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Students, staff participate in several holiday activities helping less fortunate

BY KYLIE BLEDSOE & MACKENZIE FREEMAN

"Tis the season!" Students and staff have been getting into the holiday spirit by participating in various acts of kindness through the "Toys for Tots" and "Adopt-a-Family" programs.

Tiffany Wiles, Art Club sponsor, said this year the school collected 22 toys for "Toys for Tots." Loren Ziegler's seminar won for most toys collected and received a donut party.

Wiles explained why she decided to get her students involved in holiday charities.

"I was looking for ways for our Art Club students to be more visible within the school community," she said.

Wiles also feels that participating in holiday charities is important and beneficial in multiple ways.

"I think giving back in general is very meaningful.
Being benevolent and charitable helps us to be more sympathetic toward our peers and more productive members of society in the end," she explained.

Wiles considered the anonymous aspect of these acts of kindness the most rewarding.

"Charity is often a very anonymous thing. We often don't see the effects of our donations or time spent on those we're helping. Through the 'Adopt-a-Family' program, we receive names, ages, and eventually have faces



Merry Christmas! Art Club sponsor Tiffany Wiles poses with one of the many toys she helped collect for the "Toys for Tots" charity drive. (Photo by Kylie Bledsoe)

to connect with our good deeds," she said.

Wiles said she feels that participating in these charitable events is a significant learning experience for her students.

"These experiences teach students that not every family has the benefit of being able to afford a nice Christmas. Many families ask for necessities like clothes and shoes. I think our students learn that need has no season," she explained.

Ashlee Ridgway, senior Art Club member, explained what she has learned from participating in these organizations.

"I feel these programs are important because they teach responsibility, teamwork, and how to be considerate and put others before yourself," she said.

Wiles explained that these good deeds are beneficial for everyone involved.

"Without the Adopt-a-Family program, many families would not have a Christmas celebration. The adopters often provide food along with gifts and most importantly, learn the value of giving. The adoptees learn that someone still cares for them," she said.

Eight high school faculty members also adopted a family. They purchased toys, clothes and food to help a single mother, who is a full-time student with a full-time job and two small children. OPINION



Not only does the Christmas season bring excitement for gifts, Santa, and days off of school, but also for new Christmas music. Pop star Justin Bieber shocked his fans when he came out with a new Christmas album which was a change from his usual sound. He created a new genre, different from his other two albums. The new album, "Under the Mistletoe," was released on Nov. 1. The album is a mix of 11 old and new Christmas songs and is a great pop collection, but it also has R&B mixes. On particular songs, Bieber has other artists featured, such as Chris Brown and Kevin McCall in "Christmas Eve," and a feature from Usher in "The Christmas Song." Bieber raps with rapper Busta Rhymes in one hit, and in the famous, "All I Want for Christmas Is You," critics were quoted as saying Bieber and Mariah Carey complement each other to create a new version of her song. I completely agree.

Bieber's deeper, more defined voice has shocked many girls, including me. His songs are unexpected and slower than his usual "Baby," and "Somebody to Love." My favorites are "Drummer Boy," and "Only Thing I Ever Get for Christmas." "Drummer Boy" is the one of the most upbeat songs on the album, and "Only Thing I Ever Get for Christmas" is Bieber's usual love-story, romantic song.

Overall, Bieber's seasonal album has become a huge hit. One song that I also really love is "Mistletoe," which is number two on Billboard's top holiday songs. I've listened to this album, and I'm glad that Bieber decided to switch up his style of music and branch out. I've looked forward to listening to this album since I heard it was coming out. If you don't like Bieber's usual songs, you should not be biased. I recommend listening to this album because it's a big change, sure to put you in the Christmas spirit.

What's your pavorite traditional Christmas song?



"My favorite traditional
Christmas song
is 'Jingle Bells'
because it gets
me in the Christmas spirit."
- Brendan Vega.

- Brendan Vega, sophomore



"Baby It's Cold Outside,' that's my favorite."

- Cami Billings, sophomore



"'Oh Holy Night' and 'Silent Night."" - Greg Larson, freshman



"My favorite traditional Christmas song is 'All I Want for Christmas Is You' because I've listened to it since I was a little girl." - Payton Rickel,

freshman



"Jingle Bells'
because I've listened to it since I
was little."
- Shayla Miller,



"My favorite traditional Christmas song is 'Santa Claus Is Comin' To Town' because I still believe in Santa Claus."
- Tyler Warren, senior

BY CLAIRE GRANT

The musical cast recently wrapped up their production of "Into the Woods." Performances were on Saturday, Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center.

Dawson DeShazo, an underclassman, landed a lead role in "Into the Woods."

"This year I'm playing the wolf that eats Little Red Riding Hood, and he's very scary. It's really fun, and I can always learn from the upperclassmen as well," he said.

DeShazo has many scenes with Little Red Riding Hood, played by Senior Holly Cokeley. She's been involved in the productions for four years.

