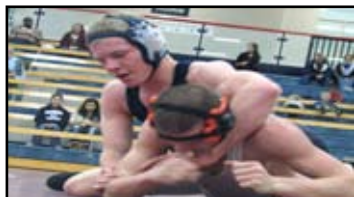




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# The Bluejay Post

## Good and Bad dates: Celebrating *love* worldwide

By **Fernanda Cabrera**

For some people, myself included, Valentine's Day is just like every other day of the year. Could it have anything to do with the fact that some of us don't have a significant other to spend the day with?

People's opinions vary.

"Honestly, I like Valentine's Day," said Sophomore Sandra Corrales. "I don't see it as a day where you're supposed to go out and buy your significant other a card and some chocolates. I look at it as a worldwide celebration of love. Valentine's Day is the one day of the year where most couples all over are celebrating their relationships and being lovey-dovey, all at the same time sending out positive energy all over the world! And I think that's a beautiful thing."

The bottom line is that we all feel differently about it and all of us will be spending that day in a different way.

Whether you have a boyfriend or girlfriend at the time or not, the thought of a Valentine's Day date has to go through your head at some point, right?

We've all had our share of good, awkward, or even bad dates at some point in time.

"I went out to eat with an ex-boyfriend one time, and he didn't pay for me," said Senior Megan Claar. "He decided to ditch me, and then got mad because I wouldn't talk to him. It was horrible."

An anonymous student had this to say about one of the awkward dates she had to deal with.



"A guy I was talking to at the time and I got together with a couple of friends," said Senior Clair Nash, "and after a while of being there he decided he wanted to talk and chose to only talk to me about his ex-girlfriend. It went on forever, I didn't know what to do."

Some people, on the other hand have dates that didn't start off so well but have a happy ending. Such is the case of Bill and Sondra Brown.

They met through a double date, except Mrs. Brown was on a date with Mr. Brown's younger brother at the time. They went out for pizza and bowling. Mrs. Brown and the other girl on the date were not very impressed with their dates. Once that date was over, Mr. Brown then called her and asked if she would go out with him on a date, and they began officially dating.

Now don't let me scare you; not all dates turn out to be awkward or bad. Some

turn out to be exactly what people wanted.

"My best date was definitely just going out with this guy I really liked," said Corrales, "and all we did was go out to eat and hang out. I like those dates, just because it isn't too awkward!"

Dates don't have to be completely over the top, at times it's nice to stick to the simple things.

"My best date has been with Alex Neuschafer," said Claar. "We just watched a movie at his house. We hung out there all night and cuddled. The best part was that we both had our favorite candy and we would trade with each other every once in a while."

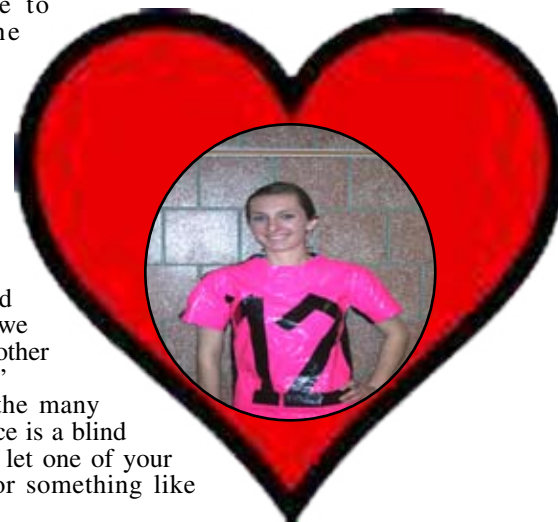
Another one of the many dates people experience is a blind date. Would you ever let one of your friends set you up for something like

this?

"I guess it just kind of depends on who set the date up for me," said Senior Sam Inguanza. "I would have to trust this person to know me well enough and not send me out on a date with some guy I wouldn't like and do something I don't like, like do something with his family. That'd be weird for a first date."

Blind dates can go either way. They can go really well or horribly wrong.

"I guess my biggest fear for a blind date is to be set up with a total jerk who I couldn't stand to be around for very long," said Freshman Crystal Mendoza.



