



WHAT'S INSIDE?



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Cimarron,
KS
67835

Cimarron High School
Cimarron, KS 67853
Holiday 2011
Volume 9 No 3

The Bluejay Post

Celebrating Christmas around the world

By **Brittnee Rodriquez**

What do you see when looking through a home's window on Christmas Eve? They might spot a family, a Christmas tree, presents, food, or many other things. Not every household may choose to celebrate exactly the same way.

In Kansas, several families take Christmas to the extreme. When the time comes around, they are expected to spend dollars upon dollars on any decorations they can get their hands on. While driving down neighborhoods, you can see flashing lights hanging from roofs and many blow-up reindeer on front lawns.

"Last year we used wood to carve and to create Snoopy and the rest of the Peanut characters," said Junior Hunter Exum. "A few

years before we had the Grinch, and this year we're going to put up Scooby-Doo."

Unlike Exum, a few families have more simple decorating traditions. The Claar family has one tradition they partake in every single year.

"Every year we put up the tree as a family and make popcorn lines to decorate it," said junior Megan Claar.

Christmas time is usually thought of having snow-covered grounds and staying warm by cuddling up next to fireplaces and being wrapped up in blankets, but it's completely the opposite in New Zealand.

"The major difference about our Christmas is that it is in the middle of the summer," said foreign exchange student Cain Bint. "So we usually all go to the beach and have a barbecue."

One thing that is common is the feast eaten at Christmas. That is one tradition that is found amongst different households and even different nationalities.

"We do a lot of stuff on Christmas," said Senior Gian Saviano who is from Italy. "On Christmas Eve we have a huge dinner

with the relatives from one side, and on Christmas day we have lunch with the other side of the family, and probably about fifty or sixty relatives arrive."

Just like the Italians, Hispanics and New Zealanders also love their family feasts.

"On Christmas Eve our entire family gets together and we have a big dinner," said sophomore Azucena Casas. "My favorite thing about the dinner is the tamales that we always make since we don't get them many times throughout the year."

As Casas enjoys tamales, Bint takes a bite of a totally different type of food.

"My family always has croissants, which are little pastries," he said.

While numerous people are focused on the meal, others are counting down the seconds till they can rip open the presents sitting under the Christmas tree.

"Instead of waiting till the morning, on Christmas Eve we wait until exactly midnight, then we open all of the presents,"

said Casas.

After the hustle and bustle of the family gatherings and the celebrations, people tend to end their busy day in a religious way.

"After our dinners, we go to mass at midnight," said Saviano.

Once again, the difference of traditions shows up.

"Not every single year, but sometimes our whole family goes to church on Christmas day," said Casas.

When this next Christmas comes around, many we believe our Christmas traditions are one of a kind, but we might not realize the neighbors we're not acquainted with may be celebrating completely differently.

"The major difference about our Christmas is that it is in the middle of the summer."

- Cain Bint

Do you like snow?



"Yes, because it's pretty and when everything is white, it seems purified," says Junior **Liz Sharp**.



"I don't like it because it's cold and makes everything wet," says Junior **Crystal Wade**.

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 20- 7-12 Christmas Concert H.S. Finals
- Dec. 21- H.S. Finals Last Day for AR

- Jan. 5- Students' first day back
- Jan. 26- Forensics @ SWH
- Jan. 28- Forensics @ Satanta



Holidays increase Depression

By Austin Flores

According to *Mental Health America.org*, "Many factors can cause the 'holiday blues': stress, fatigue, unrealistic expectations, over-commercialization, financial constraints, and the inability to be with one's family and friends. The demands of shopping, parties, family reunions and house guests, also contribute to feelings of tension. People may develop other stress responses such as headaches, excessive drinking, over-eating and difficulty sleeping."

Even more people experience post-holiday let down after January 1.

This can result from disappointments during the preceding months compounded by the excess fatigue and stress.

