

## December Events

- Dec. 2.....HS BB at Pretty Prairie
- Dec. 5.....Fifth Grade Starbase
- Dec. 6-9.....Pre-Season Tournament
- Dec. 9.....FFA Kansas Beef Expo
- Dec. 10.....ACT
- Dec. 10.....Regional Debate
- Dec. 10.....Winter Formal
- Dec. 13..HS Band and Vocal Concert
- Dec. 14.....Winter Sports Pictures
- Dec. 15.....FCCLA Christmas Party
- Dec. 16-17.....Regional Debate
- Dec. 23-30.....Christmas Break



Photos provided by Lauryn Young

Fifth graders travelled to Starbase, in Salina Kansas on Nov. 7.



# Fifth Graders Take Trips to STARBASE

Before Christmas break, the 5th graders will have taken five trips to STARBASE, a STEM-related program where they learn about various topics in the fields of engineering and technology.

The students participate in a variety of activities that teach them about many subjects, including science and technology, in a new and exciting way.

"[My favorite activity is] probably the CAD program. We get a rover with nothing on it and we get to add things to it to make it do [different] things," fifth grader Beau Warden said.

CAD (Computer Aided Drafting) is a

program in which students learn about 3D Computer Printing. After they finish the printing, they get to personalize the products that they made.

"The STARBASE program provides an innovative approach to addressing three critical problems facing America's youth: poor preparation in math and science, lack of personal direction, and drug abuse. This helps kids get ideas of other job options instead of the basic three [jobs, which are] Doctor, Lawyer, and Teacher. [Starbase] shows them about engineering and hands on jobs. This motivates some children when they realize

they could have a job where they are not just at a desk but instead doing hands on activities," fifth grade teacher Sarah Johnson explained.

The students have the opportunity to learn about a variety of different subjects and topics while they are on the STARBASE trips.

"They learn about circuitry, computer engineering, three dimensional printing, [the] atmosphere, rockets, Newton's laws of motion, speed and force, mass, and reading charts," Johnson said.

STARBASE is located on an army base in Salina, Kan.

Jenika Allenbach



# Cat's Corner

A Publication of 21st Century Journalism at MHS

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Photo by Jenika Allenbach

(From left to right) Kayla Frazer, Paige Finley, and Blake Crane will be graduating early on Jan. 13.

## Three Seniors Graduate At End of First Semester

Out of the thirty-six members of the senior class this year, three have completed early graduation requirements.

Seniors Kayla Frazier, Blake Crane, and Paige Finley all decided to finish their senior year early.

"I decided to graduate early because I want to get a head start on college, and I also wanted to work and make money before I go to college in the fall of 2017," Senior Paige Finley said.

Some early graduates go straight into the workforce, and others go on to begin higher education.

"I only need one credit to graduate and I would like to be an orthodontist, so I have a lot of years of school I need to do. [By graduating early] I can get a head start," Senior Kayla Frazer said.

"I haven't decided between Johnson

County Community College and Kansas State University. They both have really great interior design programs, but I have yet to tour the K-State campus, so once I do that, I think I will be able to decide," Finley said.

All three students have different ideas for what they want to do in the future.

"[I am going to] WSU because they have a really good pre dental program," Frazer said.

Many students who graduate early decide that they still want to walk at graduation.

"I can only have a high school graduation once and I would like to experience that," Finley said.

The school year will end for these three seniors on Friday, January 13.

Jenika Allenbach

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This newsletter is a production of the 21st Century Journalism Class of 2016-2017. Advisor is Ms. Melanie Krehbiel. Questions or comments may be directed to: krehbielm@usd423.org.

# Christmas Traditions

The meaning of Christmas is different to many people. It may be a time to spend with family, eat a lot, relax, or celebrate a religious figure.

"The meaning of Christmas to me is that it's a time of the year when my family gets to get together and reconnects with each other," 8th grader Erin Durst said.

When Durst wakes up on Christmas morning she goes and eats a special Christmas breakfast that her mom makes.

"My family goes to my grandmother's house for a big meal before Christmas day," Durst said.

The Durst family likes eating fried chicken for Christmas dinner because it "just wouldn't feel like Christmas if they didn't."