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## Upcoming Events

- Feb. 6 - JV BB Tournament @ CHS
- Feb. 7 - HS BB vs. Sublette @ CHS
- Feb. 8 - FCCLA @ Dodge City

- Feb. 9 - HPL Wrestling @ Lakin
- Feb. 10 - HS BB @ Leoti
- Feb. 11 - Forensics @ Scott City

- Feb. 14 - HS BB vs. Scott City @ CHS
- Feb. 17 - HS BB @ TMP
- Feb. 21 - HS BB vs. Satanta @ CHS



What's happening in science?

## Cats in the house

### Q. How do you feel about dissecting?



*"I like dissecting, it is very fun and I love it. It does make me sad just thinking that I'm cutting a poor defenseless animal," says Junior Eric Rodriguez.*  
(Exum photo)

*"Dissecting is a cool hands-on experience. However, it is gross sometimes. It is a new way to learn and it is usually fun, minus the mess it makes," says Junior Bucky Reimer.*  
(Exum photo)



## Singles and couples spread the love

By **Brittnee Rodriguez**

Before Christmas is even over, stores begin putting out decorations, candy, and presents for Valentine's Day.

Girlfriends fall in love with the five-foot tall stuffed teddy bears and gigantic boxes of assorted chocolates they receive from their boyfriends. But where exactly did this "lovey dovey" holiday originate from and should it even be considered an official holiday?

Every February 14, citizens all over the United States purchase gifts for their significant other to express their love. How did this national tradition begin?

There is one legend that states that there was a man named Valentine. While he was in prison, he supposedly fell in love with the jailor's daughter, who visited him every once in awhile.

Before his death sentence, Valentine allegedly wrote her a letter and signed it "From your Valentine." That is how the gift exchanging began.

The subject of Valentine's Day can make many opinions arise. Some believe it's a nonsense holiday and it shouldn't necessarily even be an official holiday. Other people see that day differently.

For the people who are single, Valentine's Day is just another day to remind them that they're alone and still in the search for their significant other.

Some may complain and say it's a stupid holiday, but I believe that no one would be saying that if we all were in a

relationship.

Valentine's day isn't just a day for the ones who have a husband, wife, boyfriend, or girlfriend. It's a day full of love. A person doesn't have to be "in love" to express love.

Everyone should remember that they convey their love to their parents, siblings, friends, or family members.

Sons or daughters should go out and buy something to show their parents their appreciation.

Friends should take out their best friend to let them know that they're grateful for their trustworthiness. Valentine's Day is a day of love, not relationships.

For the ones who will be lucky enough to spend that special day with a particular someone, they should illustrate their love in such a unique way.

But they should also remember that they shouldn't convey their love on just one day. People should remember that the love doesn't stop after Valentine's Day.

Whether we're single or in a relationship, there's always a great way to spend Valentine's Day and remember to show our love every day of the year.



**EDITORIAL BOARD:** *Although our editorials are written by individuals, the thoughts and ideas conveyed are those of The Bluejay Post editorial board: Austin Flores and Hunter Exum.*

### The Bluejay Post

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*Cimarron High School  
February 2012  
Volume 9, Issue 4*



## Cheerleaders challenge traditions

By **Abby Thompson**

Walking around the high school, especially in the gym, you may have noticed more decorations up on the walls than usual. The CHS Cheer squad has been hard at work creating signs and posters to adorn the school.

Some may think there is no need for the artwork, but with all the empty wall space in our school, why not?

The topic of school spirit among our athletics has been a huge discussion for

years, but with the addition of signs, theme nights, individual spirit sticks, and new cheers, the CHS cheerleaders have done an incredible job of adding more pep to the steps of CHS athletics.

Some also may be unaware of all the hard work the girls have put into the new additions. While many may have been sleeping on days off, our cheerleaders have continually gone into the grade school and put hours of hard work and creativity into the return of spirit at Cimarron High.

After the Bluejay Invitational in December, the girls began receiving compliments from teachers throughout the building and spectators from visiting towns as well.

The next time you see a new sign or poster hanging around the gym don't forget to show a little appreciation for all the hard work and dedication the girls have put forth.



## Arts department kicks off new year

By Abby Thompson

As basketball and wrestling teams come to the peak of their seasons, a whole new season is just beginning for the music department of CHS.

After months and months of preparation, on January 14th a select group of 5-12 graders traveled to Meade to compete against other students in our area in the League Piano Festival.

