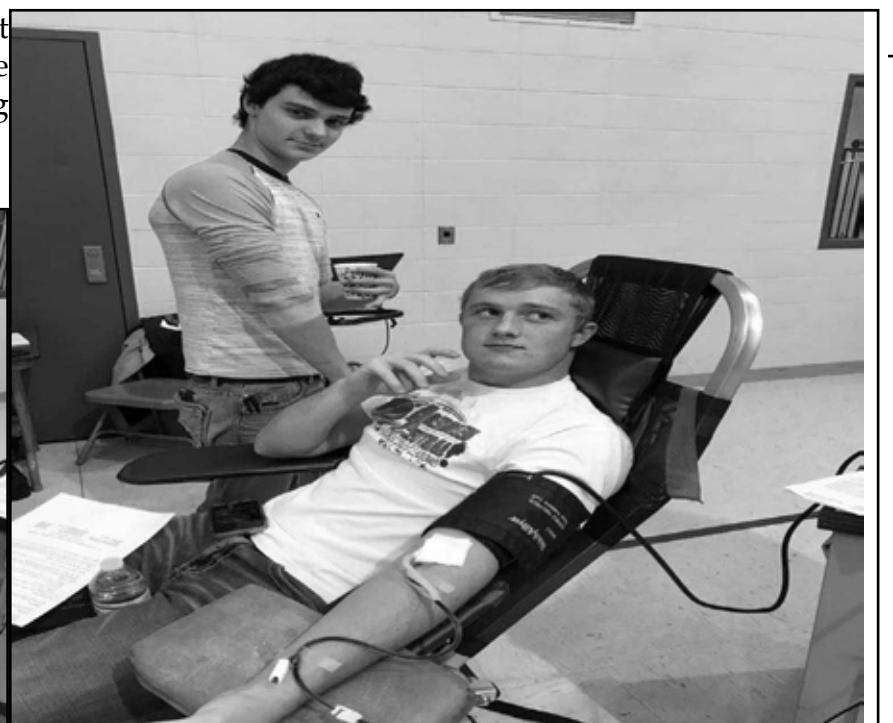
Northwestern Community Saves Lives

By Dalton Peterson

On Nov. 29 Future Business Leaders of America ran a blood drive from 8:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Many of the students have already done the blood drive before, but there were still a few new students who gave blood. Some students couldn't give blood. The blood drive collected 22 units of blood. The students, teachers and community members had the opportunity to save lives by donating their blood. The minimum age was 16 year old.

"I was really nervous at first because I have never given blood before, but after it was over I was fine knowing I saved

three lives that day!" sophomore Talley Sparling said.



SOM



By Riley Grandpre

This recipient for student of the month is junior Moira Duncan. Duncan's parents are Doug and Amy Duncan, and her siblings consist of Jeanna, Zach, Darby, and Ezekiel. Duncan's activities include volleyball, basketball, one-act play, spring play, youth group, FCA and FBLA.

Her hobbies include building puzzles, playing games, watching movies, playing with the daycare children and spending time with family.

Duncan's future plans are to attend USD or DSU for business management.

Her favorite quote, "In everything, set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us." - Titus 2:7-8.

Her favorite role models are her two sisters, Darby and Jeanna, because they have given her two great examples to follow in how she presents herself at school and in her faith.

Duncan's favorite class is business management. Congrats, Mo!

Robotics Places at Nationals

By Dalton Peterson

On Nov. 30 through Dec. 2 the Robotics team competed in nationals in Fargo, North Dakota.

"I really enjoyed robotics this year because I had a lot more responsibility being on the marketing team and I learned a

lot more working under Sadie and Megan. We had a large team this year and I am excited to see how next year goes." Hailey Boekelheide said.

The theme was Cross Fire. Team had to build a robot to knock down fire (cups), a person (pipes), and move chemicals (cans).

The first day of competition is marketing and exhibits, and the second day is robot and awards. This was the last competition of the year.



Courtesy Photo
Robotics members huddle together before competing.

