

The Wildcat Echo

A publication by the students of Maquoketa Valley High School

Classes collaborate to make project for non-profit

by McKayla Weber

Recently Mr. Dunlap and Mr. Palmer tackled a project of making signs for the Hopkinton blood drive.

Keith Kramer contacted Mr. Palmer who then recruited his Advanced Construction class assemble the signs since they had all taken Woods I and had the skills to build them swiftly. "It was a good refresher for a few of those skill," noted Mr. Palmer.

Here's what Mr. Dunlap has to say about the work they put in.

What made you take on this project? Mr. Palmer needed some help with these signs. I thought what a good way to do some painting with my students and give back to our community.

What skills did the class work on to make them? The class developed lettering for the signs. Then we used stenciling to create a way to mass produce the lettering and imagery. It is important that these signs look the same and professional. The class primed and painted the boards and then added the text and image using the stencil. Finally they did any touch up that was needed.

How did the project go? The class did a great job working on these signs. I think they realized these signs are for a serious and great cause. They all gave extra efforts to get the quality they needed.



Above: 2-D art students Tessa Intorf, Kain Krogmann, Arianna Nolan and Gracie Palmersheim pose with their finished blood drive signs.



Left: Gracie, Kain and Arianna work with stencils for the signs.

New scoreboard feature showcases students, sponsors

by Maya Smith

The MV Athletic Boosters are proud to highlight its latest donation and exciting addition to the HS gym--a brand new video board! During games, the video board will be used for player recognition, starting lineups, advertising, highlighting our sponsors and much more!

Mr. Moenck, our activities director, said: "This was motivated by our Booster Club and has been talked about for a few years. They were in a place this year financially where they could make the purchase. It is an amazing addition to our gym."

The ones behind the scene adding new content for us all to enjoy are Mrs. Scherrman, Mandy Pasker, and Matt

Wall from the Booster Club. Student Maya Smith is the one running the job on game days. Mr. Moenck commented: "She is doing a fantastic job running the board. I have had many compliments from people in the public and from other schools on the board and how it's being run."

The board will be used beyond athletics. "We will be able to use it on graduation day, in PE class, and we could watch movies!" noted Mr. Moenck. "It can be used however we want to use it. It's been such a positive impact at our games. It adds so much to an already amazing atmosphere that our gym provides. The more we learn about it the better we will continue to be using it!"



Talent abounds at the band, choir, jazz band winter concert



Wrestlers compete at MFL-Mar Mac quad

“If you’re going to win, win big” was the theme for some MV wrestlers Tuesday night at the MFL-Mar Mac meet.

Senior Nathan Beitz, wrestling at 215, won by fall at 2:19 in his MFL Mar Mac match as well as in his Bellevue match. He won by forfeit in the Midland match.

Sophomore Kyle Engelken, wrestling at 144, earned three pins for the night.

Sophomore Clayton Davis won by fall at 2:28 in the 175 weight class against his MFL Mar Mac opponent. He also won by pin against Bellevue.

In the Midland match, Seth Dugan, wrestling at 285, won by a 12-5 decision.

Team scores: MFL Mar Mac 36-MV 25; Bellevue 47-MV 18; Midland 47-MV 21.

Last night the wrestlers competed at a quad at Lisbon.



Kyle Engelken competes in the West Delaware meet earlier in December.

Minutes from December School Board Meeting

Regular Board Meeting – December 16, 2024 – 5:30 p.m. – High School Library, Delhi, Iowa

The regular meeting of the Maquoketa Valley Board of Education was called to order by President Donna Kunde at 5:30 p.m. on December 16, 2024 in the High School Library in Delhi, Iowa. All motions carried unanimously unless otherwise noted.

Board Members Present –Feldmann (via phone), Kunde, Overman, Zietlow
Board Members Absent –Dabroski
Staff Present – Supt. Kim Huckstadt, Troy Osterhaus, Tiersa Frasher, Brenda Becker, Jackie Moorman, Erika Vanderloop, Jill Hoeger, Mike Hucker, Tom McAreavy and Rick Rave
Visitors Present –Mark Smith, Mike Putz and Savannah Hoffman

Motion was made by Zietlow, seconded by Overman to approve the meeting agenda as presented. All ayes. Carried.