Among those competing were Cameron Bartlett (I-), Brodie Gladman (I-), Madison Ediger (I-), Coby Janzen (I+), Laura Carter (I-), Kaitlyn Rempel (I), Jessica Ast (I), Nick Ast (I-), Paden Bergdall (I), Abby Thompson and Levi Lacy (comments).

The high school pianists will now prepare to take their talents to Regionals held in Dodge City on February 11. Musicians will then attend the State Piano Festival held at Wichita State University.



**MAKIN' MUSIC:** Freshman Mackenzy Meis, Junior Alex Neuschafer, Senior Abby Thompson, Senior Tyler Siek all qualified for the State KMEA Music Festival to be held in Wichita on February 23-25. Meis achieved a place in the Middle Level Honor Choir. Siek and Neuschafer earned positions in the Upper Level Honor Choir. Thompson earned in spot in the Upper Level Honor Band. Meis will perform Friday night at Century II while the rest of the musicians will hold a final concert in Century II on Saturday afternoon. (Thompson photos).

### Cimarron Winners

at the *Western Kansas Scholastic Art (WKSA) Competition*  
January 29-February 26, Stauth Memorial Museum, Montezuma, KS

#### High School Silver Key Winners:

Azucena Casas, Pencil Drawing  
Sierra Gladman, Pencil Drawing  
Eduardo Ramirez, Charcoal Drawing  
Will Pingsterhaus, Charcoal Drawing  
Tanner Smith, Ink Drawing  
Brandon Trautloff, Tempera Painting

#### Junior High Gold Key Winners:

Merced Corrales, Glue Relief Print  
Liliana Ramirez, Pencil Drawing

#### Junior High Silver Key Winners:

Audra Burns, Pencil Drawing  
Audra Burns, Glue Relief Print  
Isabelle Koopman, Color Pencil Drawing  
Alex Reed, Glue Relief Print  
Alex Reed, Color Pencil  
Morgan Toothaker, Glue Relief Print  
Victoria Toothaker, Pencil Drawing



### FCCLA LEADERS OF TOMORROW:

Sophomores Anna George and Taryn Valentine both aquired leadership positions recently in FCCLA's District F. George is the new Vice President of Records. Valentine is the new Vice President of STAR events. Both of them will help run Distict meetings next year. (Thompson photo)



### Organizational Updates

- |                                   |   |  |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| • Feb. 1 FFA @ Garden City        | Feb. 11 State Scholars 'Bowl              | Feb. 21-25 State KMEA Music Festival @ Wichita |
| Feb. 7 Academic Recognition Night | Feb. 16 Grades 3-4 Music Program          | Mar. 7 FFA @ Liberal                           |
| Feb. 8. FCCLA @ Dodge City        | Feb. 21 FFA Soup Supper and Labor Auction | Mar. 15-17 NHS Trip to Denver                  |
| Feb. 10 NHS Applications due      | Feb. 22 HPL Music Festival @ Leoti        | Mar. 19 A-Team Banquet                         |



## ◀◀ Cimarron teachers go back in time

By **Brittnee Rodriguez**

A common problem of most teenagers is being misunderstood. But little do they know, their teachers were young once too. In the Stone Age was when their most fond memories were created.

Throughout high school, cliques are formed amongst students. There's the jock group, the nerds, the cheerleaders, the cowboys, and so on. One of Cimarron's joking and easy-going teachers was a small-town superstar at one point.

"During my senior year, I played football and I remember I kicked a field goal that ended up winning the game for my team," said history teacher Steve Meneley.

When the word *jock* is said, the adjectives *stuck-up* and *conceited* may also come to mind. Yet, Meneley was far from that.

"I was athletic in school, but I got along with everyone because we only had eighteen in our class," said Meneley.

Being athletic is on one end of the spectrum, but opposite from it would be the nerd. Some students may not necessarily enjoy high school because they might not fit into one of the specified cliques.

"I enjoyed college a lot more than high school because I was able to find people like me and who enjoyed the things that I did," said science teacher Jennifer

Hendrix.

There isn't just one teacher in this school who was stamped with the nerd title throughout their adolescent years.

"I was a bit of a nerd in college. I still skipped class and slept in, but I was still a good student. But I didn't even go to my own graduation because I only knew about five people that were graduating in education," said math teacher Aaron Cherney.