"My best memory of Christmas was when me and my family went sledding

and I fell off, then we all started to have a snowball fight," 8th grader Durst said.

4th grader Layton Wiens said that "getting to be with family and friends" is the meaning of Christmas. A must-have for their family Christmas dinner is pumpkin pie.

"I used to wait up to catch Santa, but I never caught him because I would always fall asleep on the stairs and not wake up until it was Christmas morning," 8th grader Raven Richert said.

The first thing 4th grader Ellie Seeger does when she wakes up on Christmas morning is run out into the living room to see if anything had changed while she slept.

"The meaning of Christmas is celebrating the birth of Jesus," 4th grader Jacob Schwartz said.

Shannon Clark

Photo by Shannon Clark



MS library welcomes students and visitors with themed posters.

## My favorite Christmas movie is . . .

"How the Grinch Stole Christmas"

Jacob Schwarz - 4th grade

"Elf"

Layton Wiens - 4th grade

"Home Alone"

Ellie Seeger - 4th grade



photo by Shannon Clark

Elf on a Shelf poster in the Middle School library.

Photo by Shannon Clark

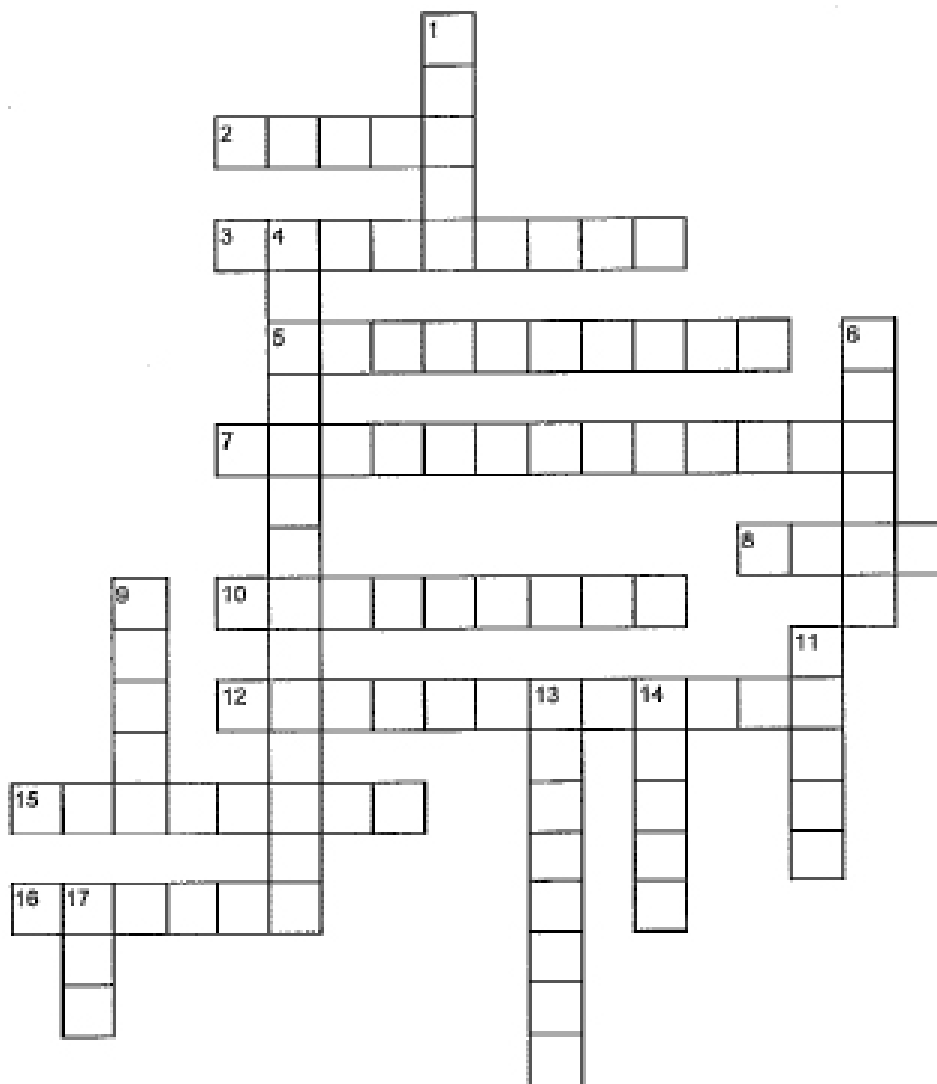


Photo by Shannon Clark



MS library features Christmas themed posters to spread holiday spirit.