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Voice of Democracy

By Madalyn Groft

The Redfield VFW holds a speaking contest every year, the Voice of Democracy. Many schools around the area participate in the speaking contest. The students all have to fill out a form, type up an essay relating to the topic, and a record the speech. The speech itself has to be three to five minutes long. Every year the topic of the speech is different. This year's topic was "My Hope for America's future." In the speech, the speaker would explain his or her view of what he or she hope America comes to be in the future. The entire sophomore class participated in this contest. Hailey Boekelheide placed first, Danielle Watson placed second and Miranda Thorson placed third.

"I really enjoy speech class, so this helped me further my public speaking skills. The topic of the essay opened my eyes to a lot of pressing matters in our generation, and let me use my voice for things that are important to me," Boekelheide said.

The first place winner earned \$100, presented her speech, and moved on to the next level. The second-place finisher also moves to the next level. The winners can move on to state and nationals and keep earning money if they keep winning.

"The Voice of Democracy contest prepared me for my upcoming speech class, and it gave me a new insight to current issues in my generation," Watson said.

Sophomores
Hailey
Boekelheide
and Dani
Watson.



By Madalyn Groft



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NEWS BRIEFS

Math Counts

By Madalyn Groft

The middle school Math Counts students had a competition Dec. 6 at Roncalli. The eighth-grade team, including Dominic Kaderabek, Jessica Boekelheide, Samuel Groft and Megan Nash,

placed second as a team. Seventh-grader Ethan Boekelheide, J. Boekelheide, Groft and Nash all placed third in their divisions, and seventh-grader Fehi Faonelua placed fourth.

Northeast Area Honors Band

By Caitlyn Fischbach

Senior Sadie Vander Wal, sophomore Zeke Duncan and freshman Mitchell Vander Wal participated in the Northeast Area Honors Band in Aberdeen at the Johnson Fine Arts Center Dec. 2.

The three Northwestern stu-

dents played in various band pieces with other students from other schools from all over.

Elementary Honors Choir

By Madalyn Groft

Fifth-grader Josh Thorson will participate in the Elementary Honors Choir Feb. 8, 2018, at South Dakota State University in Brookings.

Elementary Christmas Concert

By Ana Rivetti

Northwestern Elementary school had its Christmas concert on Dec. 6 at the school gym where all the students from kindergarten to fifth grade performed.

After being welcomed by Mrs. Amy Heinz, the concert began with "I'm a Little Snowman & Jingle, Jingle Bell" by the preschool, then the whole elementary gathered to perform "Livin' in a New World," and it ended

also with all the kids, this time they sang "A New World Christmas."

"The students worked hard to learn their speaking and singing parts, singing both melody and harmony. They were challenged with multiple songs and a loss of class time and I am very proud of their performance!" Heinz said.

Each grade got to do two performances, including songs and speaking. First

grade did "Mostly What I Wish For" and "Parade of Wooden Soldiers," second did "The Best Gifts" and "Mele Kalikimaka," third did "We're Gonna Plant A Christmas Tree" and "Twas in The Moon of Wintertime," fourth did "Pat-A-Pan" and "Make a Buck" together with fifth, who did "O Sanctissima" also.

High School and Middle School Christmas Concert

By Torri Bourelle

The "A Very Merry Movie Christmas" high school and middle school Christmas concert was held on Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. The band director Mrs. Wendy Thorson is in charge of the high school band and the middle school band in the high school she has 35 total band members and 28 jazz band members, jazz band had played "Doctor No-el" and the whole band members played "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," "The Nightmare Before Christmas," "Have

Yourself A Merry Little Christmas" and "How the Grinch Stole Christmas Concert Medley." There are 44 middle school band members which had played "Feliz Navidad," "The Moon of Winter," and "Ho Ho Hoedown." Vocal director Mrs. Amy Heinz is in charge of the high school and the middle school choir. The middle school chorus sang "White Christmas," "Grandma Got Ran Over By a Reindeer," "A Carol Festival" and "Jingle Bells," which has 60

middle school students. The high school choir has 19 students and they sang "SNOW! A Winter Celebration," "12 Days After Christmas," "O Come to the Manger," "Let the Tiny Baby Come In" and "Perfect Christmas Night." To start off the High school jazz band played there song, the middle school choir sang its songs, middle school band played its song, high school choir sang its songs, lastly but not least to end the night the high school band played its songs.

State Oral Interp

By Ana Rivetti

Northwestern oral interpretation team went to state competition, at Aberdeen Central High School, Dec 1 - 2. Represented by eighth-grader Jessica Boekelheide and freshmen Hailie Stuck and coached by Jolinda Finley, the team reached a very good score.

