



Page editor Ben Tysseling

1:1 computers may be in district's future

by Bellara Huang

In the school year 2013-2014, Pella Community District Schools will be issuing MacBook Airs to every student in grades seven through twelve. Pella Community District principals, teachers, and school council members believe that 1:1 computers will benefit learning for students.

There are five main purposes Pella Community Schools are willing to try 1:1 computers for students. The first purpose with 1:1 computers is for teachers and staff hope to increase engagement for students. When it comes to computers at the middle school, already 78% of students are engaged at a high level. With a survey conducted in fall 2011 of all 7th grade and 8th grade students, there are approximately 25% of students in the middle school that do not have internet access at home. With 1:1 computers, the school staff hope to level the playing field for all students. They also want to improve collaboration skills between students.

For example, if four students are working on writing one project, all they need to do is open up the document in Google Drive and work on it together without leaving their homes. Improving communication between students and teachers and deepening the level of thinking

are also factors that the Pella Community District think will benefit learning.

Since 2009, many schools throughout Iowa have been looking at increasing technology in their districts. Pella has investigated more about 1:1 devices and feel the need of technology in education.

Middle school principal Josh Manning said, "There are more than one hundred schools in Iowa that already have some kind of 1:1 device in their district."



Mr. Manning discusses 1:1 computers to parents in the district.

(photo by Bellara Huang)

Eighth grade social studies teacher Mr. Korver thinks that 1:1 computers will affect social studies class very much.

"We'll be able to do more research in the content area, and it will also be helpful for current events."

Many students are excited about having 1:1 computers for next year.

Seventh grader Elise Beukelman said, "I think 1:1 computers will affect our learning better in the middle school. We will be able to work 1:1 with teachers or do homework on the computers. We can also share documents and not use as much paper."

Another middle school eighth grade student Grace Fisher said, "They'd be a big responsibility since you have to take a lot of care of them and some people may misuse them."

Although many students are excited about having computers, others feel students may abuse the computers. Joy VanWynyarden said, "Whenever there are questions in class we will be able to look it up during class. But I can already see people overusing the privilege of using them."

Students and teachers agree that there will be a lot of learning with computers, and a lot of responsibility, also. Mr. Manning promises that "Pella is truly doing 1:1 computers to benefit learning in the district."

Classmates adopt highway

by Samantha Boetger

On November 9, the 2012 student council, Katie Vander Molen, Samantha Boetger, Catie Brand, Josh Manning, and



Pictured is the crew who helped pick up the highway. (photo by Josh Manning)

Anne Pentico visited and cleaned Pella Middle Schools high way.

"It all started with Katie and Sammy" Anne Pentico said.

Vander Molen and Boetger came up with the idea of adopting a highway for the school when they had to choose a Go Make A Difference project.

"Littering is always a problem that has bothered me. That's why we chose to adopt the highway" said Vander Molen.

Vander Molen and Boetger decided to go consult with the person who is the leader of student council, Anne

Pentico. From there Pentico agreed that is was a good idea and she made some calls to the city and the board and that's when Pella adopted the highway.

The Adopt a Highway Program allows locals to help out with the environment. The program requires the people that adopt the highway to tidy up at least 2 times a year. The highway that Pella middle school is located on Highway 163 on the other side of Pella Christian High.

"I think it was a great idea to adopt the highway! It is a great responsibility to have!" Said Pentico.

Teen activist shot while coming home from school

by Lexi DeJong

In Pakistan, a 15 year old girl was coming home from school on the bus. That action could have almost cost her, her life.

On October 9 in Mingora, Pakistan, Malala Yousufzai, a teen activist, was coming home and was shot in the head twice. Atta Ullah was the main suspect of the shooting. Authorities say Ullah, a 23 year old man in the Taliban Swat district where Yousufzai was attacked, is still on the loose. There are 6 other men in the Taliban Swat district who were arrested for taking place in the shooting.

Yousufzai was brought to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, England on the 15th of October. On Friday the 19th the first photos were released by the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. In those photos

Yousufzai appeared with her eyes open and alert. Also on Friday doctors said she was able to stand and write with some help. Though doctors still say she shows signs of infection and has a long, hard recovering looming ahead of her.

Yousufzai has become a symbol of women's rights to an education. At 11, she began writing a blog for the BBC about life under the Taliban in Swat Valley. She began publicly speaking about women's right to an education. She was shown frequently in the media and was given one of the country's highest civilian honors for her bravery.

Erica Bossard said, "I would feel very unhappy if I couldn't go to school because we wouldn't have the freedom to go to school, and we wouldn't have an education. If I was

threatened by someone, I would have done what he (the shooter) told me to do."

After the Taliban attack, Yousufzai was flown from Pakistan to Birmingham, England, for higher medical treatment and better security protection. Scans have revealed some physical damage to her brain.

"At this stage we're not seeing any deficit in terms of function," Hospital medical director Dr. Dave Rosser said.

Yousufzai has a very long and hard road ahead of her. Based on her actions some people may believe that she is strong enough to bear through it.

Hormones deprive teens of sleep

by Adam Smart

Studies have shown that only 20% of teens get the recommended hours of sleep. Sleep deprivation in teenagers can cause more than just drowsiness. It also has been shown to cause bad grades and even depression, according to the American Psychological Association (APA.)

According to the APA, teens that receive grades that are C's and lower have 25 minutes less sleep than students who score A's and B's.

"Last year, I had a student that slept in this study hall almost

daily," Mrs. Joan Nikkel, a 7th grade literature and study hall teacher said on the matter. Nikkel also said that she doesn't think homework has much of an effect on teen sleep.

Some students including 7th grader Jaden Ruth reported that sometimes he can't get to sleep. Why is this? According to Stanford University, the teenage body releases a certain hormone at a different time than when adults and children release it. This hormone is melatonin, and it is closely tied with sleeping. This causes teens to

be alert at later times of the day.

According to the Washington Post, when sixth graders lose one hour of their recommended sleep, they perform at the same level as fourth graders. The Post also states that teens need a little over nine hours of sleep, and only eight percent get the sleep needed. Another study showed that the average high schooler gets only seven hours of sleep. Therefore, teens are losing two hours of recommended sleep, and studies show they aren't performing their best in school.



A student is fatigued after not getting enough sleep.

(photo by Lukas Bruxvoort)



Animal abuse ruins man's best friend

By Luke Pavlat

All around the world today people are abusing animals. There are many cases of animal abuse. Animal abuse has been going on for many years. In 2000 and 2001 Pit bulls and Pit bull mixes went higher than most dog breeds for being abused and neglected. The animal abuse rates went up in 2010 because there were ideas that got more complex.

Abused animals are pets like dogs, cats, turtles, hamsters, etc. There are a wide variety of reasons why people abuse animals. People give or do terrible things to animals, like overdose on drugs, shoot, poison, and

even drown them.

"I always feel bad for a loving animal that we had to put down because they were abused too much," says Dr. Clayberg, a veterinarian at Pella Pets Veterinary Clinic.

People abuse animals for many reasons. A common reason is they don't know how to take care of the pets. Another reason is people want their animals to have discipline.

Also, the people that abuse animals might have been abused as kids, and are scarred from the experience. The people that are caught doing this are given consequences for

abuse of an animal and are either given a fine for abuse or are sentenced to jail.

Even though many people are put in jail for this, there are still many people out there abusing animals. People who see someone abusing or neglecting an animal should tell someone. They're not only doing a good deed by telling, but you're also helping save an animal's life.

Deer disease comes to Iowa

by Michael Reed

This year whitetail deer have died due to bluetongue and chronic wasting disease. One of the two diseases is chronic wasting disease.

Chronic wasting disease is a prion disease that attacks the nervous system. A prion is a protein that mutates other proteins around it. This causes them not to work like they are supposed to.

Signs of chronic wasting disease are lack of appetite, weight loss, excessive thirst, and excessive urination. Eventually, the deer's body will stop functioning properly and they will die. Signs are not usually seen until the age of 18 months. This disease is happening on deer farms where the deer are cooped up together. Interaction between the deer alone can cause it to spread.