**\*Read the issue to complete the puzzle. If you complete the puzzle, turn it into the office with your name on it to be entered into a drawing to win a prize!**



**Across**

- 2 The U.S. Federal Government should better our relationship with \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ was the director of the musical.
- 5 Debate teams are put together by \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7 The HS boy's basketball team played \_\_\_\_\_ for their first game.
- 8 There are \_\_\_\_\_ seniors on the HS girl's basketball team.
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_ goes to her grandma's house for dinner before Christmas.
- 12 \_\_\_\_\_ played Cosmo is the production of 'Singing in the Rain.'
- 15 MS boy's basketball had their first game at \_\_\_\_\_.
- 16 \_\_\_\_\_ is the team to beat for girl's basketball.

**Down**

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ is the goal of the seniors out for girl's basketball.
- 4 Paige Finley wants to pursue \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 There are \_\_\_\_\_ boys out for MS basketball.
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_ seniors are graduating early.
- 11 \_\_\_\_\_ is the MS girl's biggest rival.
- 13 \_\_\_\_\_ is the coach of the HS Scholars Bowl team.
- 14 The JV Scholars Bowl placed \_\_\_\_\_ at Marion.
- 17 \_\_\_\_\_ is Layton Wiens' favorite Christmas movie.



# MHS Students Sing in the Rain



Photo by MHS Yearbook

Kathy Seldon (Cassidy Sparks) and Don Lockwood (Cameron Clark) meet for the first time.

This year Moundridge High School performed the musical “Singing in the Rain”.

“I feel the musical went great this year!! We have performed harder musicals each year and every year the students rise to the high expectations,” director Kim Kellum said.

The musical tells the story of a man and a woman who meet at a bus stop and start to fall in love.

Kathy and Don get to know each other through interesting circumstances that include conflict between the two female who fight over the male lead.

Don, the male lead, falls in love with Kathy and discovers that she can sing. This comes into play later in the musical when Don and Cosmo need Kathy to sing for Lina, the other female lead.

“I think for me the hardest part was playing a much more multi-faceted role. Most characters I’ve played before really just have the one side to them, but Don Lockwood is just a lot deeper than I’m used to.

“So portraying that dichotomy between the confident famous actor and the insecure romantic underneath was a really interesting challenge,” senior Cameron Clark said.

Lina and Don are a “couple” according to the fan magazines. They are famous for acting in silent pictures, but when talking pictures become popular, they don’t know what to do, because Lina can’t sing and she talks funny.

Cosmo then comes up with the idea to have Lina lip sync while Kathy sings for her behind the curtain.

For this year’s production of “Singing in the Rain,” many scenes involved a higher difficulty of dance moves than last year’s musical. The stage crew were also able to make it “rain” on the stage.

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**“I like performing because I get the chance to show off my skills and everyone’s hard work pays off in the end.”**

**Cassidy Sparks**

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“The scene where we had to figure out how to make it “rain” on stage was the hardest part of the musical this year by far because it took a lot of planning and preparation for it to work out,” Kellum added.

The leads of the musical this year were played by seniors C. Sparks as Kathy Seldon, Clark as Don Lockwood, and junior Allie Sparks as Lina Lamont.

“I like performing because I get the chance to show off my skills and everyone’s hard work pays off in the end,” C. Sparks said.

Kathy plays a very important part in the musical because she is the one who makes the moving picture a success by singing for Lina.

“Kathy thinks that singing for Lina is a good idea as long as it saves Don’s career and the movie. She wasn’t too thrilled to sing for Lina at the end because she was told it was just going to be once,” C. Sparks added.

Other leads in the musical were played by junior Jerod Kaufman as Cosmo Brown, and junior Jessica Ullom-Minnich as the main “Broadway Melody” singer.

“My favorite part was ‘Broadway Melody’ because I really enjoyed the choreography and I feel like the number really came together in the end,” Ullom-Minnich said.

Mrs. Kellum and everyone else that was involved in this year’s musical would like to encourage new people to be in next year’s musical.

