

The Bluejay Post



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Cimarron High School

Cimarron, Kansas 67835

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Cimarron students resolving to evolve

By J.M. Kliewer

"The times, they are a-changing." At least that's what Bob Dylan said, and, boy, was that man smart.

Yeah, the times are changing, and as we roll out the red carpet for 2009, several things are going to be different this year. A new President, a new Superbowl Champion, and a new jar of olives that will stay in your refrigerator until 2010 rolls around aren't the only changes we are going to be seeing this year.

"I'm really excited for 2009," said Senior Talon Schneider. "It's a new year full of a lot of different experiences. All I need now is a New Year's resolution."

New Year's resolutions start pouring in this time of year, and there aren't many better examples of how a new calendar changes people. That \$3.97 swimsuit date book with "2009" painted on a skimpily clad woman makes us all realize that we are just a little too fat, a little too lazy, and maybe even a little bit conceited.

When asked about their New Year's resolutions, most people immediately avert their eyes and say that they don't remember. What really happened is they bought a treadmill, it's sitting in the corner, and it might be

more worthless than that God-awful fruitcake that will be tossed out at spring cleaning.

Some students in this school, however, have risen to the challenge of sticking with their resolutions.

"I only want to make it through basketball season alive," said Matt Wehkamp, junior.

A noble goal.

Junior Saige Martinez stuck with a bit more traditional answer.

"I want to be nicer to everyone, especially my friends and family," Martinez said. "I just want to work harder to make everyone happy."

Still others fail miserably at their attempts to achieve a goal, whether it be eating fewer Cheetos, or simply taking out the trash once in awhile.

Senior Jordan Toothaker's New Year's resolution was to be quoted in the newspaper.

Sadly, Jordan won't accomplish this in the near future, and he becomes yet another statistic in the book of people who don't follow through with their goals.

Whether you be man or woman, big or small, smart or just a teeny bit underachieving, the New Year offers a chance to set a goal, and to reach it, no matter what it is.



RING! RING! IT'S A NEW YEAR: Seniors Alicia Owens and Taylor Claar text up a storm as they sit in the commons area. They have both vowed that 2009 will hold a bit less texting for the two thumb gurus. "I really need to cut back. It seems like I spend a good portion of my day on my phone," Claar said. (Kliewer photo)

Future CHS rodeo stars share common dreams



CALF DOWN: Sophomore Payton Dewey pulls in the slack after roping a calf. Dewey has been participating in rodeo since he was nine. "One of the hardest parts in team roping is finding a good partner," said Dewey. (Courtesy photo)

By Shelby Dawn Pulkrabek

It's every kid's dream to be a pro athlete probably at some point in their life, whether it's being a football protégé like John Elway or the next Michael Jordan on the basketball court, but other kids march to the beat of a different drum and want to follow in the footsteps of pro rodeo stars such as Ty Murray and Justin McBride.

Some kids, like Sophomore Payton Dewey, grew up around the sport.

"I've been competing since I was 9, but I've always been around it," said Dewey.

Others, like Freshman Mauricio Soto and Wyatt Stanley, are newcomers to the sport.

"I've been competing for

about a year," said Soto.

For Sophomore Tyrel Moffit rodeo was family tradition to rodeo.

"I've been competing since I was 8," he said, "but I've been around it all my life because my dad did it and I wanted to be just like him, so I started."

Stanley just wanted to try something new.

"I had a bareback riggin' laying around the house and I just told dad I was going to start riding bareback horses," he said.

As with any other sport, rodeo has the risk of injuries.

"My worst injury was when I messed up both of my knees at a high school rodeo my freshman year in Cimarron," said Moffit. "I got hung up, then kept on going until I had to have surgery."

People who love the sport, have to forget about the pain.

"I just don't think about the injuries,"

said Moffit. "I just do it. What doesn't kill you makes you stronger."

Rodeo is sometimes a team effort.

"I compete in team roping," said Dewey. "One of the hardest parts is finding good partners to rope with."

Moffit likes to have a bit of variety in the events they compete in.

"I compete in steer wrestling, calf roping, and team roping," he said.

Others, like Stanley, like to keep it to one event.

"I just compete in bareback riding," he said.

Some, like Soto, have small goals for rodeo.

"I want to make it to the High School National Finals," he said.

Others have bigger dreams.

"I want to go to college on a rodeo scholarship," said Moffit. "Then after college I want to go pro."