In Iowa, chronic wasting disease has only been found on a deer

farm in Davis county. It has not been found in wild deer so far. A contributing factor to the spread of chronic wasting disease is overpopulation of the deer and heat.

Steve Reeder a park ranger at Red Rock said, "chronic wasting disease started in Wisconsin."

Both humans and animals can have this disease transmitted to them. Bluetongue (epizootic hemorrhagic disease) a newly introduced disease in Iowa has killed many deer this year.

Bluetongue is spread from an insect called biting midges. An adult midge is 1/10 of an inch. The biting midge is a blood sucker, so when they pierce into the skin they would transmit the disease to their host.

Scientists are still trying to find ways to kill off the biting midge. The only way they know of that the midge can die is a heavy frost.

EHD causes high fever and cell walls in the heart, lungs and diaphragm to burst. Symptoms of this are swollen tongue, a blue tongue, fever, and drooling. This is affecting Iowa because we are having a drought. This means the deer are forced to drink from certain bodies of water, and they would come in contact with one another causing the virus to spread more.

The Iowa DNR website said, "2,816 cases of EHD have been reported of the date November 23, 2012."

Bluetongue can wipe out 25% of a herd of deer. If a deer survives from this, they and their offspring are immune for life from this disease.

Marion County Humane Society needs

by Lauren Miller

They live in homes; they're fed and loved. They're pets, and all pets should have a home, right? However, many pets do not have homes.

By going to the Marion County Humane Society, MCHS, currently holding more than 70 cats and about 40 dogs, you can pick up one of these animals. MCHS is starting to run out of room. The leading cause for all of this was clarified by Mellissa Childs, assistant director at MCHS, "People

don't spay and neuter their animals.



Then they end up with unwanted puppies and kittens and surrender them

to the shelter."

It is true that lots of pets have homes, and people may assume that others will want more pets. That may be true for some people. Child also says, "You can help by volunteering at your local shelter or donating."

If interested in volunteering or adopting, call 641 - 828 - 7387.

Teachers, students react to new schedule

by Makayla Thompson

This year, the Pella Public School District has decided to change the schedule. They have decided to have 90 minute early outs on Wednesdays. The purpose for the early outs are for teacher meetings after school.

The school is having more meetings than they did in past years. They previously met once a month, but since they now meet almost every Wednesday, they have more time compared to last year. During the meetings, teachers get together with their learning team and are educated on how to use new technology. They bring lessons to discuss and figure out how to improve them. "They have helped. One of our targets is to have kids think more deeply about our lesson, so it's good to have other teachers' ideas on how to do this," said Joan Nikkel, a seventh grade literature teacher at Pella Middle School.

While one positive result of

having the early outs is having more teacher meetings to improve lessons, there is also a negative. Teachers are losing class time. "I think a lot of teachers might not know what to do with a half hour class time, and sometimes you lose some education you would have had with longer times," said Adam Smart, a seventh grade student at Pella Middle School. "It's possible," said Nikkel, when asked if she thought shorter class periods affected the educational value of a lesson. "But in the long run, I think the students will end up learning more if our lessons are better."

Another thing that most students like about the early outs are having more time for activities. For others like Smart, he likes having more time for homework and practicing his instruments. "It accommodates religious education and other activities really well," said Smart. This may be

true for some activities, but for others it may just interfere. For some students, another problem with the early outs is having a confusing schedule. "It can be confusing and stressful, and I don't know where I need to go next," said Smart.

Students and teachers can both find good and bad things about the new schedule. The downside of having early outs is less class time and it can be confusing for students to know where their next class is. A positive thing is that teachers are getting extra help to create better lesson plans and are being educated on new technology, and the early outs also give students more time after school. Overall, along with a few negatives, there have been lots of positive affects of having the early outs and teacher meetings, and the administration hopes it will continue with its good progress.

Orchestra works hard for great reward

by Destiny Brown

Cellos, basses, violins, and violas played from 8:30 in the morning until 4:00 in the afternoon. Middle school students from Pella, Ottumwa, and Oskaloosa performed with a guest conductor, Kim Smith, from Cedar Falls, as part of the South Central Orchestra String Festival. (S.C.S.O.F.)

The S.C.S.O.F was on October 27, 2012, and it was a huge hit for all of the students from Pella, Oskaloosa, and two students from Ottumwa. In the morning, when all of the students got to the Pella Middle School gym, the director introduced herself and didn't

hesitate to get started with rehearsal. After the first rehearsal, the students and directors had the opportunity to purchase treats from the students' parents for 50 cents each.

Throughout the day, the students worked very hard. The students earned each individual break they were given. When lunch came around, the students and teachers were exhausted. All of the Oskaloosa students went to Taco Johns or Arby's. The two Ottumwa students went to eat together and came back.

Mrs. Bendon, the Pella Middle

school orchestra director, said, "The point is to give kids a chance to work with a guest conductor, and to grow as a musician." Bendon later said, "It's nice to have the students get to know students from other schools."

Brenna Hildebrand, a cello player, said, "I really felt like a better musician afterwards, but I was really sore."

"The concert went well, and we improved a lot," Bendon said. "In the end all the students worked hard and got an outstanding applause by the audience."

Science students study minerals



The mineral magnetite shows off its magnetic force.



A student checks out the mineral sulfur through his microscope.

(photos by Michael Reed)

The Middle Ground is a tabloid produced by the Pella Middle School students to serve as an informative, educational and entertaining communications media and to provide an open forum to students and readers. Submissions are welcomed and encouraged. The Middle Ground reserves the right to edit grammatical errors, libelous content and length due to space limitations. Not all submissions will be printed.

Spanish classes raise money to buy llama

by Nick Finney

In the months of November and December, Donna Hasso's Spanish classes raised money for families in need. They planned to buy llamas from Heifer International to give to families in Bolivia, Peru, and Ecuador. Llamas are good for these countries because they can withstand harsh climates and extreme altitudes. The cost of a llama is \$150. Heifer International provides livestock to underprivileged people around the world. This includes countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, South America, and North America. After one animal is donated to a family, they make a pledge to give their animal's offspring to another family, which greatly increases the number of families being helped.

"It is my way of thanking God for the many blessings in my life by helping others," said Hasso. She has

donated to the organization personally for many years. She went on by saying, "I thought it was a good project for the Spanish students to help a Spanish speaking family in South America." Hasso hopes the Spanish classes can connect with the family they help.

Many students think it is very important to donate. 8th grade Spanish student, Cole Swanson, said, "Not all people have the privileges we do, so it's nice to give them a second chance."

Another 8th grade Spanish student, Ryan Van Wyk, feels the same way about donating. "Some people are less fortunate than us, and we can help them by donating money to buy a llama."

This project teaches students that they can make a difference in the world by doing the little things. Hasso and the Spanish students would like to

raise enough money for one llama, but they hope they can get more. No matter how many llamas they get, it will be a blessing to a family in need.



Reid Leidigh donates money to Heifer International.

(photo by Ben Tysseling)

Design, modeling teachers receive 3D printer

by Kristin Rundle

Recently the design and modeling teachers at Pella Middle School and Pella High School have received a 3D printer. The printer was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Fogle. This device allows students to see their ideas and hard work come to life.

The 3D printer is called a Cube. The Cube creates 3D designs which are sent through a computer program to make the designs come to life. In the past, students would only be able to see their designs on the computer. Susan Lyons, the seventh and eighth grade design and modeling teacher, is excited about the new options available. Now when designs are checked by

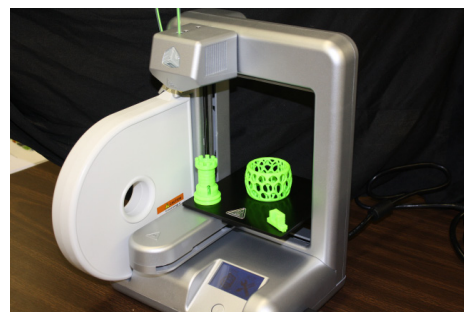
her, students can send it to the printer program to be printed. This allows the kids to see their designs in a 3D form.