“I love putting on musicals! It allows our students to perform for an audience, it allows us to be different characters, it helps us to appreciate a different style or genre of music. Having to be at early morning or late evening rehearsals teaches us responsibility and hard work for our accomplishments.

“Being in musicals allows us to channel our creativity and show others a different side of our personalities. I love how the musical brings so many different kids together for one common goal - to put on a great show! It’s so much work--but so worth the hard work and energy and it’s always a bit sad when it is over,” Kellum said.

Mackenzie Porter

# MHS Changes Semester Length

First semester this year at MHS will not end until after Christmas break on Jan. 13.

Usually, students take finals the week before Christmas break and then the third quarter begins after the new year. This change raises the questions of when finals will be taken, how this new schedule will work for first semester grades, and the wrap-up of assignments after an 11 day mental break.

Most students (and teachers) would say that during Christmas break they tend not to focus on school work, but rather catch up on sleep, eat a lot, and just relax.

"I think there is some benefits to taking finals before Christmas break because the break is a time for students to relax and rejuvenate," high school principal Hilarie Hecox said.

Junior Jessica Ullom-Minnich believes that having finals before break is more beneficial, because students are less likely to forget information over the break. Also, it creates less stress for the student during the holiday season.

The reason for this change is to create better collaboration with the middle school, as their first semester doesn't usually end until January because of the 8th grade modules schedule. Previously, the high school's schedule was 10-15 days shorter than the middle school's.

"I think that this new concept is difficult for students who plan to transfer classes at semester because it creates an awkward time where students jump in when teachers may have already started the next lesson or moved on before the new student transfers in," Ullom-Minnich said.

Most teachers have chosen to still give finals before Christmas break because it is more beneficial for the students and themselves. History teacher Bret Lange will be one of the only teachers giving finals after break.

"My first semester final will not be a cumulative test so my students will just take a test after break when we finish the units," Lange said.

Preparing for finals week can be a really stressful time in a student's

high school career. Most students find themselves staying up late, not getting enough sleep, drinking energy drinks, or in some cases, even resorting to taking pills to stay focused. All of these can have negative effects on a student's physical and mental state. While it may seem academically beneficial to be drinking all of that caffeine, it really is not.

It has been proven that students who stay up all night studying will actually do worse on their test. Staying up all night makes students tired and less focused the next day, so focusing on an exam will not be easier, and that study session that they stayed up all night for will not show any real benefits.

While it is important to do well on finals, it is not important enough that a student should stress too much and drain their body because of it.

Some healthy tips for studying during finals week are: stay active, get enough rest, eat a good breakfast (because breakfast is the most important meal of the day!)

Sierra Diehl

Photos by Cayman Wiens



Mr. Modellmogg creates a home Christmas scene and Mrs. Winsor creates a Penguin-themed outside Christmas scene for the door-decorating contest in MHS.





Photo provided by Hilarie Hecox

The varsity Scholars Bowl team won the meet at Sterling. The participants were (Left to Right) juniors Jessica Ullom-Minnich and Ben Schrag, seniors Cameron Clark and Bayard Bell-Martinez, sophomore Trevor Kohl, and senior Jacob Ewy.

## MHS Scholars Bowl on a Roll

The MHS Scholars Bowl season began on Nov. 7 with a meet held at Moundridge. Moundridge A received second place with a record of 6-2. 18 teams competed at the meet.

Moundridge B had a record of 4-2 and lost in the first round of pool play, and Moundridge C had a record of 2-3.

"I feel like we're equipped to do very well this year. We have a good balance of both underclassmen and very experienced upperclassmen," Scholars Bowl coach Adam Robb said.

The JV Scholars Bowl team earned first place at Marion on Nov. 15, with a record of 6-1.

On Nov. 17 the varsity team traveled to Sterling for another meet, where they received first place with a record of 8-0.

"I think our biggest struggle will be

fine arts because there is just so much information that is out there in fine arts and we don't have a lot of exposure to it," Robb said.

The last meet before Christmas break is on Dec. 12 at Sedgwick.

"Hopefully our season will end on Feb. 11, which is the state Scholars Bowl tournament, but we are guaranteed to continue through Feb. 2, which is our regional date," Robb said.