"Both girls did an excellent job, they were one of sixteen competing in their respective category, which is awesome,

because they work really hard preparing and competing. Getting to see them excelling at the competition was very satisfying!" coach Finley said.

Boekelheide received the Superior medal, which would be the highest award of the competition. She recited "The Cookie Jar" by Jake Barton, and her category was poetry.

"State oral interp was really fun! I enjoyed lis-

tening to all the different pieces, and I am very excited for next year" Boekelheide said.

Stuck competed on the storytelling category. She also did really great and received the Excellent reading award with the story "The Knife."

"I found that state Oral Interp was very fun as well as nerve racking, but it was much easier than I had thought it would be," Stuck said.

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Courtesy Photo

Jessica
Boekelheide wins
the Oral Interp
Superior Medal.

Northwestern Christmas Concert

pictures by Ana Rivetti



High school band



High school chorus



Elementary Choir



Below: Middle school chorus

Above: Middle school band



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Boys' basketball team starts off season strong with 3-1 record

By Ana Rivetti

The basketball season started great for the Northwestern boys' varsity team. On Tuesday, Dec. 12, the Wildcats had their first game of the season against Edmund Central at Roscoe, and they cruised to a 74 - 28 win over the Raiders.

"I had a lot of fun playing my first game; the practice here is way harder, and the teammates are better and bigger here than in Spain. I am looking forward to the upcoming games. I think we can make it very far in the region tournament and potentially state," junior Pablo Alonso said.

During the game, sophomore Zech Clemens was the one that scored the most points of the game, with 32 points, junior Caleb Schentzel got the highest number of rebounds, with 10 and 9 assists, and sophomore Dalton Peterson got 4 blocks.

"I am going miss the team and playing the games very much, but I am not going to miss all the running at practice", senior Isaac Bauer said.

The Wildcats will be playing a total of

20 games throughout the season, then it is followed by the Round of 16, which if they make it, they will go to the state competition. The new players this year are Pablo Alonso and freshmen Hunter Schipke and Jace Haven, playing varsity.

"If you work hard and dedicate yourself to the sport, good things will happen to you and the team. #poundtherock. We have to practice and work harder than any other team out there in order to win and succeed. I believe that we have enough talented players and hard-working athletes to succeed in the 2017-2018 boys basketball season," Clemens said.



Courtesy Photo

Senior Isaac Bauer takes an outside shot.



Courtesy Photo

Junior Jarret Haven finishes a shot.



Courtesy Photo

Junior Caleb Schentzel goes up for the jump ball.



Courtesy Photo

Junior Gavin Bohl drives into the lane.

Girls' basketball team goes 2-3

Riley Grandpre

The Northwestern girls' basketball team already has a few games under their belt with a win over the Miller Rustlers.

The first game versus Roncalli, senior Addison Sparling led the team with 10 points on the night. Sparling and senior Evy Peterson crashed the board on offensive side with three rebounds each. On the defensive side, sophomore Chrissy Stoltenberg had three rebounds, junior Caitlyn Fischbach had three and Sparling had two. The ending score was 31-60.

The next game was against Warner, Dec. 14. Stoltenberg finished with five points on the night. On the boards, Stoltenberg and Fischbach led the team on the offensive side with three rebounds apiece, and

freshman Hannah Schentzel help on the defensive side with three rebounds. The final score was 27-62.

The team kept trucking through the season and moved on to the third game of the year versus Miller. Fischbach helped the team get a win with 15 points. Sparling held the offensive boards with three rebounds apiece, and Fischbach with five defensive boards, along with freshman Sydney Schell with eight rebounds. The final score was 57-56 in overtime.

The latest game against Waverly-South Shore, Fischbach score 16 points along with four offensive and defensive rebounds. Stoltenberg had six offensive rebounds and eight defensive. The ending

score was 40-50.

The Wildcats defeated Aberdeen Christian just before the Christmas break on Dec. 22 with a score of 66-21.

The team has a record of 2- 3. The Wildcats take on the Sisseton Redmen in Sisseton Dec. 28 over the holiday break.

Good luck to the team as they keep trucking through their season.