In a motion by Overman, seconded by Zietlow the consent items were approved. All ayes. Carried.

Jackie Moorman shared the 2023-2024 Annual Progress Report with the Board. Troy Osterhaus also shared some information from the December 4th legislative session held in Monticello. There were various topics discussed such as the Education Savings Accounts funding, Area Education Agency funding, special education funding and supplemental state aid.

Four open enrollment requests in and

three open enrollment requests out were approved in a motion by Zietlow, seconded by Feldmann. All ayes. Carried.

The following personnel recommendations were approved in a motion by Overman, seconded by Feldmann:

Elizabeth DeMoss – resignation as Paraprofessional

Gwen Geiss – employed as Full-Time Substitute

Debra Neilson – employed as Paraprofessional

Craig Wilson – employed as Director of Transportation, Maintenance & Grounds

All ayes. Carried.

Motion was made by Zietlow, seconded by Overman to approve the 2024-2025 SBRC Application for Increasing Enrollment, Open Enrollment Out and LEP Instruction Beyond Five Years for \$126,274. This will allow the district to increase spending authority. A roll call vote was answered as follows: Feldmann, aye; Kunde, aye; Overman, aye; Zietlow, aye. Carried.

Motion was made by Feldmann, seconded by Overman to approve the 2025-2026 SBRC Modified Allowable Growth for Dropout Prevention. The Board approved the maximum amount allowed by state law which is \$199,815. Roll call vote was answered as follows: Feldmann, aye; Kunde, aye; Overman, aye; Zietlow, aye. Carried.

In a motion by Zietlow, seconded by Feldmann the Board approved the Teacher Education Field Experience Contract with Clarke University. All ayes. Carried.

Motion was made by Overman, seconded by Feldmann to approve the 2024-2025 Grant Wood Area Education E-Rate Contract. All ayes. Carried.

Motion was made by Feldmann, seconded by Zietlow to approve the 2024-2025 second semester Kirkwood teaching contract for Mrs. Temple. All ayes. Carried.

Supt. Huckstadt expressed his appreciation to all the staff members that served on the interview committee for the recent Director of Transportation, Maintenance & Grounds hire.

Supt. Huckstadt and Troy Osterhaus will be attending the Iowa Superintendent’s Finance and Leadership Conference in Ankeny on December 18-19th.

Supt. Huckstadt updated the Board on the status of the Johnston gym floor. Commercial Flooring will begin replacing tiles in areas of concern when schedules allow.

Supt. Huckstadt, Troy Osterhaus, Erika Vanderloop and Melissa Conner will be attending a budget workshop hosted by Larry Sigel with Iowa School Finance and Information Services on January 30th at the AEA in Elkader.

John Zietlow and Pam Overman will serve on the December audit committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m. in a motion by Feldmann, seconded by Zietlow. All ayes. Carried.

Boys go 1-1 in recent conference play

by Maya Smith

Last Friday after two wins at home, the boys basketball team traveled to Springville. It was a tough game, with a 20-36 Oriole lead after the half. The Cats attempted to come back in the 4th, but unfortunately they could not catch up. The Cats were handed their second loss of the season, 58-65. Coach Conner remarked, "We came out very slow against Springville on offense in the first half. We couldn't get into any type of offensive flow and we just didn't look like ourselves. After watching film, for most of the first half, I thought we did a lot of good things on defense. We allowed Springville to go on a big run right before halftime and that made their lead grow to 16 at halftime. We played much better on offense in the 2nd half and got a lot better looks on our terms, and executed our press break a lot better. We changed things up defensively and were able to cut their lead to 3 late in the 4th quarter, but just couldn't get enough stops down the stretch when we needed to. When you dig yourself into that big of a hole by getting down by that many points, it is so hard to work back from that. I think we learned a lot about ourselves in this game and will grow from it."

Here are some game stats:

Points: Brady Wall; 25, Eli Dougherty; 11, Ty Hoeger; 6.

Rebounds: Dylan Knipper; 11, Preston Sallow; 8, Ty Hoeger; 7

Assists: Anderson Holtz; 4, Eli Dougherty; 3, Ty Hoeger; 2

As a team, the boys had 44 rebounds, 13 as-

sists and 2 steals.

