

The Bluejay Post

Non-profit
permit #41
Cimarron,
KS
67835

Cimarron High School

Cimarron, Kansas 67835

December 2010

Vol. 8, No. 3

To be or not to be Cimarron Scholars' Bowl team takes off with new season, members

By Nicole Marshall

The Cimarron Scholars' Bowl team has kicked off the new year with an original crew with added members.

The Scholars' Bowl team is made up of senior Spence Byer; juniors Tyler Siek, Joey Franzitta, Claire Nash, Wyatt Richardson; sophomores Chance Harrell, Nathan Jenkins; freshmen Alex Adams, Anna George, Levi Lacy, Katie McDowell, Alan Burl, Charlie Pfeiffer, Nick Franzitta, Taryn Valentine, and Jaqui Arreola and is coached by Jennifer Hendrix.

The team has started the season off, traveling to Lakin, Satanta, and Syracuse.

"The furthest place we travel to is Elkhart," sophomore Nathan Jenkins said.

Though the team travels various distances, the competition is always similar.

"The toughest team we compete against has always been Rolla," senior Spence Byer said.

Competition can get tough, but the team also finds upsides to traveling near and far.

"It's fun to be around people and meet new people," junior Wyatt Richardson said.

The team meets once a week in the morning before school begins and Hendrix

buys doughnuts. They sit in the darkened high school library, or wherever they can practice, and answer questions and enjoy breakfast with the team.

This year, the team has had to deal with time constraints involving meets.

"It seems like the meets are becoming longer and longer," Hendrix said. "Some nights we aren't getting home till after eleven and that's on a school night."

Each member of the team is given a list of where the meets are and their dates and they decide when it's convenient for them to compete.

"I will be competing in four meets," Jenkins said.

However, some members get to attend more than four meets.

"This year I'm scheduled for five meets," Byer said, "but I may attend two or three more than that."

The purpose of scholars' bowl varies for each competitor.



AND THE ANSWER IS? Freshman Alex Adams, sophomore Chance Harrell, and junior Wyatt Richardson try to quickly figure out a math question. In scholars' bowl there are many topics; math, language arts, fine arts, social science, foreign language, social studies, and year in review, which includes sports and current events. "I once answered a question about the Katy Perry scandal on Sesame Street," Sophomore Nathan Jenkins said. (Courtesy photo)



"I plan on having a good time this year and hopefully rake in some wins," Byer said.

Though winning is on everyone's mind, there are also other things you can get out of competing in scholars' bowl.

"I joined again this year to help me become more intelligent," Jenkins said.

In scholars' bowl, there are many topics to cover. Those topics are math, language arts, fine arts, social science, foreign language, social studies, and year in review, which includes sports and current events.

"I answered a question about the Katy Perry scandal on Sesame Street," Jenkins said.

Though questions can be rather scandalous, the meets overall can be fun.

"Some people take the meets very seriously; it gets very intense," Jenkins said. "Our team, however, just wants to go out and have fun."

A few of the members are competing for their second, third, and fourth years.

"I remember last year there was quite a few annoying people, we won quite a bit, and I saw the prettiest girl I've ever seen in my life," Byer said.

WHO KNOWS THE CORRECT ANSWER? Sophomore Chance Harrell, freshman Alan Burl, sophomore Nathan Jenkins, junior Wyatt Richardson and freshman Charlie Pfeiffer quickly try to decide what the answer to their question is. Each member has a specific number of meets they attend. "I will be competing in four meets," Jenkins said. (Courtesy photo)

Turley takes time to make musical masterpieces

By Tyler M. Siek

Every other year at CHS the choral department puts on a musical.

Preparations for a musical take quite a bit of time and effort from many different people. Cast members must learn their songs and lines.

Many of the faculty also put in time. Whether it is spent working in the audio booth, directing, running the music tracks, coaching the actors, recording, or giving up class time to paint the set, the musical is very much an all-school effort.

One man in particular is deserving of recognition for this year's musical.

Todd Turley has been building the sets for CHS musicals for several years, and he does a wonderful job.

According to Vocal Director Lynn Unruh, Turley has built the sets for the last three musicals without receiving any compensation from the school.