The cube prints objects that are 5.5 x 5.5 x 5.5. Layer by layer the machine builds the object with a plastic like material. The cube prints one color at a time. This process takes several hours. Every student that is involved in the design and modeling class will be able to print a design that they created at the end of the quarter to take home, rather than printing it on a piece of paper.

"This type of thing brings engineering to life," said Lyons. "It really makes class more exciting for

the kids."

The school is very grateful for the donation that was made, and is looking forward to all that the Cube is capable of.



Pictured above is the 3D printer the design and modeling teachers received, with some of its creations.

(photo by Jenna Murphy)

Things left in the "Lost and Found"

by Samantha Boetger

Amy Belding was shocked to see all the remnants of all the lost and found clothes that were left in the gym. Amy Belding, Pella Middle Schools Physical Education teacher, is in charge of many things, one including the lost and found. "Each PE class went through all the items and there was still quite a bit unclaimed," said Belding.

During conferences, Belding lays out all the the items in the lost and found for the parents to view and find the items. The items were also placed around the gym for each P.E. class to go through.

"I just want the parents to know that they can come to the middle school and view the items anytime of the day,"

said Belding.

All the unclaimed lost and found items are usually donated to local thrift shops or charities.



(photo by Samantha Boetger)

Student Council shows character

by Jenna Murphy

Student Council is an extracurricular event for students in schools all around the world. Student Councils are often used for getting students involved in learning by using democracy and leadership skills. It is also a place where anyone can give ideas and have those ideas be heard and tried to be solved. The group organizes school dances and other activities. Student Council serves as a conciliator between the student body and the administrator of the school when differences occur.

Every two weeks students come together to discuss problems. This is known as Student Council. Student Council members and faculty get together and discuss the issues that Pella Middle School is facing. To help the problems get

solved, the members talk to administrators, teachers, and other adults.

Joy Van Wyngarden, a member of student council said, "The purpose of Student Council is to represent Pella Middle School and be a voice to all of the students. It is a great opportunity to be a leader,"

Students share about their thoughts on Student Council.

"I would not like it if student council wasn't in Pella Middle School because then there wouldn't be anyone to represent the students and make sure that their voices are being heard," said Kayleen Van

Dyke a student at Pella Middle School.

Some students rely on Student Council to help them out with issues and new ideas that need to be shared.

Eighth grade student Bellara Huang said, "I think that we have a wonderful student council and I hope they will continue to bring success to our schools."



Student Council gets ready for a meeting.

(photo by Jenna Murphy)

Show Choir gets ready to sing

by Jessa Bokhoven and Kara Schaudt

We're gonna light it up, like it's "dynamite"... these few words are from the song "Dynamite". "Light Up the World" and "Colors of the Wind" are the other two songs that PELLAdrenaline will be performing this 2012/2013 season.

PELLAdrenaline is a large group of about 80 people. They are a non-auditioned group. There are around thirty 8th graders and fifty 7th graders. These are record breaking numbers of how many people have joined PELLAdrenaline.

Within this group of people, 17 of them are dance leaders this year. Dance leaders are 8th grade show choir

members who were in show choir last year and want to help teach the other students the moves throughout the songs.

Show Choir is an activity that combines choir singing and dancing into one performance. Groups practice by grade levels. On Wednesday mornings, everyone practices together.

Students meet in the choir room. Mr. Tangen helps students work on improving facial expressions, perfecting moves, and making sure they sound the best they can. Students put lots of commitment into this group so that they can have it finalized and ready for their first performance at

Dallas Center Grimes on January 19, 2012.

After that, they have four more performances. Only two are judged and the rest are just to have fun entertaining the audiences in Pella.

Jonathan VanWyk, 8th grader said, "Show Choir is something where you can make new friends and even become a better leader. I enjoy show choir very much. My favorite thing about show choir is how cool it looks when about 80 people are dancing perfectly in sync. My favorite show choir song of this year has been "Dynamite."



The Publications staff enjoys the last of the warm days.

Bottom row (left to right): Michael Reed, Lukas Burxvoort, Hunter Sheaffer, Nick Finney, Ben Tysseling.

Top row (left to right): Lizzy Pettit, Sammy Boetger, Jenna Murphy, Kelcey Blommers, Kristin Rundle, Bellara Huang, Skylar Kirby, Jordan Rempe, Halle Van Vark, Mercedes Briley.

Hunting issues are debated by students

by Hunter Scheaffer

The hunters and the non-hunters in Iowa are debating whether or not hunting should be allowed. Over the years Iowa has been gaining hunters, but they have also lost hunters. The non hunters say that they don't like to kill a living animal because they think it is cruel to kill an innocent animal.

Lots of people just can't take the killing part because it makes them sick if they see a dead animal, but they love to be in the outdoors and watch the wildlife. The non-hunters think teaching a child to kill an animal makes that child feel little respect for the animal. The non-hunters say that the hunters are damaging the population and soon there won't be any left.

On the other side, hunters in Iowa argue it is good for people to hunt. People in Iowa say that the hunters are helping to stop the spread of disease. Other hunters are say hunting the animal is keeping control of the population. Another reason people hunt is for the great meat, like deer, the animal has on them. Some people just go after the trophy animal.

When John Vander Werff was asked why he likes to hunt he said, "I like to hunt because I get to spend time with my family and friends, but I also do it for the thrill to shoot an animal."

There are many types of methods to hunt like tree stands, blinds, stalking, sitting by a tree, pushing with a big group of people, trapping, and especially for raccoons, using dogs so they will go into the trees.

There are many animals that can be hunted in this season in Iowa: rooster pheasants, bobwhite quail, gray partridge, ruffed grouse, cottontail rabbit, gray and fox squirrel, groundhogs, crow, pigeon, and coyotes. For the furbearers Iowa has raccoon, opossum, badger, striped skunk, red and gray fox, bobcat, mink, muskrat, weasel, beaver, otter, and coyotes.



Kent Beyer is ready to hunt deer.

(photo by Hunter Scheaffer)

Wrestlers pin in it to win it

by Nick Finney

The Pella Middle School wrestling team started their season off with a meet at Grinnell Middle School. The wrestlers are coached by Holden Blythe and Joel Schnell.

For some of the wrestlers, this is their first chance to wrestle competitively. All of the wrestlers hope to improve their skills this year, but Coach Blythe wants his wrestlers to learn much more than how to wrestle. "I hope they can learn self-discipline, responsibility, respect, and a sense of ownership." Blythe has been coaching wrestling for five years, and he hopes he can share what he knows with the athletes.

The wrestling team went to Newton for their second meet. They won most of their matches, seventeen of them coming from pins. Their next meet was in Pella as the team tried to defend their home turf. They swept the competition away by pinning eighteen of their opponents while only getting pinned six times. Coming off of the dominating performance in Pella, the Little Dutch stumbled going into Grinnell.

They got pinned sixteen times while only pinning their opponents eight times.

The next day after practice, 8th grade wrestler Seth Bennink said, "We did 64 up-downs in practice, but it felt good."

The team is hoping to improve every day at practice. Bennink said, "I hope to gain more strength, more skill, and a better attitude through wrestling." And a better attitude is exactly what Coach Blythe is looking for in his wrestlers.



8th grade wrestler Ben Thomas sizes up his opponent.

(photo by Nick Finney)

Cheerleaders get ready for new season

by Skylar Kirby

In the sport of cheerleading students need to have many good qualities. One of the qualities is school spirit. School spirit can lift up the players' spirits and show everybody that students have pride in their school. Cheerleaders say that another good quality is being committed.

Being committed plays a big role in cheerleading, because cheerleaders have to be there for their team. If students are going to be committed to cheerleading they will need to practice everyday. Practicing will help them learn the routines and make sure they know what they are doing. It will also help them with their flexibility.

There are also many difficulties to cheerleading. The biggest thing is drama. Drama happens almost everyday in cheerleading. There is always going to be something to cause a fight or make somebody angry. The team finds its way back to a family at the end of the day though. They also may find themselves doing a cheer wrong during the game. If they do, the best thing to do is carry on as if nothing happened.