January's holidays guarantee eventful month

By **Kaitlin Unruh**

"Yesterday's the past, tomorrow's the future, but today is a gift. That's why they call it a present."

Nothing supports this famous quote more than the website www.holidayinsights.com. No matter what the day, this website gives us a peculiar reason to be thankful and celebrate.

Some holidays throughout the year are stranger than others; we are bound to laugh out loud or at least crack a smile everyday.

The People's Voice

By **Kyle Maddox**

QUESTION: What is your New Year's Resolution?



Melynda McDonald, junior:

"My New Year's Resolution is to stay out of the hospital and keep my grades up."

Shannon Dewey, secretary:

"My New Year's Resolution is to start making and keeping New Year's Resolutions every year."



Sondra Brown, teacher:

"My New Year's Resolution is to get into shape and finally read the entire Bible."

Letter Policy

The Bluejay Post welcomes letters from readers. We do, however, reserve the right to edit letters for purposes of clarity and space, and we regret that we cannot publish unsigned letters.

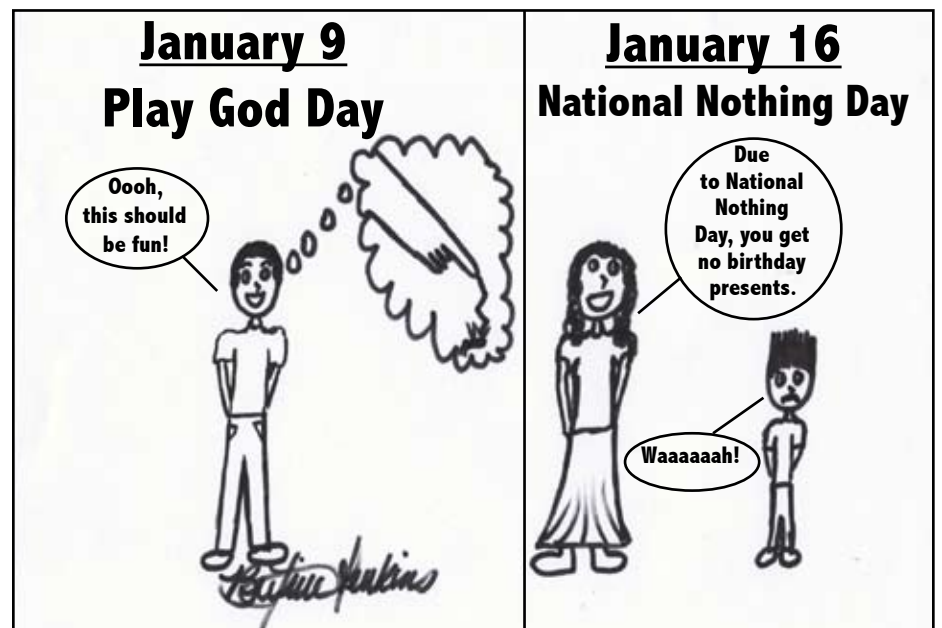
Here are a few of the more interesting days:

- Jan. 3: Festival of Sleep Day
Fruitcake Toss Day
- Jan. 6: Bean Day
- Jan. 9: Play God Day
- Jan. 10: Peculiar People Day
- Jan. 11: Step in a Puddle and Splash your Friends Day
- Jan. 12: Feast on Fabulous Wild Men Day
- Jan. 13: International Skeptics' Day
- Jan. 16: National Nothing Day
- Jan. 20: Penguin Awareness Day
- Jan. 21: Squirrel Appreciation Day
- Jan. 23: Measure your Feet Day
- Jan. 27: National Punch the Clock Day
- Jan. 28: National Kazoo Day

Now we have one whole day where untimely flatulence *isn't* frowned upon, because on Bean Day, January 6, our gas roams free! What a wonderful country this is, a land of opportunity where we are permitted to express ourselves through gas, at least in January.

Later as we progress through our month, we may start to anticipate Penguin Awareness Day, a day dedicated to one of the few native creatures to Antarctica. Dressing up in a tux or at least black and white formal wear, in honor of these cute critters can bring happiness to any heart.

Paying homage to penguins isn't the only odd activity for January. January 23 is Measure Your Feet Day. Why, we may ask? Who cares? Haven't all of us always



wondered how long and wide our feet are? Of course we have. And January 23 is the perfect opportunity to quench this inquiry.

And once we've have found the exact measurement from our heels to our toes, we can go around punching clocks! Punch the Clock Day is officially on Jan. 27. Whether we're angry or just want to try it, Jan. 27 is our day to go out on a limb.