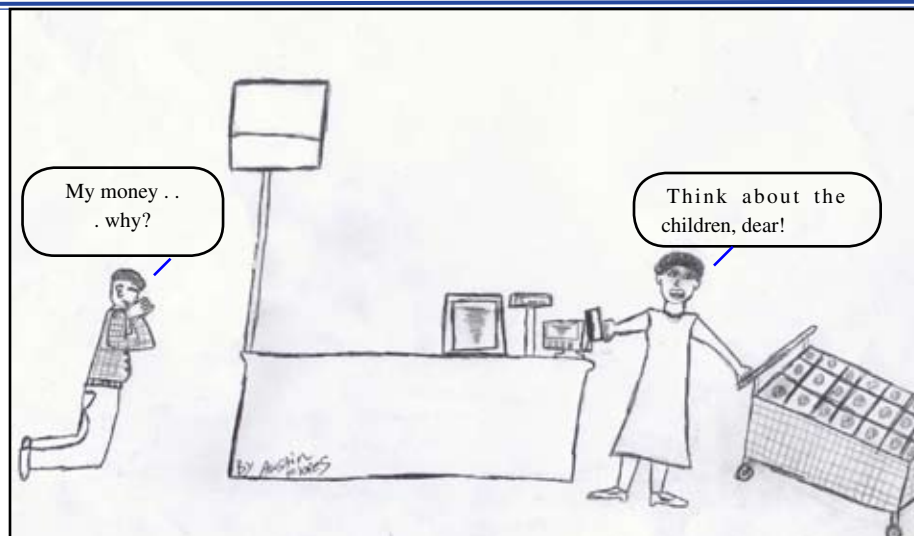
Many of us have an exceptional holi-

day, and many of us are thankful to have family surround us and love and care for us.

But there are others who feel lonely, and who feel like nobody cares about how they feel or what they are thinking. And some of the time people wait too late to realize that they could have talked to someone and saved them from doing something fatal that cost them their lives.

CHS guidance counselor Karrie Millershaski said, "From November 1 through Christmas break, I get more frequent visits from those who are having trouble here in Cimarron. One of the main reasons is usually from stress like schoolwork and work."

"One of the other reasons is usually from loneliness or an individual missing



a deceased loved one, like a parent, or grandparent."

Many people have strong feelings during the holidays.

Unfortunately their feelings get so

strong, they become stressed and start to give in to the pressure slowly and more strongly.

Millershaski has a cure for that.

"The best advice I can give for holiday depression is to talk to someone who cares about you, and it will help you realize you're not alone, and finally just let others know how you truly are feeling," she said.

Different cultures, different customs?

By Fernanda Cabrera



Sitting around a fire with the ones you love, drinking hot chocolate, talking about what makes the holidays so great. That's what Christmas is all about for my family. It's a time of joy, love, and compassion.

Christmas in my family is most definitely a religious holiday. That's our main focus anyway.

Every year on the 24th day of December, we spend all day getting ready for that evening's dinner, cleaning up and

then cooking up an incredible amount of food for an even more incredible amount of people, my family.

On Christmas Eve my family gets together to celebrate the birth of Christ. We stuff ourselves with all the tasty food we made that day and give thanks for everything that has been given to us during the entire year.

Christmas for my family is a little different than most. Some families may not do anything on Christmas Eve because their main focus is on Christmas day. They wake up early to open up all their gifts that morning and make their big family dinner

that day too.

The kids in my family stay up until midnight just to open up all the presents "Santa" has brought them that year. While waiting for the clock to hit 12:00, we eat great food, including turkey, tamales, hot chocolate, and cookies.

On Christmas day we spend our day together watching any Christmas movie we can possibly think of, eating cookies, drinking hot chocolate and enjoying each others' company.

So tell me, does your family do anything unique or interesting during the holidays?

Texting and driving tempts teens' lives

By Abby Thompson

Bailey Goodman, 17, was killed along with four of her fellow cheerleaders in upstate New York when she swerved into oncoming traffic, hit a tractor-trailer and her SUV burst into flames. Five days earlier, the five teenagers had graduated from high school.

Two minutes before the crash was reported, her phone was used to send a text to a friend.

In Washington state, 17-year-old Vanna Francis and 15-year-old Ronnie Scroggins drowned when a car carrying seven teenagers drove off the road and into a river. The 20-year-old driver admitted she was texting on her cell phone when the car plunged into the water, and was later arrested.

In Colorado, 18-year-old Makayla

Belew was killed when a text-messaging driver hit her as she walked along the side of the road and then drove away from the scene.

Ask yourself this question: is any text really worth dying for?

In many cases responding to a text message while driving can seem innocent, and many teens' reasoning is that they only need a few seconds to send a message.

