

December Events

- Dec. 6.....Home BB
- Dec. 10-13.....Pre Season BB
- Dec. 11.....Wildcat Wednesday
- Dec. 14.....Winter Formal
- Dec 16.....Band/Vocal Concert
- Dec. 17.....Home BB
- Dec. 18.....BB Pictures
- Dec. 19.....Girls HOA Challenge
- Dec 20.....No School
- Dec 21.....Regional Debate
- Dec. 23-31.....Christmas Break

Photo provided by Facebook



Reese Stucky and Kenzie Woltje having placed at the sacred heart tournament

Wildcats prepare to end the season strong

This debate season has been a season of new experiences. Returners are learning to be in more of a leadership role and to do everything better than last year and novices are learning to make good arguments and have their information in order and to make only factual arguments.

"I've learned to always do your research and know what you're talking about before making baseless arguments," novice freshman Reese Stucky said.

"My greatest strength is talking fast, and I need to work on listening the most," returning sophomore Matthew Morrison said.

At the tournament on Sat., Nov. 9 in Buhler, the novice team went 4 and 1 and placed sixth and the 2 open teams went 2 and 2. Stucky and Mackenzie Woltje were on the novice team, Jordan Creed and Becca Schlosser were the first open team, and Chris Houk and Morrison were the second open team.

Creed received his first debate letter which includes a gavel and a bar for going to his fourth tournament and qualified to novice state, Woltje also qualified to novice state and lettered, and Stucky also lettered. Houk, Morrison, and Schlosser received their second letter which includes a bar for their 4th tournament this year.

"I've learned that there will always be someone who is smarter than me," Morrison added.

"I need to work on confidence the most," Stucky added.

Forensics is coming up fast. It starts in January after state debate, and the forensics team is made up of around 8 people with 3 returners and 5 novices.

"In forensics this year, I plan on doing an oration, dramatic interpretation, and impromptu," Morrison added.

Chris Houk



Cat's Corner

A Publication of 21st Century Journalism at MHS

Contents

Elementary

- MES Giving Month.....3
- Buck's Boat Drawings.....7

Middle School

- "Adventures with Buck".....7

High School

- Play.....1
- FCCLA NLC.....2
- FFA Conference.....4
- English Trip.....5
- Band.....5
- Scholars Bowl.....6
- Adventures with Buck.....7
- Debate.....8

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Photo by Yania Winsor

The cast of *Arsenic and Old Lace* pose for a photo after long weeks of strong rehearsals.

Arsenic and Old Lace Proved to be a Killer Show

Moundridge High School performed *Arsenic and Old Lace*, a play written in 1939, in the high school auditorium on Nov. 15-16.

This play was about a family called the Brewsters, and in this family there are two aunts and three nephews. This family was notorious for being insane.

"The whole play was set in a time where everyone talks differently and acts differently," sophomore Matthew Morrison said.

The play is set in Brooklyn in 1940. Morrison played the parts of Mr. Gibbs and Officer Klein.

The beginning of the play introduced the two aunts, who seem very normal at first glance.

Learning these characters was difficult for some students, while others could relate to the parts they played.

The first nephew we are introduced to is Teddy, who believes that he is Teddy

Roosevelt. Soon after we meet Mortimer, and he is the most sane person in the household.

Mortimer discovers that his aunts had been murdering people without him knowing, and saying that it was yellow fever so Teddy would bury them.

Midway through this play, we meet Jonathan, and he is this psychotic man who is wanted for murder and has been traveling the world.

"I feel good about Jonathan. He's very similar to my personality," Chris Houk said. Houk is a sophomore and this was his first play.

The students were excited for this play, and all of them put in time away from school into their lines.

"Overall, this was a really funny and entertaining play, and the cast really seemed to enjoy their parts," senior Sarah Brunk said.

Alanna Golden

FCCLA: Leadership and Axe Throwing

Mrs. Julie Diepenbrock and Mrs. Connie Kaufman took the Moundridge FCCLA chapter to National Leadership Conference (NLC) in Dallas on Nov. 15th through the 17th at the Dallas convention center in the OMNI hotel.

Students who went on the trip included juniors Katelynn Miller, Makenzie Elmore, Kira Jackson, Emma Green, Myiah Logue, Sequora Pfeiff, sophomores Lizzy Kliewer, Shayden Jackson, freshmen Emily Durst, Kindall Elmore, and Maggy Adolf.