The choir students don't have enough time to build and paint all of the sets; therefore, they are extremely thankful to Turley for building such nice sets.

He should be commended for his kindness, effort, and the extra time he has put in for the success of our school.

WOOD-WORKING MASTER: Pictured at right is Aunt Eller's house, and below is the smokehouse from Oklahoma! built by Turley. Turley has built sets for the musical for the last three musicals. (Siek photos)



Neon Trees will light up your heart, ears, life



By Nicole Marshall

When you think of bright, happy colors, does neon ever pop up in your head? What about when thinking about bright, happy bands?

If you've ever experienced this phenomenon, then maybe you've listened to the band Neon Trees.

Neon Trees is a new band that's climbing the charts and climbing into everyone's hearts. The band recently released their first album, *Habits*, on March 16, 2010.

Lately, the band's first number one song, "Animals," is plaguing the charts with its slightly edgy sound with a good beat.

The band originates from Provo, Ohio and has a small lineup. The lead vocalist is Tyler Glenn; Chris Allen plays guitar; Branden Campbell plays bass, guitar, and helps with vocals; and Elaine Bradley is the drummer, and assists in vocals.

If you're in dire need of music reviving, then Neon Trees will help you out and light up your life.

Fickle fad

Silly Bandz aren't so silly after all

By Nicole Marshall

This year, a new fad has exploded on the world and everyone is in love with it...well, almost everyone.

Silly Bandz come in one hundred different shapes, sizes, and colors. You can find them with your name, favorite animal, or even something random, like a gorilla.

These little collectable trinkets (or burdens) can be used to trade like trading cards. If you have nothing better to do, trade Silly Bandz! It's what everyone else is doing.

Silly Bandz were designed in 2002 by a Japanese design team who wanted to introduce a more environmentally sustain-

able rubber band as an office product.

Did they fail or what?

Robert Croak, owner of Toledo, Ohio-based BCP imports (known for Livestrong wristbands), encountered the bands on a business trip and decided to re-purpose them as a toy by making them larger and thicker, and making them a kids' fashion item.

Though these bandz are a hit at the moment, just like every other fad that's snuck its way into our lives, this one will eventually die out and become obsolete.

Warning: these bandz are not to be used as hair ties. So, girls and boys (with long hair), don't use these silly items to

pull your hair back, unless you want your hair ripped out.

People of America, or Cimarron, KS, don't waste your time and your money staring at these oddities that shape back to whatever metamorphosis they were in to begin with.

Put your money into something that really matters, like gas for your car, or a heater for your house. These are two necessities for living through a harsh winter, and all Silly Bandz are able to do is make little kids look fashionable.

Where's the warmth in that?

Letter to the Editor

Dear CHS:

I just wanted to let you know how much we enjoyed the musical. It was really fun to see students perform in a different realm than we usually see them in and we were impressed with all of the wonderful talent that was shown.

The dinner was also fabulous so it made a really nice evening. Please tell everyone involved congratulations for a fine performance!

Sincerely,
Dee Austin

Bluejay Post Staff

2010-2011

Editor: Nicole Marshall

Sports Editor: Tyler Siek

H.S. Organizations, Arts, Music

Editor: Sierra Lucke

Cartoonist: Josaiah Kremeier

Editorial Board:

Josaiah Kremeier

and Sierra Lucke

Advisor: Lynne Hewes

December 2010

Volume 8, Number 3

Talented vocal students sing to higher places

By Josaiah Kremer

On December 4, Miranda Burns, Ashley Harrell, Tyler Siek, Emily Payne, Ellen Waters, Alex Neuschafer, Seth Pachner, Jessica Ast, and Kali Redburn will attend the Southwest District Honor Choir to take part in a choir of 200 students.

"The talented students had to make it through a live audition to be chosen," said Vocal Teacher Lynn Unruh.

SINGYOURHEARTOUT: Choir members selected for the Southwest District Honor Choir prepare to practice. The members selected were Seth Pachner, Tyler Siek, Alex Neuschafer, Kali Redburn, Jessica Ast, Emily Payne, Ellen Waters, Miranda Burns and Ashley Harrell. (Kremer photo)



Tri-M inducts members

By Nicole Marshall

Recently, Tri-M members were selected and members voted for president and other spots as well.