In those few seconds that your eyes are off the road, you could swerve into oncoming traffic, or careen into a ditch. In an instant you could be dead.

According to AAA an astounding 46% of teenage drivers admit to texting while driving.

Why submit yourself to something so dangerous when the solution is so easy?

One of the easiest things to do to

prevent texting while driving is simply shutting the phone off while the engine is running. This prevents even the alert of a message from distracting you.

Another easy way to prevent distracted driving is to have a passenger send the message for you if it is that urgent.

After all, friends don't let friends text and drive.

Although many states, including Kansas have current laws in place against texting and driving, law enforcement admits that it's one of the hardest things to patrol.

A simple answer to the previous question is this: Drive now. Text later.

Not only could you save your own life. You could save someone else's life as well.

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
Holiday 2011
Volume 9, Issue 3*





Clubs and Organizations stay active during holiday months



DEAR SANTA: Senior Gianluca Salviano and Sophomore Tyrone Clark help second grader Luke Janzen write his letter to Santa. KAYS members visited to the grade school December 8 to help grades first - third write and edit letters to Mr. Claus, asking about Mrs. Claus, reindeer, the North Pole, and gifts. This act was part of Serve My School Day during KAY Citizenship Week. (Thompson photo)

KAYS organize Citizenship Week

By Abby Thompson

As the first semester comes to an end, many groups and clubs begin settling down before the holiday break; however, the CHS KAY Club is only getting started in their activities.

KAY President Sam Ingaunza was busy preparing activities for KAY Citizenship Week which took place December 5-10.

"During the week each day was set aside to serve a specific group of people," said Ingaunza. "There was Serve my School, Nation, Community, Club, World, Family, and Home."

The Kansas Association for Youth did something different to serve each of these groups throughout the month of December.

- Serve School- Cleaned glass in the gym and gave mugs with hot chocolate to the teachers.
- Serve Nation-American Heart Association Red Out night at December 16 basketball game
- Serve Community-Cleaned the recycling center
- Serve Club-Christmas Party for KAY Club members
- Serve World-Gave holiday cards to foreign exchange students and donated to Operation Christmas Child.

In addition to KAY Citizenship Week, the group also collected clothing to donate to those less fortunate.

"Students brought new or gently used clothing to school and we took the items to the Manna House in Dodge City," said Ingaunza. "The Manna House is a soup kitchen that also provides extra clothing for the homeless."



Organizational Updates

- NHS Clothing Sales, Dec. 5-12
- 7-12 Christmas Concert Dec. 20
- State Band Auditions at Salina, Jan. 7
- 5-12 Piano Festival at Meade, Jan. 14
- KSU Concert Band Clinic, Jan. 20-22
- FCCLA at Garden City, Jan. 25



MAKIN' MUSIC: Nick Franzitta, Abby Thompson, Kaitlyn Rempel, Char Fleeman, Jackie Byer, and Issac Stanley all represented CHS at the District Honor Band Clinic on December 4. "Students rehearsed for about seven hours with Mark Norman, from Washburn University," said Director Jamie Minneman. "At the end of the day the musicians give a concert showcasing their hard work." (Thompson photo)



TALENTED MUSCIANS: Tyler Siek, Christian Fischer, Alex Neuschafer, Seth Pachner, Zach Field, Caleb Fischer, Kaleb Neuschafer, Levi Lacy, Ellen Waters, Megan Claar, Kali Redburn, Jessica Ast, Emily Payne, and Paige Spurgin went to Dodge City High School on December 4 to sing with fellow musicians from the area at the District Honor Choir Clinic. The students are now eligible to perform at the State Honor Choir Clinic to be held in Wichita on February 23-25. (Thompson photo)



What are your 2012 New Year's resolutions?

Many of us at Cimarron high school are excited about the brand new upcoming year because we can make New Year's resolutions and better ourselves for the next year.

Secretary Amy Moyer:
"Mine are to stop stressing on things you have no control over."



Freshman Morgan Edigar: "Spend more time on sports and study more."



Senior Zach Fields: "I want to lose weight, and get stronger."



Sports Administrator David Edigar:
"Exercise more."



Special Education Teacher Debbie Stanley: "Exercise more."

FACS Teacher Paula Wilson:
"Spend more time with family, less with work."