No matter how many odd holidays we tend to celebrate, let's not forget that this website makes a valid point. Everyday is

extraordinary. Not ordinary. There is a reason to get up in the morning, and there is something special about each day.

Every day is a gift, but it's what we do with that gift that can make it a memory or just another day.

Editorial Board: *Although our editorials are written by individual board members, the thoughts and ideas conveyed are that of The Bluejay Post editorial board. Members of the Editorial Board are Kaitlin Unruh, Kyle Maddox, and*

Dress to impress

Clothing choices effect moods

By **Shelby Dawn Pulkrabek**

It's 6 o'clock Monday morning, and your alarm is rudely buzzing in your ear. You had a long weekend and just don't feel like getting up with yet so you hit the snooze button and roll over and go back to sleep for another hour.

Then you get up and think, "Ah, it's Monday, I'll just wear sweatpants and flip flops today."

You slick your hair back into a sloppy ponytail, maybe slap on a little make up, and head off to school.

You're now sitting in your first hour class and your teacher assigns you a big assignment. You don't really feel like doing it. So you decide to watch YouTube videos on your laptop all hour. This pattern continues throughout the day.

Finally the bell rings, and you notice your ton of homework because you just didn't feel like doing it in class, so you now have to spend the time you were planning to use watching TV or hanging out with friends doing homework.

It's now 6 o'clock Tuesday morning. You got a text last night from your best

friend that there was this new guy going to be in your English class, and rumor has it he is kind of cute. You want to be sure to impress him, so you get up, shower, spend a ton of time making sure your hair and make-up are absolutely perfect, and pick out the cutest outfit from your closet, then head off to school.

Your teachers pile on the same load of homework, but you feel good about yourself and are in a good mood so you get it all done in class.

Today was a much better day than yesterday. What made the difference?

The way you dress affects your mood. When you dress in holey jeans or sweatpants and flip-flops you are more likely to feel like just lying around and doing nothing.

On the contrary, if you get up, put on decent clothes and do your hair and make-up, you feel better about yourself and want to accomplish something in your day.

So next time you think about just wearing sweats to school, think about what you want to accomplish that day and question whether you are making right

The Bluejay Post 2008-2009

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Scholars' Bowl season well underway

By Britnie Jenkins

Between their home meet on December 1 and their various meets out of town, the Scholars' Bowl season, though just beginning, has already been good for members placing second at the Ingalls meet, fourth at the Syracuse meet, third at their home meet, and third in their pool at the Leoti meet.

Jennifer Hendrix, coach of four years, was pleased with the way their home tournament turned out.

"I think our home meet went fabulous," said Hendrix. "One of teams did very well, and our hospitality room was wonderful."

Newcomer to the Scholars' Bowl team, Junior Alyssa Dale had a very memorable

moment at one of the meets.

"At the Rolla meet," said Dale, "Kyle [Maddox] and I buzzed in at the same time and both buzzers went off at the same time and both lit up. We had a rock-paper-scissors contest to see who would answer and I won, but he got to answer anyway."

Hendrix has her favorite part of coaching.

"This year the



READY, SET, BUZZ IN: Sophomore Spence Byer, Senior Joel Baublits, Junior Kyle Maddox, and Senior Matt Baublits pay close attention to the question being read with the hope of knowing the answer. They placed third at their home meet. "This year the kids have a good attitude," said Hendrix. (Yearbook photo)

Super spellers strive for sure success

by Kyle Maddox

Antidisestablishmentarianism. The spotlight centers on you. The crowd looks nervously in your direction. Such a difficult word, surely, is impossible. But with a stern confidence, you step to the microphone and start. "A, n, t, i..."

USD 102 is holding its annual third through eighth grade spelling bee on February 6 at 10:00 a.m. in the high school auditorium.

Pam Burns, gifted coordinator, is directing the spelling bee.

"This is my second year [handling it]," she said. "The gifted teacher is given that responsibility."

The rules of a spelling bee are simple. Students are given a word to spell, and if they spell it incorrectly, they are "out."

"The rules are pretty much the same as they were last year," said Burns.

Tyler Siek won the spelling bee last

year.

"I was pretty nervous, but once I got into it, I just had to concentrate," said Siek. "The hardest word I had to spell was 'meringue', I think."

Once a winner of the spelling bee is determined, he or she, along with the two people behind, is sent to a regional spelling bee.