Everyone has their favorite memory, but there's always that one memory that you never want to forget; you wish you didn't have to experience.

For example, a bad date?

"I was a junior and I was a total nerd in high school. There was this guy that carpoled with me and other people every day. Well one day he gave me a box of



**REMINISCING**

**MOMENTS:** History teacher Steve Meneley remember his high school football games.

"...I kicked a field goal that ended up winning the game..." Meneley has been a Junior High football coach for several years. (Rodriguez photo)

you go to prom with me? I didn't want to go to prom with him, but my mom made me because he was a nice guy," said Hendrix.

Cimarron High School has its share of unique teachers with one-of-a-kind memories. Whether it's saving the day with a memorable field goal, skipping your own graduation, or having a

drastic prom.

Teens may feel misunderstood at times, but it is guaranteed that there is at least one teacher who can relate to them.

### Art Classes

## Sculpting, painting, and drawing keep students motivated

By **Hunter Exum**

"Yours is good, but mine is better." Most of us know that that is Art Teacher Steve Giebler's motto for all of his art classes.

Most of the CHS student body has been in art class since grade school, and some of them have continued taking an art class into their high school years. Giebler teaches sculpting, painting, and drawing to his high school students.

"I like drawing because it's more fundamental, and once you learn to draw, painting and even sculpting comes a bit easier," says Giebler.

Although Giebler likes drawing because it's the foundation of art, he also teaches two other styles: painting and sculpting. He uses different techniques to accomplish these styles.

"I teach drawing, sculpting, and painting," says Giebler. "I get my techniques from art shows, other instructors, and the Internet."

When he introduces these styles to his students, he usually gets good results. One

of those students is Junior Tori Trahern.

"I've been in art for a long time," says Trahern. "The only time I wasn't was in freshman year."

Although some students haven't been in art as long as Trahern, they do like the class and what it has to offer.

"I like art because it's fun," says Sophomore Kelcey Baker, "and you get to learn new things about art."

This is Baker's first year in art, but she does like how Giebler teaches his class. Most of Giebler's students like the way he teaches his class and how he helps them whenever they get stuck on certain parts of their art.

"He's a cool guy," says Junior Jesus Garcia. "He's taught three generations of Garcias, so that's pretty cool."

Along with the Garcias, Giebler has taught many other students. Some of them really enrolled in it for the experience, and some took it just because they thought it was an easy A.

"Yes, it is an easy class, but only if you are truly interested in what you are doing,"

says Trahern.

So whether students are truly interested in art or just in it to relax, there are more students participating in art as the

years go by.

Just a reminder for students who want to enroll: "Yours is good, but mine is better."



**WORK OF ART:** Sophomore Omar Garcia works on his unique art project. Garcia has been expressing his creativity throughout his semester of Painting class. (Megan Claar photo)



## You can't teach embarrassment

# Teachers reveal their most embarrassing moments

By Austin Flores

Many of us have embarrassing moments that we look back on later in life and are able to laugh about and share with others. Here at Cimarron High School we decided to ask some of our teachers what their most embarrassing moment so far in their teaching careers have been.

The first person to ask was English Teacher Lynne Hewes.

"I have a student in my class," Hewes said, "and that student was struggling so I told him to come in my classroom at opportunity period. He replied, 'Mrs. Hewes, I'm *in* your class for that period.' I felt so bad because I have him everyday, and I didn't even remember he was in my room during that time."

The second person we asked was history teacher Steve Meneley. He had a funny experience as well.

"When I taught school in Pratt," Meneley said, "I woke up one morning to get ready and it was so dark in my room that I ended up putting on two different colored shoes. By the time I noticed, I was already at the school and couldn't go back, so I ended up teaching in them for the rest of the day."



English teacher Lynne Hewes

Geometry teacher Van Kenton also had an interesting story.

"I had a policy in my class," Kenton said, "and if you were to write a note and were passing them in my class and I caught you, I would read them out loud. So one day I caught two female students passing a note, and I had the opportunity to read it out loud to the class.... Well, it turned out the note was about me. Since then I haven't read another note out loud in my class."

Shop teacher Vicki Jacobs said her experience



Ag teacher Ryan Miller

was also memorable one.