Junior Robert Hoskinson:
"Stay out of trouble, be nicer to my peers."



Capturing the moment

Student photographers prepare for the future

By Brittnee Rodriguez

Looking at life through a camera lens can change the perspective and angle of everything seen through a regular pair of eyes. Senior Megan Claar and Junior Greta



LIFE WITH FLASH: Senior Megan Claar takes photos for Yearbook. This year, Claar took a few senior pictures for her fellow classmates. (Rodriguez photo)

Giebler are two girls who know firsthand at what it's like seeing the world in a different view.

"I like photography because it's a way you can artistically express yourself," said Claar, "and you can explain what art is to you."

Usually teen girls are seen with their digital cameras taking posed, cheesy pictures with their best friends or they over dramatically take self-portraits. Other people prefer to use cameras for other reasons.

"Something about photos just catches my eye," said Giebler. "My brother did it, and we had a nice camera so I just started experimenting with it."

Claar and Giebler may both share a love for capturing moments, but the moments they choose to capture, differ.

"I love taking pictures of people because you can really capture their emotions and they

give you more stuff to work with," said Giebler

While Giebler can be seen snapping posed photos of people, Claar chooses

other things to capture.

"Sports are my favorite things to take



LOVE OF MUSIC: Eva Giebler poses for her sister, Junior Greta Giebler. "I love taking pictures of people. . ." said Greta. (Giebler photo)

pictures of," said Claar. "I also like to take meaningful photos of families or other people."

Both girls are improving and progressing with their skills and plan to turn this hobby into a future career.

"I want to graduate from college with an art major and hopefully open my own photography business where I take pictures of weddings, families, seniors, maternal, and also sporting events," said Claar.

While Claar is planning for her future, Giebler has already begun her path to success. Giebler has started taking senior photos charging for a very low price. She has even sold one of her own photos in Garden City.

"There was a picture of [her sister] Eva holding a picture of Audrey Hepburn," said Giebler. "I sold it for \$18, but it was the only one that sold at the show!"

Like Claar, Giebler also has bigger dreams she plans to reach.

"I'd really like to become a fashion photographer and work with designers and fashion magazines," said Giebler.

The next time there's a beautiful model on the front page of a magazine or a muscular football player scoring a touchdown, Megan Claar or Greta Giebler may be the famous photographer who captured that one-of-a-kind photo.



Tis' the season to be... fashionable?

By **Fernanda Cabrera**

We all know that the weather here in Kansas is kind of unpredictable, but do you think there's really a specific time of the year when it's okay to start wearing your boots, scarves and sweatshirts?

Some students actually feel that way, but others may disagree with this statement.



"I don't really think there's a specific time of the year," said Freshman Frida Cabrera, "but I start wearing boots and sweatshirts as soon as it gets cold enough."

Fashion is also a matter of choice; some people choose to wear summer clothing even in the wintertime, depending on our unpredictable weather, of course.

"I think winter clothing mostly starts whenever the person feels it is time," said Senior Chelsea Dupree. "I just go by the weather. If it's cold out, it's winter clothes; if it's warm out, I will wear summer clothes."

Once the weather starts changing, so does the way students dress. Look around

and you may notice that the majority of girls are probably wearing either a pair of boots, some warm comfy sweats, a scarf, or maybe even something more comfortable than that.

"I love wearing sweats with boots and a sweatshirt," said Dupree. "Jeans are uncomfortable to me, and with sweats you



are guaranteed warmth and comfort. And I'm all about comfort!"

Another one of the most popular clothing items during this chilly weather seems to be a good ole' pair of boots.

"I like boots because they keep my feet warm," said Sophomore Jessica Ast, "and because I don't get to wear them over the summer. My favorite brand of boots would definitely have to be Uggs."

The options on where to get just what you need are endless. All stores are stocked with everything needed during this time of the year. The colors that are "in" for the season are the blacks, grays, browns, and plum.