On Tuesday, the Cats returned home to compete against Ed-Co. It was a competitive game, and the Cats had an 11-point lead after the 1st half, 25-14. The fourth quarter was high-scoring. The Vikings may have outscored the Cats in the fourth quarter with 22 points; however, the Cats kept their lead and secured a 57-50 victory.

Here are your game leaders:

Points: Brady Wall; 18, Ty Hoeger; 15, Anderson Holtz; 12

Rebounds: Dylan Knipper; 10, Brady Wall; 6, Ty Hoeger; 5

Assists: Brady Wall; 5, Dylan Knipper; 4, Anderson Holtz; 3

As a team, the boys secured 26 rebounds, 14 assists, and 7 steals.

When asked about the game, Coach Conner stated, "Our focus in practice on Monday was really trying to get shots on our terms on offense, knowing that Ed-Co was going to be undisciplined at times and would become unorganized in their zone if we made them defend for longer amounts of time. I was really proud of how our guys executed this gameplan, especially after we didn't do a great job of it against Springville. Ty Hoeger was huge for us, giving us the inside presence that we have been lacking at times. We really proved that we can win a game without just outscoring people, which we needed for our confidence. North Linn is a very talented team, much like they have been for a number of years. We have been working our tails off in practice trying to



Anderson Holtz works his way around a Viking defender.

simulate the type of defense that we are going to see. It is a style that is really tough to replicate, but I think we have done what we need to do to prepare ourselves to travel there and compete. I am looking forward to seeing how our guys respond to the work that we have put in during practice."

Tonight the team travels to 5-0 North Linn.



Bianka Ronnebaum puts up a shot in Tuesday night's match-up with Ed-Co. (photos by Mr. Dunlap)

Girls improve record to 8-0

by Ryleigh Moriarty

Last week, our basketball girls played against Springville and won! Springville was tough, having one of the best players in eastern Iowa, but you know our girls: they were making good shots—even though we missed a lot—and we took loose balls that they weren't able to grab. A word from their coach, Mr. Moenck: "We didn't shoot it very well, but when we play hard, limit our turnovers, and defend we will give ourselves a chance every night. We have had a very difficult schedule so far this season and our kids have really responded well. We are doing a lot of great things so far this season, and have a lot of room to improve."

Not only did we have a great game against Springville, but we also terminated our enemies in our game against Ed-Co. These girls worked super hard to be able to stay ahead to the end, even only being ahead by 2 points at one moment. With a final score of 59-43, our girls were able to pull ahead in the end. We grabbed many loose balls, and made plenty of threes, giving us the win!

We all know winter break is coming up, but that doesn't mean our team is slacking. If anything, they are working harder before break. These girls will have a hard game today against ranked North Linn, so help us cheer them on!

Coach Moenck earns honor

Head girls basketball coach Scot Moenck earned the Ed Thomas Coach of the Week Award sponsored by KGAN 2. The girls team is off to an 8-0 start to the season. "It has very little to do with me. We have great kids and assistant coaches that care about kids," Coach Moenck noted about the award. Right: Coach Moenck was interviewed at practice Wednesday.



The school was hopping Tuesday night with an FFA supper and dairy team fundraiser along with basketball games, a dance team performance and the debut of the pep band! Above: Natalie Ries catches some air in the pom routine. Right: Mr. Ford can direct and play simultaneously.



Athletes of the Week

Name: Audra Burbridge

What do you enjoy most about playing basketball? I really enjoy celebrating big wins with the team in the locker room. I also enjoy making deep threes or playing defense.

How have you evolved as a player? I think I've become more mentally tough by not letting my emotions get to me during games and continuing to play no matter what happens.

What's been a favorite basketball memory? My favorite basketball memory was probably running our football plays in practice or when Jada had to throw a ball deep, from out of bounds and I had to go run and get it so the other team couldn't score.

Who's your basketball role model? My basketball role model is Paige Bueckers or Juju Watkins.



Name: Lilly Kraft

What do you enjoy most about dance team? I enjoy getting to dance with the girls every week at basketball games the most.

What's the hardest part of it? The hardest part of dance would be picking up the new dances in a week.