The girls also got to do fun activities like axe throwing, visiting the Reunion Tower, and shopping at the Galleria. When asked what their favorite part of the trip was they all collectively said "axe throwing".

"Axe throwing was my favorite because we got good group bonding in, and it was really fun" K. Elmore said.

Mrs. Kaufman had been to NLC before but this was her first time going as just a sponsor. Kaufman was an FCCLA advisor for many years before retiring in 2018 when Diepenbrock filled her position.

"I was honored to be asked to be a sponsor for the trip. It was fun to go along and see what's happening in FCCLA. I loved the theme Your Story Our Story. I'm excited to see how these young ladies will grow in their leadership story. I



Photo by Mrs. Diepenbrock

The girls pose for a picture when they finally arrive in Texas.

think we created some fun memories on the trip! So glad I got to be a part of the trip" Kaufman said.

At the conference the girls attended sessions, heard from inspirational speakers, played a trivia game with all the other chapters, and learned more about how to be involved in FCCLA.

Chapters from all over the state attended the conference along with the national officers and peer ed teams.

"I enjoyed it because I got to meet new

people that are in FCCLA from all around the nation. It was a great connecting experience" said Jackson.

During this conference the girls got to exchange social media information with other FCCLA members from different states so they could keep in touch, creating new friends and new memories together.

Myiah Logue



Photo by Mrs. Diepenbrock

FCCLA poses for a picture before the conference begins.



Photo by Myiah Logue

Myiah Logue, Maggy Adolf, Emily Durst, Kindall Elmore and Katelynn Miller pose for a selfie



Boat by Kindergartener Keelan Graber. Boat name: Karen



Boat by Kindergartener Harrison Pressnall. Boat name: Smokey

Adventures With Buck

We pulled our boat to shore, still in amazement of the island. I hopped out of the boat onto the shore, and discovered the shore was gold dust as well. Martin had gotten up and he had the strangest look on his face. He seemed to be smiling, but his eyes glistened over, and he was staring straight at the dense forest.

I leaned over to Jack and whispered, "What do you think he is doing?"

"I don't know. What do you think he is doing?"

"Jack, if I knew I wouldn't be asking you."

"Oh, right. Maybe he is like channeling energy or something from the island and he is some scary thing that's going to eat us!"

"No, he is not! Martin is not going to eat us and he is just another ship mate, not something that is big and scary."

We looked over at Gregor who was just as lost as we were. He looked at us and shrugged. Then he yelled, "Hey, Mart!"

"Yeah, yeah, I'm good. We going or are we just going to stand here all day?" Martin grabbed his bag and started to walk. We then glanced at each other and reluctantly followed him.

He then turned around shook his head and blinked a few times. "Wh-what?"

"You good?" Gregor asked.

The forest looked dense, but not nearly as dense as it actually was. The

trees were so thick it blocked most of the light. For the first mile it was quiet, but as we continued we started to hear things. It was like a low buzz and we weren't sure where it was coming from. Soon we came to a massive log; it was old and almost half the size of the ship. It was about fifty feet long and nine feet in diameter. The buzzing was loud now, and we could also hear a strange chirping sound. It was so loud we could barely hear anything else.

"What is in this?" I yelled. No one seemed to hear, and I was about to ask again, but Martin pulled out his hatchet and started chopping away at the thicket. The buzz got louder and louder the closer he got to the middle. One last chop and he had made a hole the size of an orange.

"Bbbzzzzzzzzzzzz!" Tiny little bug-like creatures came flying out. There were millions of them. They had spiky wings, a solid yellow gold color and curly lines all over the wing. The body was distinct and the same yellow gold. The whole body was a bit bigger than the wings and had a head with spikes on top and big black eyes. The body came down to a point at the bottom and I could see feet tucked up underneath. It also had arms and what looked like three thorns for fingers. They were about two inches tall and an inch wide. The swarms of them nose dived at us, and all of a sudden I felt a

sharp prick, then another and another.

"Ouch!" Gregor yelled. As soon as he made more noise, more of the creatures swarmed him.

"Shhhh!" I hushed them. More of the creatures came at me. I froze as the pricking got sharper and more painful.

"Oh, they follow the sound..." Jack blurted, immediately regretting his words. Most of the creatures left the others and went to Jack. He pulled his sword and started swinging like a madman.