"I believe we can do amazing things this year. The team has amazing seniors that set good examples for the whole team. Coach Roni is a good fit to our group, she is funny, and loves to practice with us girls. I am excited to see what is instore for us," junior Riley Grandpre said.



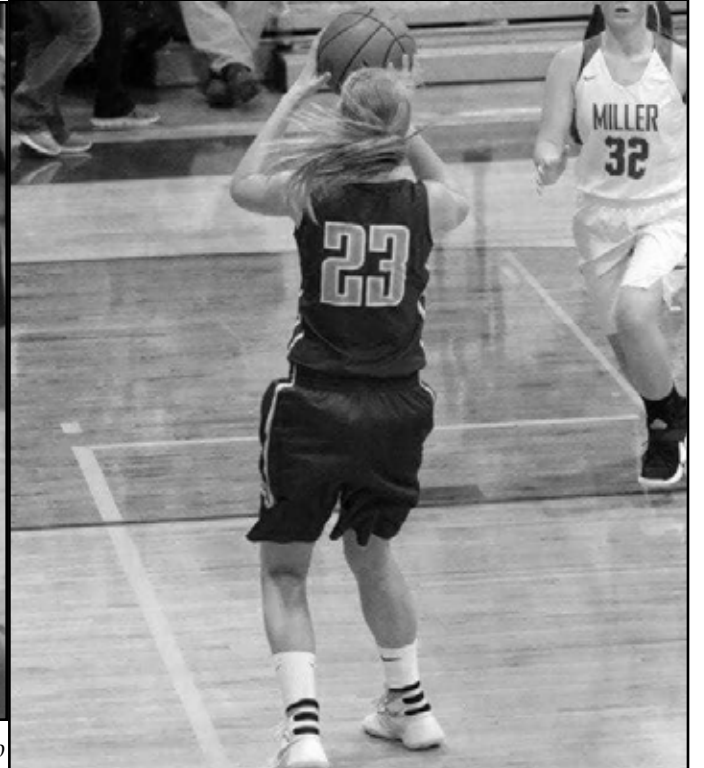
Courtesy Photo

Senior Addison Sparling takes the ball in for a layup.



Courtesy Photo

Senior Peyton Groft plays defense at the Miller game.



Courtesy Photo

Junior Caitlyn Fischbach goes up for a shot.



Courtesy Photo

Sophomore Chrissy Stoltenberg shoots a free throw.



Courtesy Photo

Coach Denise Clemens talks to sophomore Miranda Thorson.

Volleyball

Coaches lead by example, and the Northwestern volleyball staff sets amazing examples for their team.

The coaches are the backbone of the volleyball team, without them, the team would not be able to win state championships. Head coach Nora Groft received Region 1 Coach of the Year and Coach of the Year 2017, along with her assistant coaches, Elissa Reppe winning the Middle School Coach of the Year, and Alexz with won Assistant Coach of the Year and a recipient of the AVCA 30 Under 30 Award.

"We are very blessed to have Alexz and Elissa

on our volleyball coaching staff. They would be excellent head coaches, yet they choose to be here to work with our girls," Coach Groft said.

The coaching staff is always looking for ways to improve their knowledge about the game and bring it back to the volleyball players.

This year the coaches traveled to Kansas City, where they had the opportunity to learn different drills, meet the Olympian head coach, Karch Kiraly, and Olympian Kerri Walsh Jennings and watch the Division I volleyball championship.

Another amazing leader is senior Peyton Groft.

This year she had the opportunity to play in the All-Star games. P. Groft has been playing varsity since eighth-grade. Throughout her five years as a starter, she has broken many different school records. P. Groft always strives to be the best player on and off the court; she is someone the younger students can always look up to.

She leads off the court with her fantastic grades and fun personality. The Northwestern volleyball program has a great reputation of good athletes and coaches, and these four women are great role models.

Dalton Peterson

The wrestling team has had its first competitions on Dec. 2, 7, 9 and 16.

The team is con-

sisted of Warner and Northwestern. The kids from Northwestern are senior Tyler Braun

and freshman Seth Heidenreich. The next competition is Jan. 5 - 6 at Lyman.

Wrestling



Courtesy Photo

Senior Peyton Groft, coaches Nora Groft, Elissa Reppe and Alexz Smith high five in the huddle.