Officers are Miranda Burns, president; Tyler Siek, vice president; Spence Byer, treasurer; Abby Thompson, historian.

Other members inducted to Tri-M were senior Ashley Harrell; juniors Taylor Siek, Breanna Bryant, Chelsea Dupree, and Emily Payne; sophomores Ellen Waters, Alex Neuschafer, Karina Zamora, Kaitlyn Rempel, and Garrison LeRock; and freshmen Ashtynn Burns and Jessica Ast.

Bluejays begin winter sports

By Tyler M. Siek

November 15 marked the start of a new season at CHS: Bluejay Winter sports teams were able to start practice for the 2010-2011 season.

The men of the wrestling team overtook the auxiliary gym, while the old and new gyms were filled with the basketball teams.

CHS offers wrestling, along with both boys' and girls' basketball, during the winter season that spans from November through late February and early March, depending on the success of each team.

Student-athletes at Cimarron partake in winter sports for numerous reasons.

"I play basketball to keep in shape for fall sports," said Sophomore Alex Neuschafer.

Choosing one over the other is easy for some, while others struggle with the decision.

The decision of which sport to participate in for boys is dominated by playing time.

"I wrestle because I like it and I don't want to sit on the bench for basketball," said Freshman Cody Toothaker.

Band update

Congratulations to the following high school band students: Kaitlyn Rempel, flute; Avery Burns, flute; Abby Thompson, clarinet; Taylor Siek, clarinet; Jackie Byer, alto saxophone; Garrison LeRock, trombone; Nick Franzitta, trombone; and Isaac Stanley, trombone. These students auditioned and were selected to the Southwest Kansas KMEA District Honor Band. They were among the 200 students from all Western Kansas schools competing for 106 spots.

"Please come and support them and hear their performance on Saturday, December 4, at Dodge City High School," band director Jamie Minneman says. "They will perform on the same concert with the High School Honor Choir, which begins at 3:00 p.m."

Byer and Burns prepare for State Middle Level Festival Choir

By Nicole Marshall

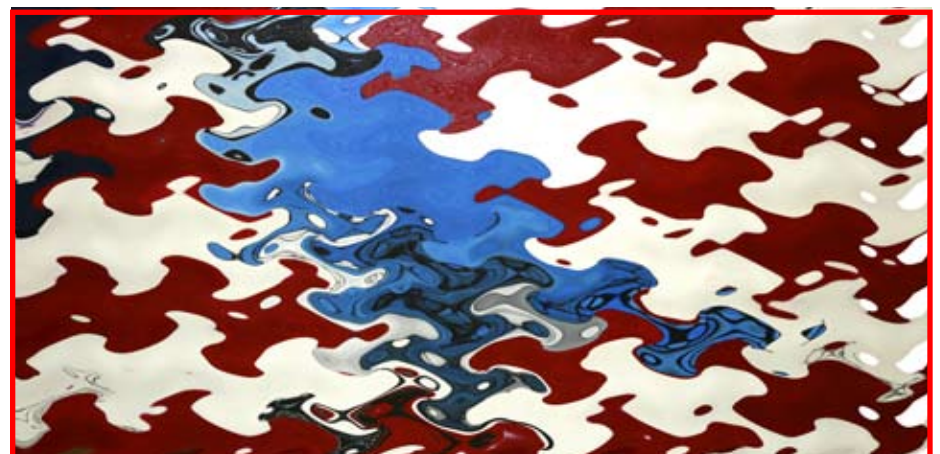
Recently, three freshmen girls auditioned for the State Middle Level Festival Choir that will perform in Wichita on the last Friday of February.

Over 800 students auditioned to get into this choir and only 40 sopranos, 40 altos, 40 tenors and 40 basses were accepted.

There were around 375 girls who auditioned to get into the 40 slots for the Altos, and the following Cimarron girls were selected: Freshmen Jackie Byer and Ashtynn Burns. Jessica Ast was chosen as the alternate.



SERIOUS SINGERS: Jackie Byer, Ashtynn Burns, and Jessica Ast prepare for practice. They were selected to sing in the State Middle Level Festival Choir. (Kremer photo)



~Sierra's Secret Snapshot~

The photo above has been distorted in **crazy**, **cool**, and almost **scary** ways.