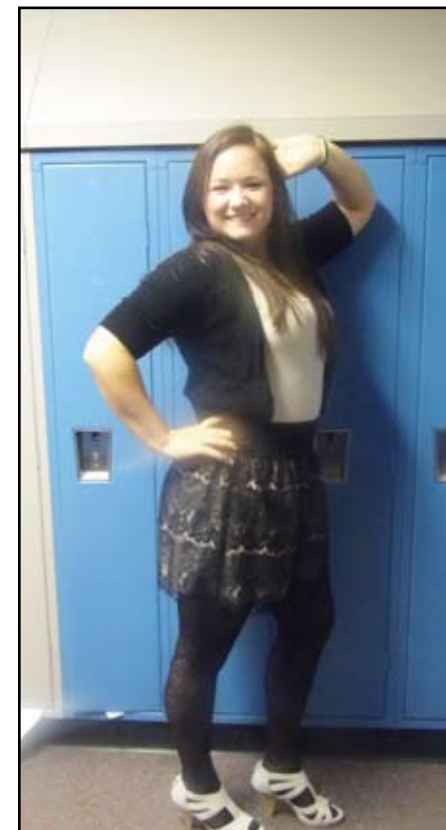
"I go to Buckle," said Ast, "because they have stylish jeans and great long-sleeve tops and coats!"

This is the time of the year where accessories come into play too, where the major portion of color is brought into the look you may be going for.

Accessories should be bright colored handbags, shoes, and scarves, if you're into that. Even the darkest outfits can be made into something great with just the right use of a scarf and a good pair of shoes.

Accessory colors for this winter are traditional colors, which include bright colors like reds, golds, silvers, and even some printed fabrics would be fine.

Now that you know a few things, go out and have fun with your own style.



FASHION DIVAS:

1. Junior Allison Krosschell's gloves (Courtesy photo)
2. Junior Greta Giebler (Exum photo)
3. Senior Emily Payne (Cabrera photo)

He sees you when you're sleeping:

Students come to terms with the falsity of Claus

By **Abby Thompson**

Christmas is one of the biggest holidays of the year for children of all ages. Children relish the joys of putting up the tree, decorating the house, singing songs, watching snow fall on the ground, and of course, trying to stay awake to catch a glimpse of the ever elusive Santa Claus as he shimmy down the chimney, eats the cookies and drinks the milk, and leaves tons of presents.

However, there comes a time in children's lives when they must accept the fact that their favorite Christmas idol, Santa Claus, is just a fantasy.

From the time children are very young most agree with no doubt that Santa is real.

"I believed the entire story behind Santa," said Senior Chelsea Dupree. "Mrs. Claus, the reindeer, the elves, I thought all of it was real."

Some children, though, find it easier to see beyond their parent's fabrications and

figure out the truth for themselves.

"I can't ever remember actually believing in Santa," said Senior Luke Reed. "I always had a suspicion it was my parents."

Often, children receive the biggest and best presents from Santa himself.

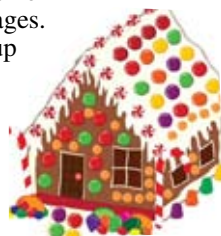
"The best present I ever got from Santa was an Easy-Bake Oven," said

Dupree.

Little kids even have a perfect picture in mind of what St. Nick looks like.

"I always pictured Santa Claus to look like Tim Allen in the three Santa Claus movies," said Wehkamp.

Boys and girls across the country sometimes like to bribe Santa a little with food and drink when he comes falling out of the chimney on Christmas Eve.



"My family always made a big deal about leaving out cookies and milk and making sure they were gone on Christmas morning," said Dupree.

The presence of Santa is everywhere during the holidays, even in schools. Grade schoolers are now given time to write letters to Santa, asking them for all the best presents.

"I liked writing to Santa in grade school. It made him seem real," said Dupree. "I made sure to include what a good girl I was the entire year."

However, everyone reaches the age when we notice that some things just don't add up. Why would Santa come to Cimarron, America, to give gifts? How can he reach millions of children all over the world? Children want answers to these questions.

"I was about seven when my brothers told me Santa wasn't real," said Wehkamp.

"I remember being mad at my brother, Matt, forever after that!"

Some kids catch their parents in the act of putting presents under the tree or even eating the cookies that were so carefully made for the man in red.

"I was walking up the stairs and I caught my dad bringing in the bike and eating the cookies that we had made," said Dupree. "My brother then called me dumb for believing in him anyway."

Whether the belief was fostered by parents, friends, or the media, children around the world are convinced that Santa Claus and his reindeer somehow make it around the world in one night and drop gifts off at each house along the way.