Middle School Participates in Stock Market Competition

By Caitlyn Fischbach

For the fall trading session, 362 students from 20 South Dakota schools formed 160 teams of stock market investors and received a hypothetical \$100,000 to perform online investing in real-time stocks, bonds and mutual funds. The program's carefully integrated curriculum lets students experience the financial markets in the classroom as they learn about business, math, economics, personal finance and the importance of saving and investing for the long term. Students teams compete for prizes. The teachers receive free online training via a series of webinars conducted in the weeks prior to the start of each trading session and recieved weekly newsletters on economic, business and personal finance topics to use in the classroom. The winner of the middle school division was Northwestern with a final portfolio of \$110,354. Mrs. Shelley Fischbach used the program in her junior high math class.



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New Year's Resolutions

Staff Editorial

#New Year New Me. As the New Year approaches, many have a New Year's resolution. 2018 has a great amount of expectations for many people, the class of 2018 graduates; many pray to move up in grades.

Here is a flashback of 2017: the Northwestern volleyball team won the state championship for the second year in a row, the cross-country team went to state and placed,

new locker rooms, a new computer lab and more updates throughout the school, new coaches added to the football and basketball team, many new bright faced students have joined the school, Future Business Leaders of America and FFA have excelled, and so on.

In 2018 the students hope for more state titles, get AC in the gym, for the school year to be

fun, for the clubs to keep excelling, and everyone to be in good health and spirits.

Each year has expectations, and some years fail to reach those, but hopefully 2018 will be amazing, and we will actually meet the goals everyone sets.

Many say these years of our lives are the best years, so please help us to make them the best

by cheering us on and providing positive experience for all students. We love NW!

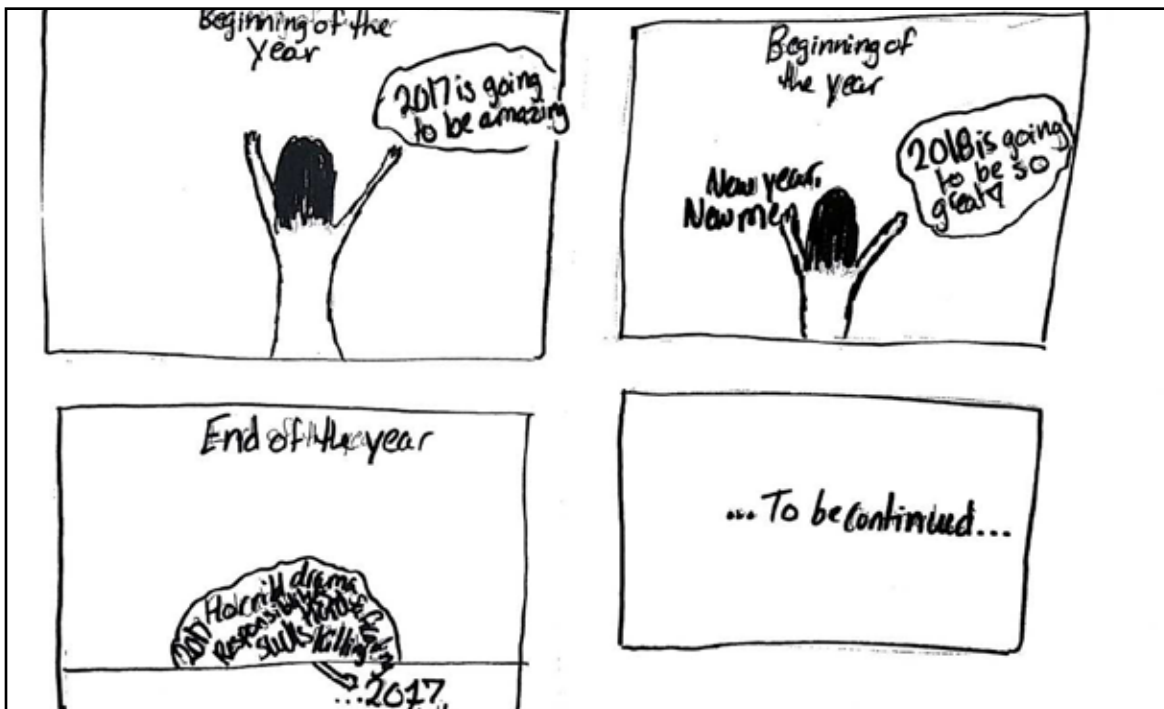
Have a safe and happy new year!