If **YOU** know what it is, report to **MS. HEWES ROOM** for a prize! You better hurry though! There will only be **ONE** lucky winner!

GoOd LuCk!;

Last month's winner was Riley Parsons.



Facebook Face-off

Guys and girls communicate differently

like this status, I will tell you three things I like about you," says Hoskinson. "That's just dumb to me!"

You can officially get a Facebook account at the age of 13; however, people get them at various ages.

Schartz says, "I was

one of the many who are addicted.

"No, I'm not addicted," says Trevino. "I'm only on one hour a day, if that."

Hoskinson and Vorasup agree that Facebook gets boring after a while of doing the same things on there.

Facebook is also time-consuming. People always seem to lose track of time while getting caught up in the social world.

"I'm on it almost all evening," Schartz says. "I get on and off continuously all night because I get bored."

As for Trevino and Hoskinson, they only socialize in the Facebook community for one hour, tops. Vorasup, on the other hand, does what she needs to do, and then signs out.

"I don't even stay on for an hour," says Vorasup. "I'm on for maybe fifteen minutes."

As for those who say they aren't addicted, they also claim to be able to live without it.

"I could



probably 14 when I created my Facebook account."

Unlike Schartz, Hoskinson created his account before the legal age.

"I was probably 12," he says.

Vorasup and Trevino, on the other hand, created their Facebook accounts at the age of 16.

The majority of people who have Facebook will admit to getting on it on a regular schedule.

Schartz says, "I get on it all the time! I'd say like every day."

Trevino also gets on it every day, while Vorasup doesn't get on as much.

"I like never get on," she says.

Hoskinson also does not check his account on a daily basis.

"I get on probably four out of the seven days a week," he says.

Facebook, as many know, is very addicting. Those who aren't addicted are seen as either weird, or a miracle.

Schartz says, "I'm very addicted to it. I get bored and that's always the first thing I do."

Unlike Schartz, Trevino, Vorasup, and Hoskinson don't see themselves as being



definitely live without it," says Vorasup. "I don't think not having it would cause any problems for me."

Trevino and Hoskinson also would be able to live without it. Schartz, on the other hand, isn't so sure.

"I could live without it if I had to," she says. "I mean, the convenience of talking to friends would be gone. Not all people have cell phones, and it's also a way to find old friends and keep in contact with them, while making new ones."

If Facebook were out of the picture, there are a select number of teens whose homework would actually be complete. They admit to occasionally putting Facebook before homework.

Trevino, Schartz, and Hoskinson all claim to put Facebook before homework.

"I put my Facebook first," says Trevino. "I don't like doing my homework at all."

Vorasup is one of few teens who actually admits to not making Facebook a priority in her life.

"I put my homework first," she says. The main question regarding Facebook is "What's so great about it?" We're all so addicted to it, yet we've never really thought about this ourselves.

"It's a way for me to keep in contact with people, and it's fun," says Schartz. "It's a way to creep on people and keep track of what people are doing at all times, or most of it anyway."

Vorasup uses Facebook for simple communication.

"It's a way to talk to your friends from like decades ago," says Vorasup.

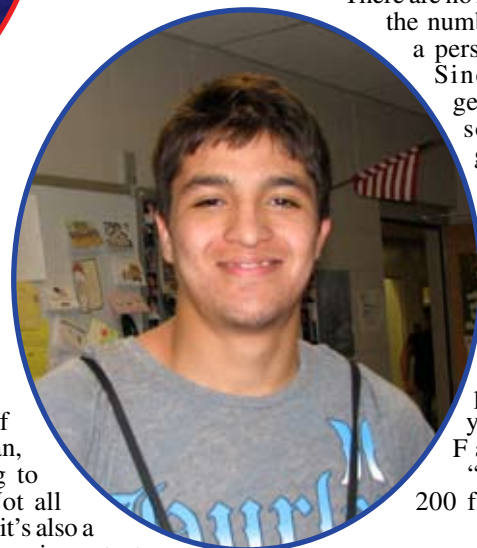
Hoskinson and Trevino also recognize the greatness of Facebook.