But could it possibly be just a matter of believing in a bit of Christmas magic?

"I definitely believed Santa was real when I was little," said Senior Lindsay Wehkamp. "Most of my gifts were from him, and I still get presents from him now too."



It's that time of year: basketball season

By **Fernanda Cabrera**

The 2011-2012 basketball season has officially started and with that new start comes a new opportunity at a great season.

This year's basketball team is just a little different from what we've seen before, Starting with the completely new coaching staff. Varsity Coach Dave Losey is hopeful for a great season.

"I think our biggest challenge this year will be getting back in a winning mind set," says Losey "The boys have struggled in the past few years, but I know they are all capable of coming together to have a good season. We've already had some success during our summer leagues."

The new set of seniors is also another thing added onto the list. Having only three returning seniors, all of whom will be playing varsity. The boys have definitely impressed Coach Losey.

"We have a good group of guys," says Losey. "They have both a great work ethic and a great attitude. We hope their work ethic and attitude will help do whatever needs to be done, something the other boys will want to follow as well."

As expected with all teams, there will be a challenge and weakness or two the boys must overcome along the way.

"One of our weaknesses is definitely the lack of height," says Losey.

They not only have weaknesses but strengths too.

"We have quickness and the guys play a very experienced game," Losey said. "Some of the younger guys have gained a lot of experience in the past. The majority of them have also been playing for quite a while now."

Another new member of the new coaching staff is the boys' JV Coach, Gene Milo. Milo currently lives in Dodge City, has been a basketball official for many years, and has coached various AAU teams for many years. He works full time at G & G in Dodge City but manages to make room in his schedule to coach the boys.

Milo contacted Activities Director David Ediger after seeing an ad in the Dodge City paper. They set up a meeting and got the job.

The boys are trying different things and working even harder in order to make this a great season.



BASKETBALL TIME: Junior Josh Meis works to get open. The Cimarron Bluejays played Deerfield during the Bluejay Invitational on December 2, defeating them during the first round. The boys finished in fourth place overall. (Katie Herkelman photo)

"We've been working hard on pushing the ball down the court more, says Losey. "We also want them to be more

comfortable with taking shots."

Expectations are high for this group of boys.

Lady Jays take flight over Tigers

By **Austin Flores**

The Cimarron Girls' Basketball Teams hard work has begun to pay off with a great start to the beginning of the year.

On December 2, both the junior varsity and the varsity teams prevailed and overcame the Ulysses Tigers. Junior varsity won with a great defeat over the Tigers. Getting ahead in the second quarter and staying ahead, they beat the Tigers, 55-35.

Varsity girls dominated their game with a stunning defeat over the Tigers, ending the game 72-39. Senior Lindsay Wehkamp led the team with a total of 20 points, 10 rebounds and 6 lead assists. Avery Burns came in second with a total of 17 points. Ashtynn Burns had 3 assists, and Emily Payne had 3 rebounds. Lindsay Wehkamp shot 54% from field goals.

"Overall, for our first game, we played really well. We held Britton to 7 points and 3 rebounds," Coach David Edigar said. "To hold a Division I player as well as we did was a major key to our success."

EYE ON THE BALL: Sophomore Ashtynn Burns gets ready to go for a rebound during some recent Lady Jay action. The Lady Jays took first in the Bluejay Invitational last week. (Megan Claar photo.)





It's a lot more than just paper work A day in the life of a school secretary

Hunter Exum

Picture a school office, our school office for example.

While you are waiting for help by from secretaries, you notice that there are four other students ahead of you, the phone has been ringing off the hook while you were waiting, and the office is a hectic place to be, and it is only 8:00 a.m.

"We start at 7:30 a.m. and don't go home until 4:00 p.m.," says secretary Amy Moyer. "Shannon usually stays until 7:00 p.m."

Moyer and Shannon Dewey are Cimarron High School's secretaries. Their typical day starts out at 7:30 a.m.

As soon as they get to the office, students and the ringing telephone bombard them. Students need everything from new schedules to new lunch cards. Parents call to say their child will either be late or just not show up that day.

On top of this, Dewey and Moyer each have specific duties they must carry out.

"I work on the attendance, lunches, and records," says Moyer.

Moyer must total the school's attendance and make sure that she gets the right number for the kids eating lunch. Moyer also deals with getting student records and transcripts for teachers or if a student is moving away.