"Die, small creatures! Die! Die!" The bigger the sound he made, the more that followed him. Jack yelped and more came, and I realized I had to do something fast. I reached down and grabbed a stick. I quietly stood back up and threw the stick as far as I could.

"Crack Ba-boom!" The stick landed out of sight and about half of the swarm zipped over to follow the sound. I grabbed another and chucked it as far as I could the other way.

"Boom!" It landed and the others swarmed over there. I suddenly realized that Martin was no longer here.

"Guys, where is Martin?" I asked.

"I don't know and don't really care about that guy, but if he leaves us in a fight, he is no brother of ours," Jack said. I looked around again but saw no sign of him.

"Well, wherever he is, I'm pretty sure he left on purpose. We better run!"

Sarah Brunk

Scholars Bowl Hopes To Return To State

On Thurs., Nov. 19, the MHS Scholars Bowl teams took first at both their meets.

This year's team includes returning seniors Daniel Kaufman, Brady Helms, Aaron Green, Cross Lintecum, and Kyler Dalke. They are joined by junior Sequora Pfeiff, sophomores Jordan Creed, Shawn Wedel, and Rebecca Schlosser, and a group of freshmen and newcomers.

Scholars Bowl is a competitive team sport based on the subjects of math, English, science, fine arts, social science, and a year in review question. Teams participate in different rounds where they compete to answer questions.

"Practices are designed to simulate a round, and we use actual rounds to practice with. Students get a buzzer, some paper and pencil, and then one person reads questions to folks while they try and answer them - just like an actual round would be," Coach Adam Robb said.

This season the team is off to a good start with 3rd place at the Elyria Christian meet on Oct. 24, and then 2nd place at their home meet on Nov. 4 .

"They are confident in their answers and have good buzzing time" Robb said.

"We didn't do to great but since it was off of points instead of record we won," Dalke said.

When team members were asked if they could fill the void Trevor Kohl left, senior Cross Lintecum said "yes, but it is not going to be in just one person. The whole team contributes and we have not had problems yet."

The expectation for this season is to hopefully be repeat HOA champions, and to place high in Regionals.

"I expect us to make back to the state tournament. We have done it the past three years, and I don't think we should stop this year because we have four out of the six people who went last year," Lintecum said.

Adian Zimmer



Photo provided by Facebook



Photo by Kelly Kohl

(Top) The JV Team took first place on Tuesday. (Bottom) The Varsity team also took first place Tuesday.

MES Loves Their Month of Giving



Photo by Emily Smith

MES filled buckets with paper goods.

For the month of November Moundridge Elementary school host a fundraiser for the Moundridge Food Bank. MES called it their "November month of giving."

Principal Khosravipour spoke to the Moundridge food bank and found out all of the items the food bank needed. MES staff hope to teach students that some families are more in need than others.

"We want to teach the students the nature of giving," Khosravipour said.

The fundraiser runs the whole month of November.

For their first week of giving, students were asked to bring paper goods, such as toilet paper, napkins, paper towels and wipes. In the second week, they brought canned goods, such as soup, peanut butter, pasta sauces and crackers.

"Food that will last families a long time," Khosravipour said.

For the third and final week they collected cleaning supplies, supplies such as Lysol wipes, Clorox wipes, Comet cleanser and toilet bowl cleaner.

"I wanted to set a reasonable goal, this being my first year here, I wasn't really sure what was 'reasonable'."

The goal for MES was to hit 75 items per week on Friday of each week. On Friday morning they counted how many items they had.

The kids have successfully made their goals for the first two weeks! The first week for their reward they had an extra recess. For the next week they had a dance party!

"The kids are understanding the heart behind it. They listen and are very tuned in," Khosravipour said.

Emily Smith



Photo by: iokestovau.com

What is your favorite Thanksgiving food?

"Turkey"

-Graham DenHartog
Second Grade

"Mashed Potatoes and Gravy"

- Alexia Hayes
Second Grade

"Pumpkin Pie and Chocolate Meringue Pie"

-Sarah Brunk
Senior

"Zweibach"

-Kate Eichelberger
Sophomore

"Greenbean Casserole"

-Hannah Bibb
Junior

"Jello"

-Cammi Unruh
Sixth Grade

Emily Smith



Photo by Google

FFA Goes To Indiana For Convention

During the last week in September the MHS FFA Chapter traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana for National Convention.