"You know what's going on because everyone puts everything on Facebook, so you know what's happening around you at all times."

Facebook is known for its simplicity in communicating, while also reuniting with old friends and meeting the new.

There are no restrictions on the number of friends a person can have.

Since girls are generally more sociable than guys, they tend to have more friends.



Hoskinson and Trevino have connected with many people over the years through Facebook.

"I have at least 200 friends," says

By Sierra Lucke

Facebook: otherwise known as one of the world's largest social networking websites. Without it, the world would be lost.

How on earth did we stalk our exes, remember our co-workers' birthdays, bug our friends, or play a rousing game of Family Feud before Facebook?

Facebook is one of the many wonders of the world. Some people look at it in a negative light, while others see it as God's greatest gift to mankind--or at least to sociably addicted people.

As we know, boys and girls speak a different type of lingo. Maybe it's because boys don't say enough, while girls just have a little too much to say. They've both noticed this annoying "lingo," which is greatly brought out on the infamous Facebook.

Senior Katie Schartz and Junior Valencia Vorasup have both endured the "Facebook life," while also noticing some of the annoying things boys tend to do, or not do.

"They leave really short answers," says Schartz. "They're just too simple."

Vorasup agrees with Schartz. She feels that guys are almost too "simple" in their vocabulary.

"They keep everything too simple," says Vorasup. "Thank God for women, otherwise life would be boring. We bring flavor to the world! Guys see everything in one color, and we girls see it differently."

Girls weren't the only ones to be annoyed. Senior boys Pedro Trevino and Derek Hoskinson also become annoyed, watching the Facebook page fill up with girls' names, from top to bottom.

"They put every single thing on Facebook!" says Trevino. "Girls always say they love each other every day."

Hoskinson has also noticed the things girls post.

"On their statuses, girls will say if you

(See Face-off, page 5)

Dare to Be Different

Students overcome struggle between competition, originality

By **Josaiah Kremer**

Cimarron High School has a TON of sports and activities that students can willingly participate in—that is a known fact. And as it turns out, a TON of students do willingly participate in these recreations and find them quite enjoyable.

But some don't.

Some students prefer to steer clear of activities and sports for many personal reasons.

"I don't do sports because I have better things to do in my free time," says Junior Tyler Creed. "I write music and watch a lot of television."

Students who say no to sports have many motives for doing so. Some have better things to do, some think they're a waste of time, and some don't like the idea of competition.

"I feel there is too much competition and it ruins playing for fun," says Senior Cassi Glaze, who used to play tennis. "I'd rather hang out with my friends and spend time with my family."

Fierce competition as well as intense practices and overexertion discourages some people from sports.

Creed says, "I've been in track and baseball. I didn't like it because sometimes I got sick and tired of running all the time."

There are a few common stereotypical names given to people who don't partake in sports. One of these is "nerd." A nerd can be defined as a foolish or contemptible person who lacks social skills or is boringly studious.

"Nerds can be helpful with my school work and should be respected," says Creed.

On the other end of the spectrum of popularity and high school social ranking are the "Jocks," an enthusiast or participant in any specified activity, such as sports.

"Jocks are mostly stuck up and think too much of themselves," says Glaze, "and put others down who are not exactly like them."

People have been dividing each other



THE ORIGINAL: Tyler Creed says, "...I am who I am and I don't change for anyone."

into classes, ranks, and even 'cliques' people want to be titled and generalized based on race, social standing, etc., for many years. It's not uncommon for a student to be put into a clique in today's society and, in fact, some subjectively place themselves into one.

"I feel I fit in with 'the different crowd' because I am who I am and I don't change for anyone," says Creed.

So what is it that makes

'I feel there is too much competition and it ruins playing for fun,'

--Cassi Glaze

originality and overproduction of faddish products? Have we as a body of humans come to the point in social evolution where it's no longer 'cool' to be yourself?

"I think there's too many cliques and that you can no longer be yourself," says Glaze. "You always have to act like someone else."

Face-off, continued from page 4

Hoskinson.

Schartz and Vorasup claim to have well over that number. "I have 421 friends," says Schartz.

Like Shartz, Vorasup also has many friends.

"I have like 350 friends," says Vorasup, "or somewhere around there."