After the game they mainly would stay after and practice with the coach or they will go over it as a group the next day.

There are many different types of cheerleading at the Pella Middle School such as wrestling, basketball, and football. Each type of cheering is different but they still need all of the same qualities. Wrestling cheerleading is where they pound their hands on the mat to make a loud noise instead of clapping and shouting cheers. Basketball cheerleading is where they stand the whole time and clap their hands very loud and shout cheers. In football cheerleading, they get to stand on the field with the team and shout to everybody in the stands.



7th grade girls shoot for glory

by Halle Van Vark

The Pella Middle School 7th grade girls basketball team is statistically off to a good start to the season, and most of the team says they have a feeling that it's going to be a good season. The team is led by coach Lindsay Brandt, with assistance from Coach Anderson and Coach K..

The team practices almost every day, with a few exceptions. "During practices, we focus on fundamentals-passing, ball handling, form shooting," says Coach Brandt, "Also, what it means to be a good teammate." The team runs drills that help them improve the basics, in hope to improve their overall performance.

Not only do they work hard during practice, they also have fun and get better while doing so. Team member Cecily Johnson, who has been playing since she was in 3rd grade, says, "I think that the Pella girls will do

a great job this year and have a good time! We have a great coach so that makes it fun!"

Although the girls are playing for the sport, there is a bigger lesson that is trying to be taught. Coach Brandt says, "The goal is that everybody has fun and, no matter where they are now, improves."

As a team, working with others, they can accomplish more than they can by themselves. [I want them] to play for something bigger than themselves."



Pella Dutch seventh grade girls warm up before game against PCM.
(photo by Lukas Bruxvoort)

The season concludes in January, and the team will keep practicing and trying to get better until then.

7th grade boys season starts with bang

by Lukas Bruxvoort

The 7th grade boys basketball team kicked off their season with the Oskaloosa Indians. Some kids were playing for their first time. Others have had experience from playing in the past. All of them are playing as "one" for the Pella Dutch. The team has been practicing hard with the head

Coaches Nathan Wall and Chad Whitten. The team is being pushed with drills and into basketball shape. With a team of 27 kids the game plan is to play tough defense and up tempo offense.

The first game against the Indians was a nail biter. The A team pulled off the win with an exciting finish. As time was about to expire, Grant DeMeulenaere passed to his teammate Avery Van Zee for a last second layup. Everyone went crazy as the team won their first school game of the year with a score of 29-27 in favor of the Dutch. The B team couldn't quite pull it off, but put up a fight in a 31-24 loss. That didn't stop the C team from getting their first win also. The score was 21-14 giving the seventh grade teams a good start on the year. They will hope to repeat this success throughout their season.

Nathan Wall has been coaching basketball for two

years.

He said, "I enjoy working with junior high kids, and I love basketball. It's a great sport that I like to teach."

The kids feel the same way about the sport according to a seventh grade basketball player Nathaniel Robinson who said, "It's been fun. We have good coaches."

Robinson favorite part is playing defense. The two coaches have been challenging the seventh graders to the best of their potential. Coach Wall likes working with the kids in practice and seeing the hard work pay off in games. For the first game the hard work payed off like he had planned. An experienced player Jacob Bruxvoort has been playing for four years.

Bruxvoort says, "I like to swat people and play hard defense."

Jacob likes the running in practice and is having a good time so far. The Dutch will keep practicing throughout the season and try to get better as the year progresses. Pella's expectations are high for their sport's teams. The seventh graders are beginning their basketball career with the long lasting tradition of the Pella Dutch.



7th grade boys basketball team warms up for practice.

(photo by Kristin Rundle)

8th grade girls start the season

by Jordan Rempe

Recently, Pella Middle School's 8th grade girls basketball team started their season. The girls are coached by Mike Buchheit, and assistant coach, Kelsey Boot. The 8th graders normally practice everyday before school, or after, at the Middle School or Jefferson Intermediate. The team consists of twenty-seven girls. Twenty of them are returning from last year's 7th grade team, and seven new players have joined. The 8th grade girls will play twelve games this season.

Sarah Yoder, a student athlete who plays on the team, said, "I take the time to play basketball because, at a young age, I was taught the fun game. Also, I like the fast pace of the game."

Coach Mike Buchheit said to the girls, "Play with passion, or don't play at all. This may sound like I am encouraging kids to quit if they aren't having fun; it's just the opposite. I really want the kids to appreciate and gain a love for the game of basketball. If their interests and talents are elsewhere, they should pursue those dreams instead."



The Pella 8th grade girls play basketball against Newton on Thursday, November 29.

(photo by Jordan Rempe)

8th grade boys shoot to win

by Mercedes Briley

The 8th grade boys basketball team are shooting their sights high for a undefeated season. With many wins already A, B, and C teams are doing their best to keep up the good work. The team has been practicing very hard and their credit

has paid off in their games as being 9-0 so at time of article. Some of the team players explained that they wouldn't change anything with the way the team is practicing for this season.

Drew Pringle said, "This season has been phenomenal."

Some of the players' goals are to win all the games, and that the team put in all their efforts in each practice and game to make it happen. Other goals some players would like to see is to make their shooting range bigger. Coach Degeest is proud to have these players.

Coach Degeest said, "They're great young men with strong work ethics."

With the team improving on their skills every day and on working as a team at practice, it's making them unstoppable on the court.

Kode Diers and Brady Elder said, "It would be awesome to be undefeated this year!"

At this rate they are! All the players get along very well, plus they all make a great defense and nose play (man to man defense) as well. Just before a game they pump each other up and talk about what strategies to use in order to win. They all keep their sights high for every win and maintaining to be an undefeated team for the season.



Boys regroup after blocking the shot.

(photo by Mercedes Briley)

Meet the Athlete

by Mercedes Briley

13 year old Cherokee Wulf is a cheerleader at Pella Middle School. This high-spirited gal likes to practice her cheers and routines with her friends.

Her favorite cheers/routines to do are "Dynamite", "Dribble-Pass-Shoot", "High-in-Pride", "Victory" and the bleacher dance to *Firework* by Katy Perry.

Cherokee hadn't planned to become a cheerleader. Wulf said, "My two best friends dragged me into it. If it was not for them, I would've never tried out last year!" Wulf has been cheerleading for Pella Middle School for two years now, and is ready to cheer on the school again. Wulf said, "I think I will do very well this year because I practiced a lot over the summer time. I'm more flexible than ever, and I'm

more experienced this year."

To Wulf, cheerleading is having fun and cheering on the Lady Dutch and Dutchmen and raising the school's spirit. The only time it gets competitive in cheerleading is when they are competing for captain and co-captain. Wulf practices three hours at home each day. At school Wulf usually has a one hour practice, but there has been a few occasions where practice has been two to three hours long.

Cheerleading is not the only thing that Wulf, likes to do for fun. For hobbies she likes doing crafts, playing volleyball with friends, likes collecting color tabs, riding her bike around town, hanging out with friends, and when she can, she goes horseback riding. Wulf also likes to play

with her fox terrier and her peek-a-poo terrier as. She is one of the many athletes at the Pella Middle school.



Cherokee is in an upper V formation. (photo by Mercedes Briley)

Meet the Student

by Skylar Kirby

Grace Renae Fisher is 13 years old and attends Pella Middle School. Grace enjoys writing, drawing, reading, crafts with duct tape, and playing sports.

The sports that Grace is involved with are cross country, track, and basketball. During her free time she loves to hang out with her friends and family.

Her family is the most important thing to her. This includes her mom, Ami, her dad, Troy, and her two brothers, Seth and Brett. She has

one pet, a maltese poodle dog, named Jack.

After Grace graduates she intends on going to collage and becoming a teacher or a photographer.

"I really enjoy being with younger kids and helping them," said Fisher. "I also like photography because you can capture a moment in the snapshot."

When it comes to Grace, she always has a smile on her face and tries not to let any body down.



Grace Fisher is an 8th grader student at Pella Middle School.