"I eat a lot in the musical and bring my treats to Granny. My favorite part in the musical would definitely have to be when I get eaten by the wolf because it's a lot of fun. I get to sing a solo afterwards called 'I Know You Now.' I get to sing about what I know now and not to be scared and to listen to my mom and Granny," she sai

This is Cokeley's first year earning a major lead role. Last year she played Frenchy in "Grease."

"Having a lead role is a lot of fun and makes you focus more because you have to get yourself together. You're the one who helps out and, if you're not there or not doing well, then the show is going to falter," she said.

Senior Tamarah Ables wrapped up her fourth production as a stage craft student. She is looking to pursue theater production in college and gained experience by supervising her fellow classmates this year as the stage tech manager.

Gracie Petrie (Florinda), Morgan Koelzer (Lucinda), and Kaci Campbell (Cinderella's stepmother) mock Sadie McGough (Cinderella) for wanting to go to the festival. Tonya McGough, director, said this musical was the hardest performance ever attempted at Silver Lake. (Photo by Mackenzie Freeman)





Kelsey Darling (Baker's Wife) obtains a cow as white as milk. This was Darling's first year in landing one of the lead roles. (Photo by Kylie Bledsoe)



Colby Haverkamp (Cinderella's Prince) and Peter Pfannenstiel (Rapunzel's Prince) sing of their princesses in the song "Agony." (Photo by Mackenzie Freeman)

FEATURE



The cast of "Into the Woods" sings its final number of Act I. This is one of the larg- Ashley Williams - Granny est groups of students who have participated in the musical. (Photo by Mackenzie Freeman)



"I THINK THE MUSICAL PERFORMANCE WAS EXCELLENT. IT WENT WAY BEYOND ANY EXPECTATIONS I COULD HAVE EVER HAD FOR IT. EVERYONE REALLY STEPPED UP AND DID THEIR PARTS VERY WELL. IT WAS A VERY DIFFICULT MUSICAL AND THEY DID AN AWESOME JOB." - DIRECTOR TONYA McGough

Jacinta Akin - Rapunzel Codey Albers - Mysterious Man Jesse Barnes - The Baker Logan Bledsoe - Sleeping Beauty Kaci Campbell - Stepmother Holly Cokeley - Little Red Riding Hood Noah Cross - Cinderella's Father Kelsey Darling - Baker's Wife Dawson DeShazo - Wolf Paige Hallacy - Hen Jessika Hamrick - Narrator Matt Holder - Narrator Colby Haverkamp - Cinderella's Prince Morgan Koelzer - Lucinda Danielle Larson - Jack's Mother Justin Malloy - Milky White Jamie Stadler - Milky White Cameron McGough - Jack Sadie McGough - Cinderella Gracie Petrie - Florinda Jamie Pfannenstiel - Witch Peter Pfannenstiel - Rapunzel's Prince Issac Pridey - Steward Shaniah Stark - Snow White Erin Tayler - Giant Carney Ziegler - Cinderella's Mother

Trees: Ouinn Barker Claire Grant Rachel Holder Kristen Howser Greg Larson Courtney Priddy Kayla Shaughnessy Jamie Crouse Codey Watson Whitney White

Jeremy Gifford

Josey Morgan

Jessica Williams

Ashley Womack

Kami Wymore

Ashley York

Chelsey Johnston Kelsey Kriss

Drew Deters Katie Hook Rachel Hook Villagers: Ashton McMullen Evan Altman Josey Morgan Camryn Billings Brooke Neff Evan Burdiek Gracie Petrie Dalton Byrne Ashlee Ridgeway Stephanie Davis Kyle Smith Gabby Doebele Travis Thayer Shelbie Epperson Drew Thompson Luke Fangman Stacy Wade Kayla Fellers Karlee Fischer

Accompanist: Cathy Altman

Stage Crew:

Tamarah Ables

Dezirae Hamrick

Dallas Maddox

Alexis Campbell

Kayla Blasco

Tyler Corber

Directors: Braeden Lockhart Tonya McGough Kirsten McManus

> Make-up/ Hair: Mary Larson















SPORTS

Winter Warriors

BY COURTNEY PRIDDY

As winter sports begin, there are many returning players looking to improve and make the most out of their season

Senior Kaci Campbell, who is playing basketball and cheering, is hoping to make the best of her final year. Campbell said she discovered her passion for basketball when she was very

young. I started out in the Rossville league. I was just a little thing and ever since then, I decided that it was my favorite sport. I like the intensity and the aggressiveness of it, and I like the competition that it brings," Campbell said.

Since Campbell's freshman year she has had the same role model: Amanda Lewis. Lewis is a former Eagle basketball player and currently rows for the University of Kansas.

"When I was a freshman, I looked up to Amanda Lewis because she was our main post player, and she wasn't afraid to go all out or anything. She definitely shaped my high school career in basketball and how I wanted to play." Campbell said.

In order to make the most out of her senior year, Campbell wants to try more challenging plays on the court.

"I would like to run harder plays and more trick plays that we have and more variation in our defense" she said

Last year Campbell averaged two points per game and two rebounds per game. This year she wants to improve and has set more goals for her and her team.

"For basketball, my goals would be to go to a state championship and win it, of course, and just stay on top of all the other teams in our league," she said.