Facebook can have benefits, such as reconnecting with the world around you. Yet it can also have drawbacks.

Schartz and Vorasup have concluded Facebook has caused many problems for them over time.

"It causes a lot of fights," says Schartz. "People will misinterpret things and think it's about them. When really it's not."

Vorasup agrees with Schartz. She loves her Facebook, but it causes problems.

Trevino and Hoskinson both claim Facebook hasn't caused any trouble for them since they created their accounts.

"No," says Trevino, "it hasn't caused any problems for me at all."

Living without Facebook is a big controversy, since so many of us are addicted to this extremely sociable, yet misinterpreting website.

Schartz and Vorasup both claim boys could live without Facebook.

"They could probably live without it," says Schartz, "a lot better than girls anyway!"

However, Trevino and Hoskinson say girls couldn't live a day without their Facebook.

"No, girls couldn't live without their facebook," says Hoskinson. "That's a big no!"

Trevino doesn't feel girls could live without their facebook either.

"I don't think they could live without it," says Trevino. "But then again, they have their phones, or they can just find another website."

Facebook is open about privacy. Basically whoever you're friends with can

see everything you post.

Schartz claims her boss wouldn't be upset if they were to look at her profile.

"There's nothing to hide on it," says Schartz. "My parents always told me if it's something I don't want my grandparents to see, I shouldn't put it on there. So that goes along with my boss as well."

Vorasup also claims she has nothing to hide on Facebook.

"I don't talk about things that shouldn't be talked about in public," says Vorasup.

Like Schartz and Vorasup, Hoskinson and Trevino say their bosses wouldn't be upset with them as well.

"I know better than to put inappropriate stuff on there," says Trevino.

Although your employers could be upset with your Facebook profile, your parents could be even more upset, depending on what they see. Some parents monitor their child's facebook account, so they know who their child has been talking to, and what they've doing on there.

Schartz's parents don't check on her

account.

"I don't think they know how to get on it even," says Schartz.

Unlike Schartz's parents, Vorasup's parents monitor her Facebook account.

"Yes, they monitor it," says Vorasup. "It's so annoying!"

Hoskinson's parents, however, don't monitor his Facebook, nor do Trevino's.

"No, they don't monitor it," says Trevino. "They don't have Facebook."

Facebook can either be fun, or it can be dangerous. We should always be careful about what we post, and who we're talking to on there. Let's face it, not everyone is who they claim to be.

"If you wouldn't say something to someone's face, don't post it on Facebook," is the advice from Counselor Karrie Millershaski.

Catch me if you can

Ted Boersma races to State Cross-Country



WAITING FOR THE GUN: Ted Boersma awaits the start of a race with a few of his teammates at a meet hosted by South Gray. "Mostly during a race, the only thought I have is, 'When is this going to be over?'" Boersma said.

By Tyler M. Siek

The 2010-2011 Bluejay sporting success continued as CHS Sophomore Ted Boersma qualified for State Cross Country held on October 30 in Wamego.

Boersma qualified for a state bid after participating in cross-country for only two seasons. He never participated in the sport before his freshman year.

"I was really influenced to run by Josh [Littlejohn]," said Boersma.

Littlejohn is the cross-country coach at CHS and also Boersma's brother-in-law.

At a typical practice the Bluejay cross-country team runs anywhere from three to four miles, with the exception of one day a week when they play a game. The games they play require running still as they play Soccer, Ultimate Frisbee, or a game they call 'Ultimate Land Polo', which is a game that has the same principles of water polo,

but is played on land.

"Practices were about the same after I made it into state, but the only people there were Miguel [Jimenez] and I." (Jimenez was Boersma's training partner before the state meet).

The practices might seem strenuous to some, but they pay off when a race day rolls around. Most varsity boys' cross-country races are 5k or 3.1 miles. A majority of people would not be able to work up the desire to force themselves to run that far. Boersma is no different than the rest.

"Mostly during a race, the only thought I have is, 'When is this going to be over?'" Boersma said.

Most races this year ended quickly for Boersma as he finished near the top in nearly all of his meets. His best finish came at Ulysses where he placed fifth. He also finished inside the top 15 at the Hi-Plains

league meet, sealing an All-League season. Boersma, however, does not consider his best finish or becoming All-League to be his greatest accomplishment in cross-country.