The MHS Scholars Bowl team has 6 new team members this year which include four freshmen and two exchange students.

"I did quiz bowl in middle school, so I just thought I would try scholars bowl in high school," Freshman Cross Lintecum said.

Macy Craig



Photo provided by Hilarie Hecox

The JV Scholars Bowl team includes (Left to right) freshmen Collin Kohl and Daniel Kaufman, sophomore Trevor Kohl, senior Giorgia Panella, and sophomore Mylaya Bell-Martinez.

# MMS Boys Basketball Season Starts

The MMS Boys basketball season started off with some offense and conditioning. The first practice was on Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2016. "The season has gone well so far," said Head Coach Jeremiah Meeks.

The first game was on Nov. 21 at Sterling, "My goals for the 2016-2017 season are to keep playing hard, and win some games," said eighth grader Braden Schmidt.

The score was Wildcats 21 and Sterling 32.

The second game was on Nov. 29 at Little River. Moundridge lost that game, with a score of Little River 38 to Mound-

ridge 28.

The head coach is Meeks, and the assistant coach is Larry Diepenbrock.

"There are six 7th graders and six 8th graders on the team," assistant coach Larry Diepenbrock said.

The A-Team starters for the first game were 8th graders Braden Schmidt, Korbin Wedel, Corbin Unruh, Landon Stephan, and 7th grader Joseph Schrag.

There are seven home games and seven away games this season, the schedule is Dec. 8, at Wichita Home School, Dec. 12, at Moundridge, with Ell-Saline, Dec. 15, at Sedgwick, Dec. 19, at Moundridge, with Sacred Heart, Jan. 5, at Moundridge,

with Marion, Jan. 9, at Halstead, Jan. 12, at Moundridge, with Hutch Trinity, Jan. 19, at Bennington, Jan. 23, at Moundridge, with Goessel, Jan. 26, at Inman, Jan. 30, at Moundridge, with Remington, and then the HOA League Tournament starts three days after the regular season.

The HOA League Tournament is at Sedgwick, on Feb. 2- Feb. 9. During this tournament the Wildcats will play against several different teams from their league.

The Wildcats record so far is, 0-3. They have lost to Sterling, Little River, and Berean Academy. They are hoping to win against all of the up coming teams.

Ashleigh Accardi

# MMS Girls Basketball Season Begins

This year the MMS girls basketball team has high expectations.

They are coached by Annie Toews and assisted by Shelby Graber.

"I think we are small, but we will be quick and there will be a lot of learning that will happen in the first few games, then we will go from there," Graber said.

Their biggest rivals this year are Inman and Sedgwick.

"My goal this year is to beat Inman," Graber added.

The starters for A-team this year are 8th graders Katie Castor, Makenzie Elmore, Kourtney Kaufman, Erin Durst and Camb-

ry Stucky.

The team plans to do better and win more games this year than they did last year.

"We did okay last year but it was kind of weird because we didn't win a lot," Kaufman said.

Other team goals for this year are to win the league tournament, and not fear other teams.

"My personal goal for this year is to make more shots than I did last year," Durst said.

Some weaknesses for the MMS girls basketball team are dribbling and ball

handling.

Their strength this year is defense.

"My weakness is probably ball handling and my strength is probably defense," Castor said.

There are eight away games and seven home games this year. The league tournament will be at Sedgwick on Feb. 2.

They had their first game on Nov. 21 at Sterling, and they also played on Nov. 29 at Little River, Dec. 1 at home against Berean, and Dec. 8 at Wichita Home School.

Cayman Wiens

# MMS Boys Basketball, Continued..

Continued from page 6

get to the state tournament and leave a legacy that has existed here at Moundridge for a long time and that's just to play basketball and continuing on representing this community in a fine way," Coach Unrau said.

Not only do the seniors have high, fun, and exceptional goals, but their coach does also.

"My expectations with this group is with the returning seniors--that we have an experience that they will go ahead and provide us with the leadership that's necessary for us to have a successful year. I have my own expectations for how this group needs to perform, and I hope that those are the same expectations of how our players feel like we need to perform,

too, so we can achieve our goals for the year," Coach Unrau said.

Each year the team has challenging opponents, but the team hopes to work hard and play hard to overcome the challenges they face.

Kalee Henderson