While there they went to a concert, a rodeo, and speaker sessions. The students who attended the National Convention were seniors Ashleigh Accardi and Carson Orpin, juniors Katelynn Miller, Hannah Bibb, and Silas Courtney, sophomores Kase Ptacek, Joseph Schrag, and Jordan Creed.

The chapter did not compete in any events, however, Creed and Bibb did compete in a swing dance competition and placed 4th. They also went to three different sessions on Wed, Oct. 30 thru Fri, Nov. 1 and listened to different speakers each day.

"Those were pretty neat. We got to watch awards and got to see the retiring addresses of the old officers," said Accardi.

The chapter also went to an Old Dominion concert on Oct. 30 and got to go to a Rodeo Nov. 1.

"The concert was amazing. It was actually the best concert I have ever been to," said Miller.

They also got to eat at many different restaurants.

"We tried to eat at places we didn't have here in Kansas," Mrs. Herbel said.



Photo by Mrs. Herbel

The MHS FFA chapter stopped to take a picture standing outside of the Indiana Convention Center. Back row (Left to right) Ashleigh Accardi, Jordan Creed, Carson Orpin, and Joseph Schrag. Front row (Left to Right) Kase Ptacek, Katelynn Miller, Hannah Bibb, and Silas Courtney.

The chapter ate at a restaurant called The Iron Skillet, owned by Herbel's grandpa. They got to meet Herbel's family while there too.

"Meeting Mrs. Herbel's family was an interesting experience, to meet a family that is truly supportive of the FFA organization and particularly our chapter," said Creed.

The trip was a ten hour drive each way. The FFA chapter got to spend a lot of time together in the vehicle.

"There was never a dull moment," said Miller.

On Nov. 20, MHS FFA went to McPherson for FFA District Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Milk Quality Judging.

Skye Fletcher



Photo by Mrs. Herbel

(Left to Right) Hannah Bibb, Katelynn Miller, Silas Courtney, Mrs Herbel, Jordan Creed, Kase Ptacek, Carson Orpin, Joseph Schrag, and Ashleigh Accardi. The MHS FFA chapter are standing on the stairs in the "Iron Skillet".



Photo by Mrs. Herbel

FFA chapter standing in front of the FFA letters at the convention expo. (Left to right) Joseph Schrag, Jordan Creed, Ashleigh Accardi, Kase Ptacek, Katelynn Miller, Hannah Bibb, Silas Courtney.

Seniors Take a Trip to Hutch

Ms. Melanie Krehbiel's English IV class attended the Dillon Lecture Series at the Hutchinson Sports Arena on November 5.

"The lecture was about how anything is possible and how committed you are to doing something will tell how far you get in whatever it may be that you're trying to achieve," senior Brady Helms said.

During the event, public speaker Fredi Lajvardi talked about his adventures in teaching at an Arizona public high school, and the struggles of dealing with undocumented students and with a lack of funding and public support.

Krehbiel's English IV class read the book *Spare Parts*, which follows the true story of four students who competed in a national underwater robotics competition in 2004. These four students had joined Fredi's class and ended up under his supervision for attending the competition.

"[I learned] that Fredi had a solar/electric race car program through the school before the ROV program," senior Carson Orpin said. Seniors learned about all of Lajvardi's classes and his other school activities as well as the underwater robotics



Photo by Melanie Krehbiel

The Senior Class poses with speaker Fredi Lajvardi.

competition. He also assisted in making several movies about the competition, including *Spare Parts* directed by Sean MacNamara and *Underwater Dreams* directed by Jack Bezos.

"[We went] to hear it straight from the 'cow's mouth' so to speak. So that we as readers can make connections and make

the book come more alive. Also, we went to hear Fredi's point of view on his experiences while working with the students," Orpin said.

Kyler Dalke

MHS Concert Band Debuts

On November 7, the Moundridge High School Band performed their first concert of the year. The concert was a mix of traditional concert band pieces and pop songs. It was held in the High School Auditorium, where they performed the pieces "City of Lights", "A Hymn for Band", "Whiplash", "Fight Song", and "The Greatest Showman".

This was the second year in a row that the band performed their fall concert, and they have been practicing almost year-long to prepare for their upcoming performances.

On November 13, a select few of the Band members also went to Berean Academy for HOA Honors Band. The Moundridge High School Band attends this event every year to learn more about what it is like to play in large groups, instead of the school's smaller band.



Photo by Vania Winsor

The MHS Band rehearses for the concert.

The Band's next performance is on Dec. 16.

Kyler Dalke