"I was taking chemo to cure my cancer when I was diagnosed," she said, "and I had the opportunity to substitute teach a second grade class. The first thing the class did in the morning to start their school day was say the Pledge of Allegiance."

"I had to lead them in it. Since I was taking chemo, I was really forgetful, and I had forgotten how to start, so to start I ended up saying the Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep prayer, and realized that was wrong."

Ag Teacher Ryan Miller shared an interesting story as well.

"My first year teaching I knocked myself out with a piece of pipe," Miller said. "You can tell people to come see me for the full story."

Even principals have embarrassing moments.

Principal Bill Brown said, "When I was teaching geometry, I had this student who would always read instead of pay attention in class. It got to the point where she was even printing pages from her book and taping them into her geometry book."

"I had known about this for a period of time and decided one day I was going to flick a piece of chalk at her book while she was reading. I flicked the chalk, but when I flicked it, she bent over her desk, and the chalk ended up going down her blouse instead."

Yes, everyone gets embarrassed. It happens to all of us, even our teachers.



Geometry teacher Van Kenton

## Blast from the past:

# CHS students reminisce about grade school

By Abby Thompson

For many of us, our grade school years were full of favorite teachers, scary principals, dramatic recesses, and the weekly throw-up incident in the lunchroom.

Sometimes we get so caught up in our hectic high school lives we forget how simple and innocent our childhoods were.

Senior Claire Nash has fond memories of recess during her elementary years.

"When I was in grade school, the biggest deal was getting to the swings first during recess," said Nash. "Playing knock out in the middle basketball court was huge too."

Some memories during recess are rather violent instead of happy ones.

"All the boys would make the girls come over to the one side of the playground

where the teachers couldn't see and take the jump ropes and tie them up and watch them break free," said Senior Joey Franzitta. "It was fun until we got in big trouble with the teachers."

Recess time always meant fun, but at times our most embarrassing moments also occurred during recess.

"One time I was playing on the rock wall and my jacket got caught on the rocks and I jumped down and got stuck, just hanging there," remembers Freshman Britney Bogner.

Becoming injured during grade school always meant you were the most popular kid for however long it took you to recover.

"I fractured my heel when I was a fifth grader, and I used to sit on the swings and let everyone play with my crutches during recess," said Franzitta.

Besides getting hurt ourselves, some of the scariest times in grade school occurred while watching someone else get hurt.

"I remember one of the boys in my class fell off the big slide and broke his arm during recess," said Junior Kait Flores.

As we grow older, it seems we become more separated from our multitude of teachers, but when we were young many of us latched onto our teachers and looked up to them.

"My favorite teacher was Mr. Ridenour in sixth grade," said Nash. "He made math and social studies fun when I really didn't like the subjects. He joked around with his classes and wasn't so uptight all the time."

Even though times have changed since we were kids, our appreciation for

movie days still stays the same.

"I remember Mr. Leatherwood would make us watch *Voyage of the Mimi* on Fridays," said Franzitta. "I loved getting thirty minutes to do absolutely nothing in class."

As with high school students, elementary kids love every second of celebrating holidays during the day.

"I remember getting to run down the hallways, flipping flapjacks on Kansas Day one year," said Flores. "I didn't win, but it was fun!"

As we grow older, our lives become cluttered with so much extra nonsense that we forget how simple things were when we were young.

"Things were so much less complicated in grade school," said Nash. "I miss the way things were."



## CHS wrestling: Is it being taken for granted?

By **Fernanda Cabrera**

Hard work and dedication goes a long way in wrestling. This year's wrestling team started the 2011 season off well. But do these boys get enough credit?

On January 20 CHS hosted a wrestling tournament, and besides a very small group of students who attended, the only other people there were all the supportive parents.

Parents are always greatly supportive, but it may be more motivational for our athletes to have their fellow classmates there cheering them on.

Over the course of the year our school spirit has visibly increased. Our gym gets filled within minutes on the day of a basketball game, but that same enthusiasm wasn't shown when we hosted a wrestling meet.

Some of our students are even willing to make an hour and a half drive to watch the basketball games, but can't seem to attend a home wrestling meet. Why is that?

Now I'm not saying that we should stop supporting our basketball team at all, but how about sharing some of that energy during a wrestling meet? Show them we care too.