What's your favorite routine you've ever been a part of? What did you like about it? My favorite routine I have been is would have to be either the scary dance or the Christmas flash mob from last year.

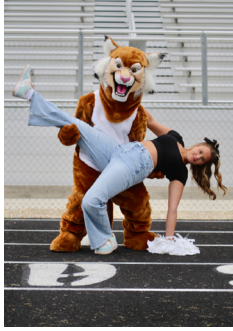
What's something about dance most people don't realize? Most people don't realize that dance is a lot harder than it looks you need a lot of focus to memorize every dance.

If you could choreograph a routine, what kind would it be and what song would you use? If I could choreograph a dance I would do a jazz dance to "Umbrella" by Rihanna.



JT's closet

Hello and welcome back! Christmas break is almost here and I'm sure we are all counting the days till Christmas. Today I am going to tell you about the history of the "ugly" Christmas sweater and how this trend came into existence.



by Jeanie Teymer

The ugly Christmas sweater is a playful way to have some festive fun over the holiday season. This popular tradition started in the 1950's first featuring designs such as angles and snowflakes, so it has been around ever since. However, they were not considered ugly; they were just called sweaters.

Nowadays you can find fun prints and patterns like Santa's face, reindeer, or even your favorite type of dog wearing antlers. Although it started as a fad, the trend soon grew as the decades went on but faced a slight fizzle in the 1990s. But thanks to the Y2K movement in the early 2000s the trend was revitalized and the first ever ugly Christmas sweater party was held in Vancouver in 2002. Of course the movement of ugly Christmas sweaters had help from icon movies like Christmas Vacation, the Santa Clause 2, The Ugly Christmas Sweater & How the Grinch Stole Christmas.

So if you are wanting to get festive this holiday season, you can get your own ugly Christmas sweater. Try someplace like Walmart, TJ Maxx, Goodwill or your Nana's closet.

what's up?

by McKayla Weber

What's your favorite Christmas song?

- Camryn Paris: "Silver Bells"
- Morgan Howes: "Sleigh Ride"
- Tate Intorf: "All I Want for Christmas"
- Meleah Burr: "It's Beginning to Look A Lot Like Christmas"
- Ava Goldsmith: "Hallelujah"
- Emily Rudd: "Feliz Navidad"

One at a Time

by Arianna Nolan



While you might be able to sit in your house and enjoy the comfort of your loving family, others sulk alone behind the walls of their home. You might be able to sit around the Christmas tree and open many gifts that bring a smile to your face, but others live off their weekly paychecks and worry about being able to handle the bills. You might be able to have a nice meal with the people you love, while others have their stomachs growl not knowing when their next meal is. People forget during this holiday season to be grateful for what they have been overall negative during this time. I want to spread the message of how you can spread joy this Christmas season to make someone's day even a little brighter.

Due to unfortunate circumstances, not everybody is allowed to have a family Christmas. They could be sitting alone during Christmas and not do anything special, causing them to hate the holiday. This could be people that you know right now, like your neighbors, or even your friends. There are ways we can help these people. Consider making sweet treats for these people and giving them to them, or when your family makes a meal, set a plate aside for them to give to them later. Even these small gestures can help immensely because people who don't have anyone to spend Christmas with automatically think that nobody cares about them. This simple gesture can prove that you are thinking of them during these times, which can assist them in feeling at ease. You could even consider stopping by and giving them a Christmas card or offering to spend some time with them.

Another issue that people go through during this season is not feeling the joy of giving. During Christmas, it is a tradition to give gifts to the people that you appreciate and see them smile, while some people don't have anyone to do that for whatever reason. Be that person to them and give them something. It doesn't have to be anything extravagant, as it could just be a letter of appreciation, some flowers, or a homemade card with some goodies. Even these small gifts could improve their view on the Christmas season, and your gift in

return is having someone who trusts you and will help you when you need some aid. During these holiday seasons, you could mean the world to someone by showing that you are thinking of them when they feel like they have no one else. This could be through the simple act of Christmas cards, a shared meal, or extra goodies they may enjoy. It is important to remember during these times to be grateful for what you have and to spread joy to others when they may feel like the world is against them.

I hope you all have a happy holiday break, and I will see you all next year! Happy New Year, Merry Christmas, and I love you all!