"My best accomplishment is probably qualifying for state. The competition there was crazy. The other runners were freaks of nature," Boersma said of the way the others could run.

It is typical for an athlete to pick a favorite place to play. For instance, a golfer might have a favorite course; a baseball player might have a favorite ball park.

In the same sense all runners have a course that they tend to like more than others, and they also have a course that they loathe above all others.

Boersma said that his favorite course was the state course at Wamego, and his least favorite was Meade, where the first race of the year was held.

"I liked Wamego because they used a lot of the slopes as down-hills and it made the course seem shorter. I didn't like Meade's course because most of the slopes are uphill and it's in the middle of nowhere," said Boersma.

Going to state competition as a sophomore and second year runner can be kind of nerve-racking.

"My goal for state was to try and stay around the top 25 for the race, and if I had anything left at the end, I would try and move up," Boersma said. "I ended up somewhere around 50 towards the end when I realized I could run with these guys; then I made a charge and finished 38th."

Boersma's success is due in large part to his family's support. He also pushes himself to succeed. At practices he is always the first person done with his workout.

"My family really pushes me to be successful since it's something that I haven't done a lot of," said Boersma.

Boersma's success is just getting started. He also participates in basketball and track and has two years of high school left.

The future looks bright for this young star.



RUN, RUN, RUN, AS FAST AS YOU CAN: Sophomores Ted Boersma and Stewart Fairbank walk through the cafeteria during Boersma's send-off for State Cross-Country in Wamego. "I liked Wamego because they used a lot of the slopes as down-hills," said Boersma. (Siek photo)

Bluejay athletes named to volleyball, football all-league teams

By Tyler M. Siek

Recently the Hi-Plains League coaches for volleyball and football met to vote on all-league team members.

In the past the league has always been divided into Division I and Division II, the reasoning being that the league consisted of eleven teams. With Holcomb and Hugoton out and the addition of Meade, the Hi-Plains League decided to combine the all-league teams into one division this year.

Before, because there were two divisions, there was a first team for each division and an honorable mention for each division. Now that the divisions are consolidated, there are a first and second team.

ALL-LEAGUE: CHS volleyball players named to the all-league team were, from right to left, Taylor Siek, second team; Avery Burns, second team; Lindsay Wehkamp, first team; and Kate Lock, second team. Wehkamp was also named to All-area First Team by the Garden City Telegram.

Football members on the all-league team were Tyler Siek, Tyler White, Anthony Price, and Alex Neuschafer, all second team members. (Courtesy photo)



Upcoming Events

December 3- 4:30 pm:

HS Basketball at Ulysses

December 4- 9:00 am: V

Wrestling at Hoxie

December 6 and 7-

Bluejay Tournament 3:00 pm

December 10- 3:00 pm:

Bluejay Tournament

December 10 and 11-

4:00 pm JV/V Wrestling at Ulysses Tournament

December 11- 12:00 pm:

Bluejay Tournament

December 14- 5:00 pm:

HS Basketball vs. Meade

If a new year begins, how can you change yourself?

All right, ladies and gentlemen, children and adults. We are having a contest for your chance to win magnificent prizes! Anyone can enter and here's what you'll win:

°1st prize-\$10 gift certificate to the concessions at a basketball game.

°2nd prize-\$5 gift certificate to the concessions at a basketball game.

°3rd prize-\$3 gift certificate to the concessions at a basketball game.

The criteria is simple: you are to finish off the story at right with a maximum of 500 words. Whoever writes the most interesting ending wins a prize and their story ending will be published in the January issue of the The Bluejay Post! Good luck and happy writing!

--Nicole Marshall

Marcus McClain was your everyday kind of a guy. No job, no hopes, and from the looks of it, no future.

Marcus was currently living in his brother's basement, due only to the fact he couldn't move out cause that would mean he had a job, which he didn't.

The end of the year was coming up and Marcus knew he had to do something different with his life. He needed a big change; something life-altering that would help him start his life over. He was a 24-year-old man still living with his little brother and his brother's wife. He needed a new year's resolution that would help change not only his own life, but also the lives' of others around him.