We need to give credit to all our school teams. Whether it's tennis, football, wrestling, basketball, golf or track, our athletes need that kind of enthusiasm and encouragement at every sporting event.

I mean is it really so difficult to attend a wrestling meet and cheer on our wrestlers?

I think not.



**CHARGING THE ENEMY:** Junior Aiden Shaughnessy takes down his opponent during the wrestling meet held at CHS on January 17. Shaughnessy placed first in his weight class at the Hoisington tournament on January 27. (Cabrera photo)

## Bluejays soar over Indians



**SHOOT TO WIN!** Junior Ted Boersma takes a foul shot to keep the team ahead during a game. Boersma worked hard in the off-season to show his dedication to the team. (Herklemen photo)

out better, and not give to many of-fensive rebounds,

By **Austin Flores**

The Cimarron Bluejays gave the Satanta Indians a beatdown during a mid-January away game. The guys struggled during the first quarter and managed to get through their problems and come out strong in the second.

Coach Dave Losey said, "The first quarter we played awful and we weren't ready at all. But the last three quarters we started acting and playing like a team."

After their struggle the team did play really well and accomplished what they went to do.

"I didn't think we were focused at all in the first quarter," Junior Stewart Fairbank said, "but once the coaches got us all focused and played together as a team, we played some pretty good basketball."

The Bluejays stayed focused throughout the rest of the game and were able to beat the Indians with a 68-44 victory.

"We need to make sure we block

which the team has gotten better at doing, but we also need to have better shot selection and play smarter defense," Losey said.

The Bluejays have gotten better throughout the season and keep improving day after day.

"I think we will be ready for the next game, but we need to keep setting goals to better everyone on the team. We are improving during practice, and our goal is to win every single game. And as a team, we are doing a much better job than the first few games, and are having fewer turnovers, and are doing much better inside the three point line." Losey said. "I believe in winning, and if you don't show up you don't win."

## Hardworking athletes earn 12-Sport Award

By **Fernanda Cabrera**

Hard work doesn't go unrecognized at our school. CHS has many hard working students walking right next to us in the hallways everyday.

"I'm involved in volleyball, basketball, track, band, NHS, Tri-M, StuCo, and SADD," said Senior Taylor Siek.

Whether it be clubs or sports, our students are becoming more involved. This past year a large percent of our students were involved in some kind of school activity.

"Last year we had 175 students enrolled between grades 9-12, and 94% of them were involved in some kind of activity," said CHS Principal Bill Brown.

"I'm very pleased that our students are so involved. We're higher than our state average. Statistics show that students stop participating in these activities in both seventh and ninth grade. I want to get to the point where our students are required to participate in an extracurricular activity."

It takes more than hard work to be a multiple sports athlete; it also requires determination, perseverance, time and a whole lot of patience.

"The hardest part about doing everything is the time," said Senior Zach Fields. "It takes a lot of time and patience. You always have to work hard, which means you're always tired, and then you have to manage some of that time for homework too."

Every year the 12-Sport Award is given to hard working student athletes by the Cimarron Booster Club.

"The 12-Sport Award is sponsored by the Booster Club," said Activities Director David Ediger, "and is given to individuals who have participated in three sports for four years. It doesn't have to be the same three sports, as long as you participate in some sport for four years."

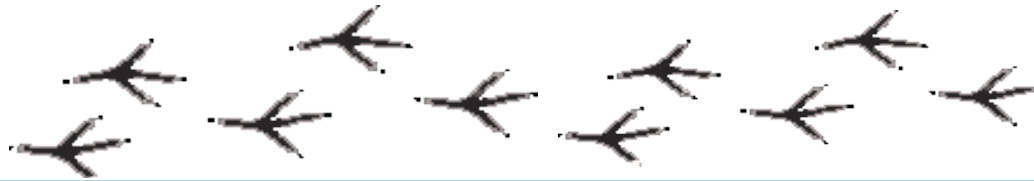
Even some of our younger students are becoming more and more involved in our extracurricular activities.

"Clubs and sports are great ways to get more involved with your school," says Freshman Crystal Mendoza. "They help me work well with others in order to achieve the goals we set. And they're also really fun to be in."

Students participate on these kinds of activities for different reasons. Whatever that may be though, one thing is for sure: they are enjoying what they do.