"Shannon works on the finances and kids' collection," says Moyer.

Dewey deals with all the finances of the school, such as totaling up the entire amount of money that our school takes in

from fundraisers, the vending machines, and club sales. She also does kids' collections. Kids' collection is individual student data that the state asks for, to help with the school's funding. Dewey does all of this through the computer.

"The hardest part about the job is there is not enough hours in the day to finish the work," Dewey says.

The secretaries only have eight and a half hours, sometimes less, to really get their jobs done. It may seem like a lot of time to get work done, but in reality with what these ladies do, that seems short.

"The biggest distraction is people going in and out of the office," says Dewey.

The office is constantly full of people wanting something from these ladies. Whenever anyone walks into the office, both secretaries will stop what they are doing to help that person. Whether it is a new schedule or a new lunch card, these ladies will get it done.

"The best part about this job is the kids," say both secretaries.



Cimarron Grade School wins big money!



THAT'S A LOT OF MONEY

Cimarron Grade School received \$10,000 after winning an online contest offered by Avery Sticky Notes and General Mills. Lori Leatherwood, wife of former grade school teacher Dick Leatherwood, filled out the online entry for the contest. "We were one of only five schools in the U.S. that won," said Grade School Principal Rocky Stewart. (Katie Herkelman photo)

Oh no...Finals are coming!

Hunter Exum

Finals are scheduled for December 20 & 21. CHS students take finals to get themselves ready for college comprehensive finals.

Not all finals are tests where we have to memorize a whole lot of information from the beginning of the semester. Some have us create projects or speeches, so not all finals are the same.

Finals are the end-of-semester tests that question whether we actually paid attention during class. Most students believe that finals were designed just to torture the minds of the youth. Apparently

they were really designed to prepare us for college finals.

Many students dread the finals, but what do the teachers think about finals? Do they love finals just to torture us? Or do they hate them as much as we do?

"Finals are a pain because it takes me a good week to get them graded after school is out," says English teacher Lynne Hewes. "But they are a good thing too because in the past we had graduates who had been good students and didn't have to study so much, they came back and told us that they were not prepared for comprehensive tests in college."

Get up, get out, and go get it! Laymon Hicks' presentation rocks CHS

By **Brittnee Rodriguez**



When the announcements are presented in the morning and you are informed that there will be an assembly featuring a motivational speaker, two feelings run through your half-asleep body.

One feeling is the overwhelming joy that you will be able to miss the worst class of your entire schedule.

After your excitement wears off, the second feeling of reality sets in. You think about the last speaker who told the entire student body that alcohol and drugs are bad while he stood in one spot and spoke in his monotone voice.

Luckily, this year Cimarron High School didn't book another speaker who can keep the attention of our student body for a mere ten minutes. This year, StuCo and SADD brought the young and exhilarating perspective changer, Laymon Hicks.

Hicks doesn't consider himself to be a motivational speaker. Instead, he goes by the title of a "perspective changer".

From the moment he takes a step on stage till the end of his presentation, he has every student's eyes on him. He tries to get everyone involved and isn't afraid to be a little out of the ordinary every once in awhile.

Every school should have the chance to listen to his message. As a stu-

dent, I've heard numerous speakers with various messages, but I can honestly say I hardly remember the main points the presenters were trying to get across.

A few days after Hicks came to Cimarron, students were still chattering about him and repeating his famous phrase, "The bomb.com!"

"Compared to other speakers, he seemed to have more points and he was more exciting," said Senior Luke Reed. "He got people involved and it was like the audience was part of his speech instead of just listening to him talk."

Some students might have had the urge to doze off a time or two, but Hicks didn't let that fly by. He was constantly walking up and down the aisles and getting

face to face with other students. It made us listen and kept our attention on him at all times.

"I really liked how he got up and moved around," said Junior Mitch Chalkley. "His speech never lost its energy. He acted like it was his first time doing the speech."

Hicks imprinted the phrase, "Get up, get out, and go get it" in everyone's minds. Many students were complimenting him and calling him their favorite speaker.

It's safe to say that he is one of the few speakers that can be considered memorable and we were one of the few lucky schools that were able to hear his message.