(photo by Skylar Kirby)

Guess the Students

by Mary Sales

Identify the students from the clues.

1. This mystery student is in 7th grade. His favorite color is orange, his favorite food is corn dogs, and his favorite animal is a dog. His favorite thing about Pella Middle school is the band program. An interesting fact about him is he moved to Pella in the 6th grade. One word he would use to describe himself is awesome.

2. This mystery student is in 7th grade. Her favorite color is blue, her favorite food is pickles, her favorite song is A team, and her favorite animal is a monkey. Her favorite thing about Pella Middle school is getting to see

her friends. An interesting fact about her is that she is a ginger. If she could go anywhere in the world she would go to Mexico. One word she would use to describe herself is silly.

3. This mystery student is in 8th grade. Her favorite color is blue, her favorite food is frozen yogurt, her favorite song is Good Time, and her favorite animal is a baby otter. Her favorite thing about Pella Middle school is that there is lots of opportunities. An interesting fact about her is that she only wears one contact because she has a lazy eye. If she could go anywhere in the

world she would go to Japan.

4. This mystery student is in 8th grade. Her favorite color is purple, her favorite food is spaghetti, and her favorite animal is a giraffe. Her favorite thing about Pella Middle school is the sports. An interesting fact about her is that she has a giraffe backpack. If she could go anywhere in the world she would go to Fiji. One word she would use to describe herself is unique.

1. Austin Adrian
2. Mackenna Goemaat
3. Meghan Hartman
4. Nicole Schmebbe

MineCraft update now available

by Colton Edwards

Attention players of Mine-Craft, if you have an Xbox 360, you're in luck. On October 23, 2012, Mojang came out with a new update for Mine-craft. Also on October 24, 2012, they came out with a new update for the computer. These updates include bug fixes and new software.

This new software includes new villains like withers and witches that will make the game even harder.

Minecraft player, Joseph Bacon said, "It would be great if they would make even more opponents to make the game more challenging." Bacon also said, "Mojang should make more seeds that include special items, it would make the game more exciting."

Oklahoma comes to Pella High School

by Emily Kriegel

The Pella High School Choir performed *Oklahoma* November 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in the High School Auditorium at 7:00 P.M. Tickets cost \$6 for adults and \$4 for students and children.

The Choir was in charge of doing Pella High's annual performance because they alternate every other year with the school's drama department. Not only did they perform for Pella and surrounding towns, they also did a practice performance for the Pella Middle School and Jefferson Intermediate School on Tuesday, October 30th.

"I am excited for *Oklahoma* ,the play, because it's not everyday that you get to watch a high school performance," Mikayla Schnell said, a student at Pella Middle School.

"I'm excited because I try to go to all the high school plays and I like seeing all of the costumes and scenery," said Caitlyn Fank, also a student at Pella Middle School.

Oklahoma was first showcased on Broadway March 31, 1943. This Musical takes place during the time when Oklahoma is about to become a state, and displays the romance between cowboy Curly McLain and a girl named Laurey Williams.

"Curly has to compete with a villain farmhand who also likes the farmer's daughter", said Michelle Chaplin, the Choir Director at Pella High School, also the director of

Some of the old villains like creepers, zombies, skeletons, and spiders will still be available in Minecraft but they have some new ones to add. They are updating Minecraft all the time so if you are just waiting for even more updates, you won't have to wait long.

For those who don't have a computer, but you have an iPod, iPhone, smartphone, or an iPad, and would still like to play Minecraft, there is an app called Minecraft pocket edition. There is also a free version for those who don't want to spend money. The positives about this app is that you can play it anywhere. Certain items may not be available on this version.

Oklahoma.

On the side, romance develops between Will Parker and his fiancee Ado Annie. Not only that, but a Ado Annie has conflicting emotions when trying to decide whether she should marry the peddler instead. Another character named Aunt Eller, offers advice to Laurey Williams as she struggles with her love life.

"I feel like I have the romantic bone in me of Laurey, the spunk of Ado Annie, and the 'tell it like it is' cranky side of Aunt Eller. I think I'm a good blend of all three!" said Chaplin.

The people who played these roles were Jack Parisee, (Curly) Beth Dewolf, (Laurey) Tristan Miedema, (Will) and Deven McCain, (Ado Annie) Faith VanWyngharden, (Aunt Eller) Nathan Clayberg, (Jud, the villain farmhand) and Micah Zeimetz (Peddler).

Chaplin explained some of the challenges about putting this play into motion, "Simply finding the time to meet and rehearse with everyone. Specifically for this show, finding the antiques to make it look authentic. Working with the kids and helping them 'find' their character was the easiest part."

This romantic comedy brought challenges to a choir director, excitement to some of our middle school students, and suspenseful moments to some of those who attended on November 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.

The Hobbit makes way to theatres

by Isaac Zeimetz

Twelve dwarves, a single hobbit, and a wizard are traveling to theatres December 14, 2012, in the form of a movie *The Hobbit: Unexpected Journey*, based on the award winning bestseller *The Hobbit* written by J.R.R Tolkien. It will be directed by Peter Jackson who has directed many other successful movies including the three *Lord of the Rings* movies.

Jackson recently was given the rights to *The Hobbit* and decided to make it a three part movie.

"I think the movie shall be an interesting experience and nothing will be left out," stated Adam Smart, 7th grade student fan of *Lord of the Rings*.

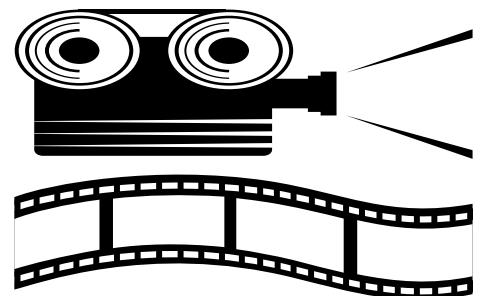
The movie was being filmed in New Zealand, which caused a stir, because fans didn't like the scenery. Jackson has also decided to bring back some characters from the other three movies, and a few new actors will be appearing on stage.

"I really am quite happy they are keeping some of the original actors," said Smart.

Bilbo Baggins will be played by two actors because they need someone to play old and young Bilbo. Bilbo Baggins is played by Martin Freeman (Young) and Ian Holm (Old.) Gandalf will be played by Ian McKellen.

"I think Peter Jackson will be able to create another great movie," stated Kaleb Lyons, 7th grade student fan of *Lord of the Rings*.

Will Jackson be able to create another great selling movie? The *Lord of the Rings* fans will just have to wait until December 14th to decide for themselves. If fans are happy with part one, they can look forward to an anticipated release *The Hobbit: There and Back* in December 2013.



Middle school students have opposing views on paying athletes

by Lukas Bruxvoort



In a world where everyone seems to want more money, many college athletes believe they deserve to be paid for playing sports. Students already profit from their athletic abilities, most schools can't afford to pay them, and most athletes aren't good enough to play at the professional level.

College athletes shouldn't be paid. College athletes are already getting paid. Universities give scholarships to their athletes. Players are being paid \$50k-200k during their four years at college. If they want to continue getting money, then athletes have to be good enough to play in the NFL, MLB, NBA, or sport's higher level. If everyone got paid in college, then what's the point for a professional level? You wouldn't need one. That's another reason college athletes shouldn't get paid.

Little do most people know, according to the "USA Today," only 12 of the 120 Division 1 schools broke even or made a profit last year. Not every school is like Texas University, making 121 million dollars a year on football. Where do you think money comes from for other sports? Most sports such as water polo, lacrosse, rugby, golf, softball, tennis, diving, swimming, and cross country never gain a profit. Universities lose a profit, and the funding comes from where? The sports that do make a profit include football and basketball. So what happens if we pay the athletes? They'll have to cut all those sports that I just mentioned.

Just 2% of the college athletes get to go to the NFL. Is it worth paying all the other 98% of college athletes? School is supposed to be college athletes' primary goal. There are 80 scholarship players on each of the 120 Division 1-A teams. This means it costs a university 16 million to pay for an entire roster over 4 years.