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Cartoon *By Riley Grandpre*



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IT'S A MATCH!

Can you match each person to their Christmas tree?

By Caitlyn Fischbach



Answers: A:3, B:1, C:2, D:4, E:5

First-graders write letters to Santa

Dear Santa,
Will you please get me a rc truck. I need a stronger truck. I can drive it in the snow. I won't get stuck in the snow.
Sincerely, Rustin Mass

Dear Santa,
I want to get Jon Deer tractr. They are fun to play farm. My brother play with them too.
Sincerely, Cray Solhim

Dear Santa,
Please give me a green and yeloow blanket. I can share my blanket with my sister. It will keep me warm on cold days. I can use it for my bed.
Sincerely, Lilly Haven

Dear Santa,
Pleas can i hav a monster machines. I want to rase it. I will hav fun with it. I will share with my brother and sistr.
Sincerely, Noah Grenier

Dear Grandmar,
Please can I hav Jursassic parK 3. my favorite diuosaur is a SpinoSuaruS. We can watch together. it is about my thing dinosuars.
Sincerely, Austin Joel Vette

Dear Santa!!!!!!
Please get me a pokemom cards. The cards will hlep me play with my sister. I will get better. I will be the master.
Sincerely, Steal Anglin

Dear Mom,
May I have a easel!?! So i can get better at art. Bces I have fun. I will share with my sisters and brothers!
Sincerely Eva Troske

Dear Mom,
Please can I hav a dashcamera. I can play with it. It is fun. It go in the woodz.
Sincerely, Erik Kiefer.

Dear Dad,
Please Dad can you get me a pokemon cards! they are rilly strong! I am going to be a m-sater battling is fun!
Sincerely, Carson Reppe

Letters to Santa from journalism class

Dear Santa,
I know I am on the naughty list, and you have checked it twice. However, I personally believe I am not that naughty, so here is my Christmas list: Target gift cards, the One Tree Hill TV show collection, new tennis shoes, and any food you could possibly carry. I have great gratitude for you taking your time and reading this.
Yours truly, Riley Grandpre

Our Dearest Santa Claus,
We have both been exceptionally good girls this year and have been completing our yearbook deadlines on time. All we want for Christmas is fully-paid college tuition for the next four years because college is expensive and we are broke. We would also appreciate an earlier graduation date.
Sincerely,
Peyton Groft & Sadie Vander Wal

Dear Santa,
This year I would like some spandex, some gold and green Nike shoes, comfy sweats, more volleyballs, and money. Thanks!
Yours truly, Madalyn Groft

Dear Santa,
All I want for Christmas is a Golden Lab puppy, so I can name him Nugget. This is all I could think of.
From your favorite,
Caitlyn Fischbach

Dear Santa,
Thank you for already bringing me what I wanted: the 2017 State B Volleyball Championship!
Sincerely,
Coach Groft
PS: Please feel free to bring coal for Dalton, Ana and Torri who forgot to write letters to you :)

In the Hallway...

In the Elementary

What is your favorite part about winter?

By Torri Bourelle



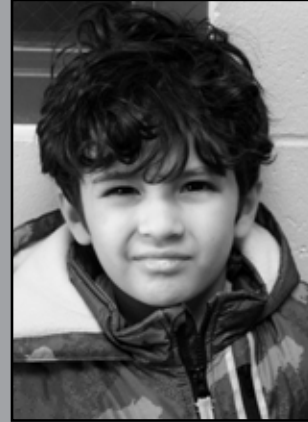
“Being with family and being with my grandma from Alaska because I never get to see her,” third-grader Abigail Schnell said.



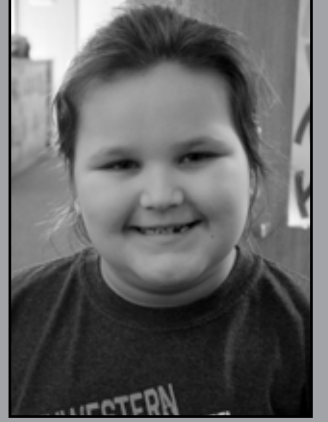
“Spending time with Julia when she comes home from college,” fourth-grader Josie Sparling said.