Coach Tyler Stewart said he appreciates Campbell's time and dedication to the team.

"Kaci has averaged two points and two rebounds this year in limited minutes. She is our best communicator on the team. Once she steps on the floor, everyone can hear her. She gives us 100 percent effort every time she is on the court. Priddy said. She has given the program everything she has and it has given and will continue to give her success." Stewart said.

and baskethall can be a struggle for Campbell

"It is definitely a struggle to cheer while I am playing basketball. I have cheer practices sometimes three times a week at 5:30 in the morning. and I have basketball right after school. But I enjoy both sports a lot so I make time for them," she explained.

As returning upperclassman make goals and prepare for their seasons, underclassmen do "My dad put me in it when I was really, really as well. Dylan Priddy, sophomore, is coming back to wrestle after going 31-16 last year with 25 pins and qualifying for state in the 103 lb.

> Coach Tim Horgan said he looks forward to having Priddy on the team again this year and hopes he will push himself to improve.

"We look forward to Dylan making his mark on Silver Lake wrestling in his sophomore campaign. Last year he accomplished some great things, but it's time for him to rise to the next level and place at the state tournament. With a strong work ethic and focused mind, Dylan will have a very successful sophomore year," Horgan

Priddy has a lot of goals he would like to accomplish this year.

"My goals for this year are to make it to state and finish the season off by placing. I would also like to have a better record and place first at more tournaments," he said.

Priddy is starting off the season strong, with one tournament and one meet under his belt. He wrestled in the first tournament of the year at Doniphan West, coming out undefeated. He continued the winning streak in Onaga, placing first. Following this tournament, Priddy was ranked 5th in the state in 3-2-1A. At the Silver Lake dual against Hayden and Hiawatha, Priddy lost his first match, ending 1-1. Overall, he is 7-1.

Priddy said he believes that is it very important to train during the off-season in order to do

"I think it is important to prepare yourself during the off season to be successful. I've been running a lot and lifting weights after school,"

Priddy said there are many role models in

"My coach Tim Horgan and the seniors, they Finding time to balance school, cheerleading, are my role models because if they can finish out their high school career, then I can, too," he said.



BOYS' BASKETBALL

THE EAGLES STARTED OFF THE SEASON WITH A 1-2 RECORD, WINNING A HARD-FOUGHT GAME AGAINST THE COMPETITIVE RILEY COUNTY FALCONS ON DEC. 9.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

THE LADY EAGLES STARTED THE SEA-SON WITH A VERY TOUGH SCHEDULE AGAINST HOLTON, RILEY COUNTY, AND JEFFERSON COUNTY NORTH. THE VARSITY TEAM IS 0-3 WITH A CLOSE ONE-POINT LOSS AGAINST JEFFERSON COUNTY NORTH ON DEC. 13.

WRESTLING

THE LAKE WRESTLING TEAM PUSHED THEIR SEASON DUAL RECORD TO 7-0 ON DEC. 15 AT SILVER LAKE WITH TWO DOMI-NATING PERFORMANCES OVER HIAWATHA AND HAYDEN.

STUDENT LIFE

~ Final Frenzy ~

BY SHAYLA MILLER

Although students have to study and work hard to prepare for finals, teachers also have a lot to do in order to get ready as well. CJ Hamilton, Christina Weber, and Judy Hamilton are all teachers who prepare finals for each one of their classes.

Hamilton, health and conditioning teacher, said that the point of finals is to "evaluate how much knowledge has been comprehended over the semester."

For conditioning, the final is more an evaluation of how a student's strength has developed since the beginning of the year, and in health it is a comprehensive multiple choice final.

Weber, English teacher, believes a final exam allows students to prove their knowledge.

"The purpose behind finals is so that teachers can just make sure that students have mastered the objectives that they wanted them to learn," she said.

This year Weber is giving a cumulative final, which is a final that mixes all of the parts of English together. Weber only makes the final worth 10 percent of the final grade because she still wants the work that the students have done in the past to be important and have a decent impact on the final grade.

Weber said the finals in high school really get students ready for college because most of their final grade in college will depend on their final exam.

Hamilton, biology teacher, said that the point of finals is "a way to measure a students retention of knowledge in the course."

She gives a comprehensive final, which means that it covers the entire semester. The total percentage of the final grade that the test takes up depends on the class. She said the final in advanced biology is worth more than the general biology final.

How do YOU prepare for finals?



"I usually just look over my past tests and all the notes I have taken through the semester, and sometimes I read the chapters over."

- Courtney Priddy, junior



"I study and take notes and rewrite all my notes so I can memorize them better."

- Patricia Bahm, junior



"I study over a long period of time and don't cram."

- Blake Baird, junior



"I normally study a couple days in advance."

- Jordan Harper, senior

TOP 10 TIPS TO TAKING FINALS

- 1. Get a lot of sleep
- 2. Eat a good breakfast
- 3. Prepare in advance
- 4. Think positive!
- 5. Be organzied
- 6. Find a study buddy
- 7. Use study methods that are best for you
- 8. Condense notes
- 9. Stay focused
- 10. RELAX

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