How will athletes spend the money? Most likely, alcohol, drugs, and parties. They're not going to buy a house while they're still on campus. They don't need to support a family yet. The college gives the athletes all the things they need. Paying athletes will lead to more trouble for everyone.

by Kobe Diers



If you have looked at the news, the internet, or any sports magazine lately, you have seen the issue of whether or not college athletes should be paid. I am here to tell you that college athletes, especially football and men's basketball, must be paid.

Last year, The University of Texas made over \$68 million just from their football team. The NCAA pocketed \$771 million dollars in television money just from the NCAA Division one basketball tournament. The five highest paid college coaches make a combined salary of over \$21 million. The total amount of money paid to the 420,000 NCAA student-athletes? \$0. Oklahoma Sooner running back Roy Finch says that he doesn't always get his scholarship money on time, tweeting, "I'm tired of thinkin' its time for action... I need to get paid... School fakin' on the money so I gotta go get it."

I believe only men's basketball and football players, which bring in the most money to their respective colleges or universities, should get paid. Also, the system could work like the NFL and NBA: the better player you are, the more you get paid. ESPN analyst Michael Wilbon said, "That's right, football and men's basketball players get paid; lacrosse, field hockey, softball, baseball, soccer players get nothing. You know what that's called? Capitalism. Not everything is equal, not everything is fair."

One may also argue that athletes shouldn't be paid because that is what the NBA and NFL are for, but only 1.2% of college basketball players go on to play professionally, and for the NFL, it is only 1.7%. Players that don't go professional need that money to start off their lives after college. South Carolina Gamecocks coach Steve Spurrier agrees, saying, "We as coaches believe they're entitled to a little more than room, books, board and tuition."

I hope that this article has convinced you of this. Next time the argument comes up about whether or not college athletes should be paid, I hope you take my side.

Girls display hairstyles at school

by Kara Wichhart

Many girls with long hair wake up in the morning wondering what to do with their messy looking hair. They think, and think, and think until they finally come up with something outstanding.

Kelly Van Wyk, a hair stylist who owns Trenz, commented on current hairstyles for teens. "My favorite hair style is when a girl has lots of layers and her hair is textured," Van Wyk said. The term textured means the hair is choppy, layered, and tossed. "I see a lot of people with straight, layered hair," Van Wyk says about her customers.

A unique hairstyle is having long hair with a certain kind of braid. Some common braids are French braids, fish tails, side braids, braided bangs, and braids going into a side ponytail. Other common hairstyles people see when they walk in the hallways at school are messy buns and ponytails. The best way to describe a messy bun is that it's like a tiny bird's nest of hair pulled into a bun that is not neat or organized. The usual time for wearing a nicer and more formal hairstyle is on the days someone doesn't have many physical activities.

When there's a day involving lots of movement and activities, a

better choice is the ponytail.

Accessories are also a big part of a girl's hairstyle. They include headbands, ribbons, hair ties, and clips. These accessories can be easy to use and create a new look to a plain hairstyle. Anyone can make her own accessories or buy them from a store. Most of them are very inexpensive. A common one is tying a colored ribbon on top of a ponytail. It adds extra color and doesn't make it look so boring.

No matter what kind of hair one has, they can always make it look good!

Teens want naptime back at school

by Bevan Dennill

Remember back in the day, when the light sleep in school would refresh your brain and calm your mind? Well, that was taken from me in 2nd grade. I had it all, a blankey, a snuggle pillow, and nothing but the dark of a classroom. This was naptime. The second greatest thing to ever happen to school, (first is summer time) and now it is gone. I'd say almost every child would agree with me saying naptime was one of the greatest things needing to come back in high school. We are expected to remember everything ourselves, and we are told it is just going to get harder. How are we supposed to cope with this? In school, we have the weight of our future on our hands, and the only way to lighten the load is by naptime.

Lack of sleep has been accepted as a part of high school now a days. Students are being forced to stay up late, finishing assignments after sports or other out of school activities. To the students, this causes extra stress and grades to drop. Now there is a solution to this, a very simple solution: naptime.

People argue that talking while driving is dangerous

by Jordan Remppe

Imagine. It's a typical Thursday afternoon. You're in the car with your mom. You're driving down the highway and you are running late. All of the sudden your mom gets a call. Your mom takes one hand off of the wheel to grab her phone, and looks away for only a couple of seconds. It only took a couple of seconds for your car to end up in the ditch. You both suffer traumatic head injuries. The car is broken beyond repair, and you have a broken collarbone while your mom suffers from a couple broken ribs. This was all caused by one phone call. This accident could have been prevented if we banded handheld cell phone devices in cars.

In 1995, 13% of the United States population owned a cell phone. Now that times have changed, the number has increased to over 80%. Janet P. Froelscher, president of the National Safety Council said, "Talking on the phone while driving makes a person 4 times more likely to be in a

Most kids didn't want it because the school days were filled with snacks, recess, and playtime. Naptime was dreaded because we simply didn't appreciate the joy of refreshment. I remember as early as fourth grade how I wish I would have gone back to sleeping for 15 minutes each day. So just take into consideration the amount of benefits we students could have.

Before you try and argue, just take a couple of things into consideration. Student's naptime helps boost test scores and attention span. Studies show that 92% of kids that take a nap before a video remember more. Also, we have seen someone doze off in the middle of class. When they were told to wake up, their only focused on staying awake, and not the information given in class. Also, studies show that students should get at least 9 hours a night. Otherwise, fatigue and migraines will follow.

Other countries are even doing nap times in school. Power naps are needed in Japan, according to a report in the Washington Post. At Meizen

crash than a driver who is not talking on the phone." Driving and talking on a handheld phone doesn't just affect you, it affects everyone around you. If someone was driving around you on the highway and talking on the phone and got into a crash, everyone would be affected and could potentially cause more than one crash.

The president of Verizon Wireless said "For your well-being and the well-being of those around you, you should consider turning off and allowing your call to go to voicemail while you are driving."

1.6 million car accidents that happen per year are caused by talking on your handheld cell phone. The question that is now facing officials is can we reduce this large number if we band handheld devices, but allowed Bluetooths. David Champian, director of automobile testing at consumer reports states, "Both length and intensity of the call increase the risk of a crash. The longer the call or the

High School, there is a designated naptime where teachers dim the lights and put on classical music. The school said it saw a large increase in test scores because of the sleep sessions, and other schools are following in their footsteps. There also are nap salons, where adults can go during their lunch break to rent a day bed and sleep for up to 30 minutes. Napping is such a huge thing in Japan that stores offer a work pillow for a lunchtime snooze.

What are you going to do say about this? There is only a triangle of choices between sleep, socialization, and good grades. You can only choose one. Now imagine that decision resting on the shoulder of a teenager everyday. Think about how this helps a teacher, student, and even parents. I have told you how grades would get better, students would get required sleep, and teachers wouldn't have to hassle about sleeping in class. There is no downside to this. Even Japan agrees, so how could you say no? Everyone agrees that nap times in high school are needed... how about you?

more in-depth or the more emotional the conversation is, the more the driver is concentrated on the call rather than on his or her driving."

We should ban talking on the phone and driving to protect everyone's safety on the road. Also, we don't want to create a bad habit or environment for our young uneducated drivers. Obviously, the police won't be able to catch every single person who calls on the road but we can make drivers aware of the safety hazards that do follow calling and driving. Also, teach young drivers in driver's education to turn off or put their phone on silent while driving so that they can not get distracted. The state of Iowa and other states, as well, can increase the fines of call and driving by hundreds to make people not want to talk on their phone while driving that much more because of the ticket fines. Remember it's always better to be safe than sorry.

Middle schoolers attend Wednesday night church groups

by Halle Van Vark

In Pella, Iowa, Wednesday nights are often known as “church night.” For middle schoolers, there are around ten different groups that meet to focus on their faith.

In a recent survey, it showed that 77% of Pella Middle School students attend a church group on Wednesday nights.