“Opening presents,” first-grader Lily Haven said.



“Presents and food,” kindergartener Payton Colqui said.



“Because it is God’s birthday,” second-grader Tailynn Twette said.

In the Middle School

What is your New Year’s resolution?

By Caitlyn Fischbach



“Make more new friends,” eighth-grader Kameryn Nehlich said.



“I do not believe in New Year’s resolutions,” eighth-grader Haiden Grandpre said.



“To get smarter,” eighth-grader Kaysie Bauman said.



“Get better grades,” eighth-grader Kade Stahl said.



“Stay on the straight A honor roll the whole year,” eighth-grader Teryn Sparling said.

In the High School

What is your New Year’s resolution?

By Riley Grandpre



“Eat more Cherry Berry,” sophomore Eric Nelson said.



“Keep my room clean,” freshman Hailie Stuck said.



“Gain more weight,” freshman Hannah Schentzel said.



“Play more hockey,” sophomore Hunter Wilkie said.



“Keep my grades up,” junior Mcklay Pettigrew said.

Maddie's Munchies

By Madalyn Groft

I have thought of a bunch of snacks for you to try. All of these new snacks revolve around one ingredient, peanut butter. One of them is sliced apples dipped in peanut butter. Another alternative is to just simply wrap the apple in peanut butter; this one is a little more on the messy side. Have you ever tried dipping your basic Oreo in peanut butter? You should try it. Pretzels are also a very delicious combo with peanut butter. Skippy peanut butter balls are also a delicious store-bought snack. You can also make energy bars with just mixing up some honey, oats, and peanut butter! If you love peanut butter as much as I do, you will love all these new peanut butter snacks. Enjoy!



Ana's American Adventure

By Ana Rivetti

Basketball season started, and I am just so excited! I have never played this sport in my life before, but I decided trying since I will never be able to play it again, because in my school there isn't any girls' basketball team.

I found myself enjoying this new sport very much. Although I'm terrible at it, I am willing to learn everything I can. What I really appreciated was the fact that even though I never played before, the whole community supported me and encouraged me trying it; this was very helpful and comforting!

Christmas is upon us, my favorite time of the year. And as my first Christmas away from my Brazilian family, sometimes it is just a little bit harder, but then I remember I also have these amazing people to share holidays with, my American family, and I don't know if I will ever be able to do this again...

I have only one more month to go. Time was really fast for me, feels like yesterday the day I came, and I wrote my first "American Adventure" here. I am going to miss this place. It has been quite an experience!

Peterson's Puzzles

By Dalton Peterson

1. Beltksaalb _____
2. ewN areY's _____
3. oFlu _____
4. beirblD _____
5. uooslRneit _____
6. Srceo _____
7. thSo _____
8. gdindsle _____
9. tho cohletoca _____
10. nnepgui _____
11. ilccei _____

1. Basketball 2. News Year's 3. Foul 4. Dribble 5. Resolution 6. Score 7. Shot 8. Sledging 9. Hot Chocolate 10. Penguin 11. Icicle

Torri's Trailers

By Madalyn Groft

On January 19, 2018, Trolls: The Beat Goes On is coming to Netflix. Trolls the beat goes on is a series of the original movie Trolls, which was about a town called the Bergen Town, the Bergens were always sad and never felt happiness before until they found a tree of the trolls and built a town around it and every year they call trollstice which is where they eat a troll to be happy for one day every year. Princess Poppy had held the biggest, the loudest, and the craziest party every and one of the chefs of the Bergens followed the sounds and the lights, she took trolls so poppy wanted to go save her friends and all the trolls make the Bergens happy.

Trolls: The Beat Goes On is an all-new chapter in the hair-raising adventures of DreamWorks Trolls. Join Poppy, Branch and all of Troll Village as they keep the dance party raving in their fantastical forest home. Picking up where the blockbuster film left off, the Trolls are quickly adjusting to a life of cohabitation with Bridget, King Gristle, and those grumpy Bergens and the resulting culture clash. Bursting with their signature positivity, irreverence and a whole lot of music, Trolls: The Beat Goes On opens up the colorful world of Trolls for new adventures and a dance party around every corner!