"I really enjoy it because it keeps me in shape mainly!" says Siek. "and I like being on a team and having that big family feel. Also, you meet a lot of new people!"

Hard work will always pay off. Go ahead and ask the students of CHS.



## Junior high quiz bowl prepares prominently

By **Brittnee Rodriguez**

Cimarron Junior High is composed of students with diverse talents. There is a small group of students who allow their talent to arise in their favorite school activity, known as quiz bowl. Quiz bowl is a game composed of questions that can vary from a range of topics.

Studying throughout the week for

questions doesn't necessarily sound appealing to everyone. So why join this activity?

"I like quiz bowl because it's fun to go to different schools and meet other kids," said eighth grader Tori Toothaker.

Members of the quiz bowl team travel to different schools and compete against other students. Going to these events can create some memories for some students.

"My favorite memory is the time we were at Sublette and the eighth graders ate so much at the chocolate fountain," said eighth grader Andi Ogles.

Even though meets can be fun, preparing for them might not be as enjoyable. These students have to study a wide variety of subjects such as current events,

language arts, math, social science, and many more. Some days they have to sacrifice their sleep and rise early in the morning to practice.

"Waking up early is the only bad thing about quiz bowl because I would rather be sleeping," said Toothaker.

These students have to practice at 7:30 a.m. on the days chosen by their coach, Librarian Shelley Baublits. During those early mornings, they are asked an assortment of questions.

Some students prefer certain types of questions over others.

Both Ogles and Toothaker enjoy miscellaneous and science questions.

"I like those types of questions the most because they're easier to answer," said Toothaker.

Quiz bowl will soon be just another junior high memory for these two members. But they have been enjoying it so much that they both plan to continue with it once they're in high school.

"I'm pretty sure I'll be in Scholars' bowl because quiz bowl has been really fun," said Ogles.

These students have been practicing and preparing for Quiz Bowl season. Their season begins early February and the entire team has high hopes for the next few months.



**MENTALLY PREPARING:** Quiz Bowl members prepare for competition by answering a variety of questions. They have been practicing for over a month. Quiz Bowl members are Eighth Graders Paige Grasser, Kaitlyn Knobbe, Clint Legg, Samantha McPhail, Andi Ogles, Kylie Rempel, Victoria Toothaker and seventh graders Curt Frink, Eleanor Moffitt, Angela Morales, Alex Pfeifer, and Zachary Schmidt. (Courtesy photo)

### Quiz Bowl upcoming events:

Feb. 9 @ Satanta

March 6 @ SWH

Feb. 13 @ Lakin

March 20 @ Syracuse

Feb. 16 @ Meade

March 22 @ Cimarron

Feb. 21 @ Hugoton

March 29 @ Meade

Feb. 23 @ Sublette

## Forensics: All new students plus brand new teacher

By **Hunter Exum**

Forensics is an event where a student for two performs pieces of work or skits in front of an audience and judges.

CHS just got a new Forensic coach, Ashley Hubbell. Just out of Fort Hays State, Hubbell took on the position to coach our talented students.

"Although this is my first year," says Hubbell. "I've had a blast coaching these students."

Since this is Hubbell's first year as a Forensic coach, she's learning along with the students and from other coaches.

"I was very nervous my first day," says Hubbell. "Not only am I new to this, but this is the first year for all seven of my students."

Although all seven of Hubbell's students are new to Forensics, she has Juniors Allison Krossehell and Greta Giebler to help out.

"Mrs. Hubbell is cool," says Giebler. "I like her."

Hubbell lets her students choose their own pieces to perform, as long as it's appropriate, and then they prepare for the

upcoming meets.

"They choose the pieces, I make sure they are appropriate," says Hubbell. "After that they scatter around the school to prepare. They also perform their pieces in front of the class."

Forensic season began in late January and will continue through May.

**ACTING UP:** Junior Nathan Jenkins and Sophomore Anna Georger practice their forensics duet in Mrs. Hewes' room. They qualified for the final round in their first meet last week at Southwestern Heights. (Rodriguez photo)





## Principal's Perspective

### *Different Perspectives*

In the faint light of the attic, an old man, tall and stooped, bent his great frame and made his way to a stack of boxes that sat near one of the little half-windows. Brushing aside a wisp of cobwebs, he tilted the top box toward the light and began to carefully lift out one old photograph album after another. Eyes once bright but now dim searched longingly for the source that had drawn him here.