Eighth grader Micaela Veenstra, who attends Gems at Trinity Reformed, said, “I like it because you get to meet new people, help younger kids, do lots of service projects, and you get to serve the Lord!”

Most groups meet from 6:30 to 8:00 almost every Wednesday night, but they often have other activities outside of that time as well.

Seventh grader Bailee Meyer, who attends theMix at Third Reformed, said, “We do many mission trips and retreats. We go and help people around the world. We make sure everyone knows that serving others is a part of

God’s plan, and to the people we serve, we make sure that they know that God’s love is with them.”

For a lot of students, having church time in the middle of the week is a good chance to take a deep breath and continue on in their week.

Kara Schaudt, eighth grader and member of Journey at Liberty E Free, said, “It allows me to connect and talk to people when I am having fun at the same time. Another reason would be getting to be more informed on my Lord. To know how to spread the amazing news of Jesus Christ.”

Most members of Wednesday night church groups have fun while learning about Christ.

Ross Vande Weerd, an eighth grader who also goes to theMix said,



Middle school students have worship time at theMix.

(photo by Halle VanVark)

“It’s lots of fun!”

Many students find that Wednesday night church groups is yet another way to get involved, all while growing in their relationships with Christ.

Girls take stand against bullying

by Bailee Meyer

Bullying takes place everywhere, however, most kids are bullied at school. The bullies often feel as if schools don’t care if kids are bullied. The most common age for bullying is eight to sixteen years.

“I certainly feel like schools are trying. There is a strong push in our education to stop bullying, being proactive in this situation is difficult. Parents and educators have to work together to teach kids how to appropriately treat one another and how to respond when others are bullied,” said Mrs. Manning, a guidance counselor at Pella High School.

The types of bullying are verbal, physical, and cyber. Verbal is the bullying which takes place with words. This is most used in girl against girl crime. Many words that kids use with verbal are fat, ugly, weird, anorexic, etc. However many people when are confronted say, “It was just a joke,” or, “just kidding.” Then, it happens again and the bully doesn’t get caught.

Another type of bullying is physical. This bullying takes place with the use of the body. For example,

pushing someone purposely in the hallways. Physical bullying is the least common type of bullying.

Lastly, cyber bullying. Cyber bullying is the most popular use of bullying in this generation. 43% of kids in the United States are bullied over the internet. Cyber bullying is verbally bullying someone over the internet. It is a place for kids to express their feelings without getting caught from a student or adult. “90% of victims will not report cyber bullying to an adult,” says StopBullying.gov.

In our generation about thirteen million kids, ages six to seventeen commit suicide each year due to bullying.

A student at Pella Middle school said, “I have experienced bullying before, but I have never thought about committing suicide because I know that I have my family there with me, getting me through what happened.” Many kids do not have this though, they feel insecure and as if no one is there for them.

There have been many organizations to help with the



cause. One of the big organizations is the Finding Kind Organization. In February 2009, two young girls recognized a problem, female bullying, and they decided to do something about it. They created a documentary and non-profit organization that would ultimately change the lives of hundreds of thousands of people across America. The girls have gone on three national tours, spreading their school assembly program. Many kids have been positively affected with this. The founders of this organization are Lauren Parsekian and Molly Thompson, who were both affected by female bullying.

Bullying is such a struggle everywhere. Although, many say it will never stop, it can be prevented with the help from everyone, everywhere. Be the change.

Brain tumors affect families everywhere

by Jack Rumer

Thousands of people are diagnosed with benign or cancerous brain tumors every year in the United States. Once brain tumors get into the brain, they start to “delete” or destroy brain cells.

Brain tumors are formed by a growth of abnormal cells. Unlike normal cells, which grow and then rest, abnormal cells keep on growing. While the cells are growing, the brain tumor expands and destroys brain cells by pushing on parts of the brain. This leads to swelling and increased pressure inside the brain.

The symptoms of increased brain pressure in infants are drowsiness and vomiting. Symptoms of increased brain pressure in older children and adults are behavior changes, headaches, seizures, double vision, weakness, and vomiting.

“I had bad headaches and double vision for a few days,” said Dave Pavlat, father of Luke Pavlat, a 7th grader at Pella Middle School.

The place of a brain tumor in most men and women is in the spinal cord and central nervous system. A doctor would diagnose the patient by a neurologic exam, an MRI, a CT scan, an angiogram, a spinal tap, and a biopsy.

The type of treatment depends on the type and grade of the tumor, location in the brain, its size, and the patient’s age and overall health. The type of surgery used to remove the brain tumor is called a craniotomy. A craniotomy is when the surgeon makes an incision in the patient’s scalp and uses a special type of saw to remove a piece of bone from the skull. After the tumor is removed, the surgeon covers the opening in the skull with the piece of bone or with a piece of metal or fabric. The surgeon then closes the incision in the scalp.

The patient may be awake when the surgeon removes part or all of the brain tumor. This helps the surgeon by knowing that the surgeon has not removed any important part of

the brain.

Sometimes, surgery isn’t possible because the tumor is in important parts of the brain. People who can’t have surgery may receive radiation therapy or other treatment.

After the tumor is removed, the patient may have some different treatment options: physical therapy, speech therapy, and occupational therapy. The patient will have to stay in the hospital so he or she can be monitored for a few days, then the patient will be able to go home.

After the patient goes home, he or she will not be able to lift more than five pounds of weight for approximately one week. The patient’s scar will heal in four to six weeks. After a certain recovery period that the doctor specifies, the patient will be able to return to normal activities.

For most patients, brain tumors are something that affects them for only a little while in their life. With others, there may be long-lasting side effects.

Food allergies limit choices

by Tatum Brandt

Today in the United States, there are about three million kids with food allergies. People get food allergies for many different reasons. A food allergy is when the immune system takes in food and thinks it’s dangerous to one’s body, so it makes them sick. This is because the immune system isn’t working on protecting one from viruses and germs.

If someone eats something they’re allergic to, they may swell throughout the whole body and get welts. It could also cause vomiting, and they may also have trouble breathing. Sometimes, people wear a medical bracelet or necklace which alerts someone if they eat something they weren’t suppose to.

“It’s challenging having a nut allergies because I have to read the ingredients before I eat some things,” student Heather Parr, says. Most people develop their food allergies when they are young, but people can develop



Lauren Miller is eating breakfast at school.

(photo by Hunter Sheaffer)

them later on in life as well. The reason some schools have to ban different types of food is because some kids have the allergy to an extreme extent. This could mean if they even smell it they could have an allergy attack and some kids could even die. If someone

has a nut allergy they should stay away from peanut butter or anything with peanut butter or nuts in it.

“Sometimes it’s really a n n o y i n g because some things look really good, but then I figure out they have peanuts in it, and it makes me mad,” says Parr.

People with food allergies should avoid places

where that food is present or the food is involved in activities. Otherwise it could lead to something very serious like death, rashes, or trauma. Allergies are not something to be taken lightly.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat comes to Pella

by Lizzy Pettit

On November 30, 50 cast and crew members got together to premier the Union Street Players show Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat at the Community Center. The cast and crew had been working hard toward this night since October.

“Practices are fun and can be hard, but they are worth it,” said seventh grader Kaleena Van Haaften, a member of the children’s chorus. They had been practicing every Tuesday and Thursday night, and as the show night got closer, they also practiced on Monday and Saturday nights.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat is an Andrew Lloyd Webber musical with lyrics by Tim Rice. The story is based on the “coat of many colors” story of Joseph from the Bible’s Book of Genesis. The musical was first performed on March 1, 1968.

“There is good in everything, even if you don’t see it,” said Van Haaften.

Joseph, the main character,

had dreams about rising above his brothers, and he was Jacob’s favorite son. That made his brothers jealous, and they plotted to murder him. Instead they sold him as a slave. He became the head of Potiphar’s house, but was thrown in jail because Potiphar’s wife was hitting on him.

“My favorite scene is Potiphar, because it is hilarious!” said seventh grader Jordan Marie DeArmond, a member of the children’s chorus.