Principal's Perspective

The Sea Lion

Over the past two issues, I've been sharing a story with you about a sea lion who had wandered from the sea. In each part of the story, I'm going to highlight a small portion for you to contemplate. If you missed the first two installments of the story, please go to www.cimarron-schools.net to read what you have missed.

The sea lion loved his rock, and he even loved waiting night after night for the sea breezes that might come. Especially he loved the dreams those memories would stir. But as you well know, even the best of dreams cannot go on, and in the morning when the sea lion woke, he was still in the barren lands. Sometimes he would close his eyes and try to fall back asleep. It never seemed to work, for the sun was always very bright.

Eventually, it became too much for him to bear. He began to visit his rock only on occasion. "I have too much to do," he told himself. "I cannot waste my time just idling about." He really did not have so much to do. The truth of it was, waking so far from home was such a disappointment; he did not want to have those wonderful dreams anymore. The day finally came when he stopped going to his rock altogether, and he no longer lifted his nose to the wind when the sea breezes blew.

The sea lion was not entirely alone in those parts; for it was there he met the tortoise. Now this tortoise was an ancient creature, so weathered by his life in the barren lands that at first, the sea lion mistook him for a rock. He told the tortoise of his plight, hoping that this wise one might be able to help him.

"Perhaps," the tortoise mused, "this is the sea." His eyes appeared to be shut against the bright sun, but he was watching the sea lion very closely. The sea lion swept his flippers once against his side, gliding to end of the water hole and back. "I don't know," he said. "it isn't very deep." "Isn't it?" "Somehow, I thought the sea would be broader, deeper. At least, I hoped so."

"You must learn to be happy here," the tortoise told him one day. "For it is unlikely you shall ever find this sea of yours." Deep in his old shriveled heart, the tortoise envied the sea lion and his sea. "But I belong to the sea. We are made for each other."

Bill Brown
CHS Principal

The Counselor's Corner

BULLYING

We have all heard the saying "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me."

I really wish that statement was true, however, words do hurt and can leave lasting effects on a person.

Recently, I worked with the seventh grade students and we talked about bullying. One of the activities I had them do was to write down everything that came to mind when they heard the word "BULLYING".

I was impressed with their list. Here are a few words that were shared:

Selfish	Physical
Mean	Emotional
Hateful	Scary
Hurtful	Wrong

After discussing the comments, we moved to brainstorming about how to stop bullying in our school. Again, I was impressed by what the seventh graders came up with.

- *Live by the Golden Rule
- *Just be nice
- *If you can not say something nice, do not say anything at all
- *Include everyone

In two of the classrooms, we ended the session with saying the following statements.

I found these statements in the book called *The Bully-Free Classroom* by Allan L Beane.

- *We don't all have to be the same.
- *We don't all have to think the same.
- *We don't all have to act the same.
- *We don't all have to talk the same.
- *We don't all have to dress the same.
- *We don't all have to believe the same.
- *We have the right to be ourselves.
- *We like it that people are different.
- *We honor different ways of being, acting, and believing-even when we don't agree with them.
- *We do our best to solve problems peacefully.
- *We speak up if we see others being treated unfairly.
- *We treat each other with respect.

I really enjoyed by my time in with the seventh grade students. I believe that we have a great school with good students.

If there is anything I can help you with please stop by and see me.

--Mrs. Millershaski
CHS Counselor

November/December Students of the month

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



Zach Fields

"Zach Fields does a great job working with our junior high basketball players and is always upbeat and positive in the hallways."

--Mr. Friesen



Juan Ramierz

"Juan is an excellent student, He has a strong work ethic. He shows respect to others and exemplifies an example for others."

--Mr Mowry



Brynn Walker

"Brynn is deserving of this award. She is very diligent in class discussions too. Brynn has a smile on her face at all times; she is a joy to be around."

--Mrs. Thompson



Dylana Hemmert

"Dylana Hemmert seems dedicated to academics, continually working hard to maintain good grades."

--Mrs. Wiseman



Chance Harrell

"Chance is an excellent student, but more important is his superb attitude, fantastic motivation, and the fact that he's just such an all-around good person!"

--Miss Hendrix



Jacee Unruh

"Jacee Unruh is polite, respectful, caring, and sweet. She works so hard in the classroom and on the court. She's one of those kids you wish you had a hundred of."

--Mrs. Minneman