It began with the fond recollection of the love of his life, long gone, and somewhere in these albums was a photo of her he hoped to rediscover. Silent as a mouse, he patiently opened the long buried treasures and soon was lost in a sea of memories. Although his world had not stopped spinning when his wife left it, the past was more alive in his heart than his present aloneness.

Setting aside one of the dusty albums, he pulled from the box what appeared to be a journal from his grown son's childhood. He could not recall ever having seen it before, or that his son had ever kept a journal. Why did Elizabeth always save the children's old junk? he wondered, shaking his white head.

Opening the yellowed pages, he glanced over a short reading, and his lips curved in an unconscious smile. Even his eyes brightened as he read the words that spoke clear and sweet to his soul. It was the voice of the little boy who had grown up far too fast in this very house, and whose voice had grown fainter and fainter over the years. In the utter silence of the attic, the words of a guileless six-year-old worked their magic and carried the old man back to a time almost totally forgotten.

Entry after entry stirred a sentimental hunger in his heart like the longing a gardener

feels in the winter for the fragrance of spring flowers. But it was accompanied by the painful memory that his son's simple recollections of those days were far different from his own. But how different?

Reminded that he had kept a daily journal of his business activities over the years, he closed his son's journal and turned to leave, having forgotten the cherished photo that originally triggered his search. Hunched over to keep from bumping his head on the rafters, the old man stepped to the wooden stairway and made his descent, then headed down a carpeted stairway that led to the den.

Opening a glass cabinet door, he reached in and pulled out an old business journal. Turning, he sat down at his desk and placed the two journals beside each other. His was leather-bound and engraved neatly with his name in gold, while his son's was tattered and the name "Jimmy" had been nearly scuffed from its surface. He ran a long skinny finger over the letters, as though he could restore what had been worn away with time and use.

As he opened his journal, the old man's eyes fell upon an inscription that stood out because it was so brief in comparison to other days. In his own neat handwriting were these words: "Wasted the whole day fishing with Jimmy. Didn't catch a thing."

With a deep sigh and a shaking hand, he took Jimmy's journal and found the boy's entry for the same day, June 4. Large scrawling letters, pressed deeply into the paper, read: "Went fishing with my dad. Best day of my life."

*Written by Mac Anderson and Lance Wubbels*

*Bill Brown, CHS principal*

## Counselor's Corner

How often have you heard, "Life is so much harder for teens now than when I was growing up"? Teens today are facing so many more challenges and struggles than we did at their age.

I recently attended a meeting on social issues facing our young people today. Here are just a few:

1. Cyber-bullying
2. Family stress
3. Poor self-esteem/body image
4. Drugs and alcohol abuse

With all of the pressures and stress that teens are dealing with, there has been an increase in teen depression. Depression is a disorder of someone's moods or emotions. It is not an attitude that someone can control or "just make better." There are many causes for depression, including social circumstances, medical conditions and traumatic life events.

A young person with depression might have some or all of these signs:

- Sad or depressed mood
- Feelings of hopelessness
- Loss of interest in things normally enjoyed
- Withdrawal from friends and family
- Crying
- Change in sleep habits
- Change of eating habits
- Inability to concentrate
- Irritability

Talk to your child if you notice any changes in behavior; there may be a simple and specific reason. If not, seek help for your child by speaking to your family doctor, school counselor, or a professional therapist. There are many avenues for helping a child with depression. Most importantly, keep the lines of communication open with your child.

As always, my door is always open. If I can do anything for you, please call! I leave you with this quote:

"Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies"

*--Mother Teresa*

*--Mrs. Millershaski, CHS Counselor*

## January Students of the month

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



**Nick Ast, grade 7**

*"I appreciate Nick's musical talent. He is musically literate and a huge help as a leader in his section! He always has a pleasant attitude and is fun to have in class! I am glad he has chosen to share his skills with us."*

**--Mrs. Unruh**



**Taryn Valentine, grade 10**

*"Taryn is a responsible student and very respectful, in and out of the classroom."*

**--Mr. Giebler**



**Elgin Wespe, grade 12**

*"Elgin has really been applying himself in class and in school activities, along with having a great attitude."*

**--Mr. Kenton**