In jail, he meets two servants of Pharaoh and interprets their dreams. One of those servants tells Pharaoh about him and Joseph becomes a servant to Pharaoh. He is put in charge of Egypt’s food supply, and becomes Pharaoh’s second in command. His brothers come to get food and he sets one of them up to be put in jail. His brothers beg him to take one of them instead, and he sees that they are changed people. He shows himself to them and sees his father again.

“The show is about a favored son who is picked on by his brothers,



Pharaoh and adoring girls posing at the end of “Pharaoh’s Dream.”

(photo by Lizzy Pettit)

and they reconcile. At the end everyone is a big happy family,” said Pat Moriarity, the director of the play. “I think the moral is that people can make up and get back together.”

The show has little spoken dialogue; it is completely sung-through.

“People should watch the show because it has great music, fun songs, a variety of musical styles, amazing harmonies, colorful costumes, and it is fun for the whole family,” said Moriarity.

Comments about participating in Union Street Players:

I loved it! One of the best experiences of my life and I met some people who are now some of my really close friends. Memories that will last forever. -Halle VanVark

They perform awesome plays. -Kaleena VanHaaften

It is a good experience and you have a lot of fun. The plays in the end turn out amazing and you can see every character and the whole play come to life on the stage. -Kara Schaudt

Comments about participating in Missoula Children’s Theater:

I think they put on funny plays. They are just so much fun to watch. -Hannah Emmert

There are really cool costumes and light and sounds effects. -Kaleena Van Haaften

I love the Missoula Childrens Theater. They provided a great opportunity for youth to have a chance to be on stage. -Kara DeBruin

Top 5 Instagram Pictures

by Halle Van Vark

Posted by:

@BrookMorgan

“Model material?”

Photo of:

MacKenzie Becker

Cassie Cairney

Joy VanWyngharden

Posted by:

@KristinRundle

“Mark on Tyson, typical social studies.”

Photo of:

Mark Sutija

Tyson Wassenaar

Posted by:

@ArianaGuerena

“Hallway danceoff...”

Photo of:

Ben Tysseling

Lukas Bruxvoort

Posted by:

@BaileeMeyer

“Lunchtime”

Photo of:

Erica Nossaman



Posted by:

@AliceLickteig

“School Forks”



Teens enjoy using social media

by Ben Tysseling

Social media is everywhere. It's on computers, ipods, games, and phones. It seems as if one can be anywhere and be connected to social media. As teens start to get older, they become more social and find every possibility to connect with their friends.

Social media helps connect friends and let them in on what's going on in other friend's life. Many students use social media here at Pella Middle School, but 20% do not. 48% of the students who do have social media said Facebook was their favorite site.

"I like Facebook because **Pinterest becomes**

by Ashlynn Johnston

Many people have Pinterest accounts as it's becoming more popular. Pinterest is where people make accounts and share different things that they find on the internet. A variety of things can be found: crafts, ideas, projects, recipes, photography, home decor, etc. When one shares these, they are pinned on a board.

To create a Pinterest account go to www.pinterest.com. Once there, the words "English", "About", and "Login" should be at the top right corner of the website. One should also see the words "Join Pinterest" in a box in the middle of the screen at the

Home schoolers participate in school activities

by Kelcey Blommers

Many home schoolers in Pella either play sports or participate in band and choir. Some choose to do both. The home schoolers who participate in sports and other public school activities range in age and grade from 7th grade through senior year. The home schoolers participate for many reasons, includes to interact with other students and to play the sports they love.

"I just love being involved

Steps can be taken to prevent flu bug

by Kaleb Lyons

Runny nose, fever, temperature, vomiting, and many other flu and cold symptoms are infecting many Americans. However, there are some steps to help avoid these symptoms.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, 85 million doses of flu vaccine have been distributed this year already, with

you can connect with friends and talk when you're not with each other," said Pella Middle School 8th grader Trevor Nelson.

20% use Pinterest and 16% use Instagram.

Selena Quangvan, a Pella Middle School 7th grader, said her favorite was Instagram. "[I like] Instagram because I take photos and I can edit and use them."

Many students spend time on social network sites. On average students spend 1 hour and 12 minutes on social network sites a day. Many companies are now trying to find

top. They can also have someone who already has a Pinterest account send them an invite and from there they can create an account.

To pin things, one will want to have the "Pin It" button installed. To install this go to "About" and then click on "Pin It Button". Once installed, one should see the words "Pin It" under the favorite bar. When someone finds something that they want to pin, they simply click on it, go to the "Pin It Button" and pin it to one of their boards. A person can also repin things. When someone repins something they pin stuff from others Pinterest profiles

so I'm not locked up in my house all day. Also I love being at school with my friends, and playing sports," said Brooke Walz, an 8th grade home schooler.

Some home schoolers come to the middle school each day for a certain class they are required to take. Hannah Emmert is an example of a home schooler from last year that came to the middle school each day for half a day

a total of 135 million doses available. USA Today reports that 2011 set record lows for hospitalization because of flu shots and it was the shortest flu season.

There are many recommendations to keeping healthy this flu season. People should avoid sharing objects and avoid touching the

every possible way to add the social networking in technology.

Some car companies are trying to put Wi-Fi into cars because, "The real plus of having a Wi-Fi router in the car is for passengers who can access the Internet to watch YouTube videos, connect to social networks, instant-message friends and play games using any Wi-Fi-enabled device." said Autonet Mobile CEO Sterling Pratz.

Pretty soon the ways of using social media will be endless.

onto their own profile.

When pinning things, the pins are put onto a board. A board may have only three pins, or it may have over 300 pins. It all depends on the person creating the board and how much they want to add to each board.

When asked about Pinterest, Brook Morgan said, "Pinterest is very fun. I recommend it to people because it has very cool things that can be pinned. Most of the things on Pinterest you can make yourself, which is really cool as well. I love Pinterest!"

for science, FCS, GTT, band, and choir.

"I wanted to know what regular school felt like. So many people told me good things about school that I didn't know. I really wanted to experience it, so my parents agreed to let me to school for half a day," said Emmert. "All of my friends that I know come here and told me I should come every, all day. My parents agreed because it would get me prepared for high school."

nose, mouth, or eyes. It is important to get enough sleep and avoid getting run down, reduce stress, use tissues for coughs and sneezes and dispose of them immediately, eat healthy, get regular exercise, avoid crowds and keep a safe distance from people who maybe ill.

18 Featuring You

Top 5 Tweets

(by Bellara Huang)

I just tripped over a flamingo
#flamingogoaway #youremean
-@samanthaboetger

That awkward moment when the guy
with the mullet has been following
you and your dog for a mile.

#awkward
-@JayBelding

Dad's trying Rosetta Stone to learn
Spanish. Tate's comment is "You're
talking like Dora! Do you want to be
like Dora?" #lovehim

-@33_sissy (Halle Van Vark)

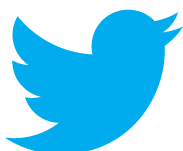
I cannot wait for egg nog to show up
at Hy-Vee. #EGGcited

-@RossVandeWeerd1

I just read a book.

#howdidiaccomplishthat

-@guerena_ariana (Ariana Guerena)



Puns

(by Sammy Boetger, Jenna Murphy, and
Bellara Huang)

History class is really starting to get
old.

-Ben Tysseling

I have a large circumference because I
ate too much pi.

-Alaina Klyn

We are learning about space, it is out
of this world.

-Kelcey Blommers

The University of Iowa can be seen
from a Hawkeye's view.

-Jason Seo

Nebraska's getting a little husky.

-Jenna Murphy

The man's left eye has never been
right before.

-Michael Reed

I had a fear of hurdles, then I got over
it.

-Kayleen Van Dyke

CAUGHT IN THE HALLS



These sweaters give ideas for this year's ugly sweater season!

(photo by Kelcey Blommers)



Jenny Weiser and
Sophia Steenhoek
sporting roller-
blades in P.E class.

(photo by
Ben Tysseling)



Christmas Survey

(by Jordan Rempe)

Student were emailed a survey about their favorite
Christmas treats. Here are the results.

What is your favorite Christmas treat?