Marcus would lie around in his brother's small chateau and think to himself, I wish a thousand dollars would be put on my porch tonight. Then, every night, Marcus would check the porch, only to be met by disappointment.

Marcus lounged with his two nephews and tried to think of ways he could get a job without having to do too much work. He often found himself daydreaming about rolling around in hordes of cash; but then his nephew, spitting up on his face again, would quickly pull him back to reality.

Then one day...

Principal's Perspective

Waiting for Superman

Recently, a new documentary has been released titled Waiting for Superman. The topic of this documentary is public education. Even though I've not had the opportunity to view the movie yet, I have purchased the book that accompanies the film.

The book leads readers through a detailed analysis and discussion of public education in America. In addition, the book follows the lives of five individuals who are trying to obtain a quality education. It is important to note that all five of the students are living in large, urban areas.

As I've read the book, I find myself being very grateful that we live in Cimarron, which just happens to have a fantastic educational system. As many of you already know, both my wife and I grew up in the Cimarron school district. I can still remember the 'high standards' that our teachers expected from us. I can clearly still recall my parent's admonition to 'do my best' at everything I attempted.

Having returned back to Cimarron after a three-decade absence, it was so refreshing to find those same expectations and traditions in place. It is worthy to note that, ... even though the population characteristics of Cimarron have changed over the past thirty years, ... we continue to hold all students accountable for meeting our high expectations. These 'high expectations' are stated ... and reinforced ... by both parents and teachers.

Even though the majority of the book discusses the 'problems' of education (especially in large, urban schools), I did find it refreshing to read comments about teachers and the teaching profession. Allow me to cite three comments from the book.

*"When you see a great teacher you are seeing a work of art. You're seeing a master and it is as, I think, as unbelievable as seeing a great athlete or seeing a great musician." —*Geoffrey Canada, president and CEO of the Harlem Children's Zone.*

Could it be that teaching is just about the most important job in the world? And could it be that, in the end, the challenge of fixing America's schools comes down to putting great teachers into classrooms and giving them the tools they need to do what they do best?

*"Even when working with a reading group of 6-8 students, teachers are overseeing the decoding skills, comprehension, word attack, performance, and engagement of those students while simultaneously keeping tabs on the learning of the other two dozen students in the room. The only time a physician could possibly encounter a situation of comparable complexity would be in the emergency room of a hospital during or after a natural disaster. "[Teaching] is perhaps the most complex, most challenging, and most demanding, subtle, nuanced, and frightening activity that our species has ever invented."

*"Teachers are the most powerful driving force behind student achievement in a school."

--*Bill Brown*
CHS Principal

Counselor's Corner

I recently attended a conference where one of the sessions was about coping with stress by using humor. Humor is "that which makes us laugh, smile or just amuses us."

This time of year can get very busy and stressful with all the demands placed upon us. To help combat stress, try one of the following techniques:

- Take a break. Walk out into the fresh air.
- Develop hobbies outside of work.
- Find ways to help others--through volunteering.
- Look for humor around you, especially when things are going wrong.
- Laugh at life and laugh at yourself.
- Stop to smell the roses. Look up at the sky.
- Avoid making comparisons. Rejoice in others' good luck.
- Put a humorous conversation piece on your desk.
- Live up to your own--not others'--expectations.
- Learn to say NO!
- Give thanks and count your blessing!

Please mark you calendar with these dates:

November 24-28	Thanksgiving Break
December 11	ACT exam
December 17	NO School/End of semester
December 20-Jan. 2	Christmas Break
January 3	First day of Second Semester

As always, please let me know if there is something I can do to help. My door is always open.

--*Mrs. Millerksaski,*
High School Counselor

Students of the Month November 2010

Each month, the faculty honors students who have exhibited exemplary conduct, helpfulness, and enthusiastic involvement as "Students of the Month."



"**Cristian Unruh** is a polite and considerate student, pleasant and respectful to those around him."

--*Mr. Giebler*



"**Brittnee Rodriguez** is an excellent student with a strong work ethic. She is highly self-motivated and a natural, respected leader."

--*Mr. Mowry*



"**Anthony Price** is a hard working, dedicated young man, who gives his best effort in class and on the football field."

--*Mr. Minneman*