Guest speaker in Spanish



Ed-Co foreign exchange student, Jorge Blanco, spent Thursday as a Wildcat and spoke to the Spanish classes about his life in Spain.

Jaelyn's Journeys



photo by Jaelyn Butikofer

Where in the school can you find this object? Be the first one to correctly name the place to Mrs. Temple face-to-face to win something from the prize box! Last week's photo was inside the Mac lab. Sebastian Charles was the winner.

Meet the Freshmen

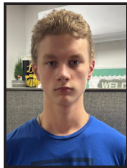


Caylee, Nathan & Kael

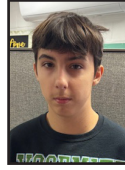
Name: Caylee Boussetot
Siblings: Maci and Skylynn
Activities you plan to be in: softball
Favorite subject: computer class
Career aspirations: CNA
Hobbies: ride my bike
Something cool about you: I am a good friend!

Name: Nathan Otting
Siblings: Kayla and Nicholas
Favorite subject: Algebra A or any math class
Career aspirations: get a full-time job
Hobbies: collect coins, especially shield pennies
Something cool about you: I wear an orange shirt of a sweatshirt every day. :)

Name: Ian Ozburn
Siblings: Sami DeMoss and James DeMoss
Favorite subject: Ag Metal Fabrication
Career aspirations: union iron worker
Hobbies: crafting
Something cool about you: I can deadlift over 200 pounds. I also own a King Cobra.



Name: Billy Schollmeyer
Siblings: 4 brothers and one sister
Activities you plan to be in: basketball and golf
Favorite subject: PE or math
Career aspirations: construction
Hobbies: I like to play basketball or play Rainbow Six Siege on Xbox.
Something cool about you: I have ADHD.



Name: Kael Engelken
Siblings: 2 brothers: Kade and Kyle
Favorite subject: Woodworking I
Career aspirations: workforce
Hobbies: four-wheeler and dirt bikes
Something cool about you: I milk cows.

Name: Jaelyn Liberty Butikofer
Siblings: Sissy (Shelby), Baby (Reagan)
Activities you plan to be in: band
Favorite subject: Horticulture and Beginning Foods
Career aspirations: Baker
Hobbies: Baking and cooking with others and listening to music
Something cool about you: I'm cool as a cucumber in my powerchair!



Best Buds



Jeanie Teymer & Lucy Hucker

by Lucy Hucker

How did the two of you meet?

Jeanie: in 2nd grade when I was sitting by myself, she came to talk to me

Lucy: in 2nd grade

What is your favorite thing to do together?

Jeanie: jam out to Disney music and go get food

Lucy: spend all of our money and drive around

What is your favorite memory together?

Jeanie: NCYC or late night gas station runs

Lucy: going Black Friday shopping together

What song describes you and your friend?

Jeanie: "HOT-TO-GO" by Chappel Roan

Lucy: "Don't Stop the Party" by Pitbull

Where do you see each other in the future?

Jeanie: I see Lucy living in Utah and having a family, being a stay-at-home mom

Lucy: I see Jeanie having a big family and being the cool aunt

What do you admire most about each other?

Jeanie: I like her music taste and her personality

Lucy: I admire that she is always down to go do something

Fantasy Fiction: Trouble in Therapy

We left off last week with Elizabeth and Chris realizing they had more in common than they thought.

I learned a lot at that therapy place. I also made a friend there too. After that huge freakout on the first day, things got better. I was able to open up to the people I care about. But the thing is that school was starting soon, and I was starting my sophomore year in high school. I was totally freaking out. That was okay though, because me and Chris have roughly the same struggles and, hey, he is in my grade. We have been texting a lot over the past few weeks and he has made this all seem less... Crazy. I closed the door to my new locker — thank you, school administration — and headed to my first class. I just had to

check my schedule first. Great, I start the day with biology. I walked through the doors and stopped. What was he doing here? I fought the urge to scream.

"CHRIS!" Never mind, I screamed.

"Liza!?" Chris remarked

"What are you doing here?"

"I go to school here?!"

"Since when!"

"Uh since now!"

"Class! Take seat," Mr. Hubbard announced to the class.

"Take seat?" Chris looked at me.

"He never had great grammar."