"There is a Cimarron spelling bee and then a Gray County spelling bee. The first, second, and third place [winners] of the Cimarron spelling bee goes to the Gray County spelling bee, along with the winners of other towns," said Burns.

Spelling bees can be quite traumatic for students.

P.R.I.D.E. Program to be reinstated

By Shelby Dawn Pulkrabek

The CHS student council is working to get the PRIDE Program reinstated.

"It's still been around," said StuCo sponsor Jennifer Hendrix, "and people have participated in it, but we want to popularize it."

P.R.I.D.E. stands for Personal Responsibility In Daily Effort.

"The P.R.I.D.E. Program is a way

to recognize a model student," said Hendrix.

It took some checking into to be able to bring the P.R.I.D.E. Program back.

"We had to make sure we could afford it because we give away things," said Hendrix. "We also had to make sure the student body was interested in bringing it back."

StuCo wanted to motivate students to

P.R.I.D.E. Requirements

- 100% Attendance
- No Referrals
- All-League Activities
- State Qualifier for K.S.H.S.A.A. event
- Raise GPA .5 over semester
- 4.0 GPA
- Teacher recognition/Student of the Month
- Active participant in two clubs/activities
- Special recognition/achievements either in/out of school
- Completed Planner signed by a teacher at the end of the semester

December Student of the Month

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



"DON KIM started off the semester kind of quiet, but he has really come out of his shell. He always is prepared and has his work done on time and with a smile."

--Mrs. Koehn

"BRITNIE JENKINS is an incredibly talented and conscientious student--and she always has a smile on her face."

--Mrs. Hewes



"TORI TRAHERN has shown a responsible attitude towards getting her work completed..."

--Mr. Hornung



Ten young vocalists to perform at Dodge City in 200-voice choir

By Nicole Marshall

The elementary honor choir will be going to Dodge City on January 17 to participate in a 200-voice choir.

Elementary students attending are Madison Anderson, Britney Bogner, Andrea Bryant, Johannah Hughes, Abby LeRock, MacKenzy Meis, Mishayla Moffitt, Mariana Morales, Kaleb Neuschafer, and Jessica Wehkamp.

To be a part of the honor choir, the students had to audition.

"The students auditioned for me, and I chose the strongest voices," choir director Lynn Unruh said. "Those who

were interested sang for me."

Normally, only five students are chosen from each school, but the choir needed more altos and sopranos.

"Our school was lucky enough to be chosen to be allowed to enter more than the normal number of students," Unruh said.

The purpose of elementary honor choir is giving younger students a chance to work with other students who are equally strong.

"It gives the students the chance to concentrate on singing," Unruh said.

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY 'FILTERS'

Facebook takes Internet by storm:

CHS students fall in love with online trend

By Nicole Marshall

A new website has taken the Internet by storm since 2004. Facebook has become a worldwide web sensation. Many teenagers have become fairly well acquainted with this new website, where they can e-mail, chat, and send applications to any number of friends they choose.

There are various applications that can be used on Facebook.

"I like Bumper Stickers because they can be hilarious," freshman Grace Royle said.



READY, SET, STUDY: Senior Gretchen Bailey studies for her upcoming finals. Like many juniors and seniors, Bailey uses her laptop at home to check Facebook. (Marshall photo)

Bumper Stickers is an application with pictures from movies, sayings, and other various topics you can send to your friends.

"I like expressing myself through art and drawing, so I use the Bumper Sticker application," freshman Cammie Losey said.

There are more applications than Bumper Stickers.

"I like using the Fun Wall because it's really fun," eighth grader Jaden Butcher said.

There is more to Facebook, however, than applications. You can send messages to friends, and now you can chat with them as well.

"I talk to my cousins mostly when using the Chat Box," said Losey.

Royle keeps in touch with fellow classmates when talking on the chat box, which is like the popular MSN Messenger.

"I talk to Breanna Bryant mainly on Chat Box," she said.

Senior JaLena Lentz uses Chat Box as well as her fellow classmates.

"I mainly talk to my sisters on Chat Box," she said.

Facebook also offers news about books or movies or favorite TV shows.

"I have received many offers to join

groups that are really annoying," senior Gretchen Bailey said. "There are a lot of different things, but mainly the news I actually like receiving is news about *Twilight*."

Seniors Ashley and Alisha Schlicht look for different types of news rather than movies and books.

"I like seeing what gossip is being talked about, relationship statuses, and comments," Ashley Schlicht said.

Many people get Facebook mainly because everyone else has.

"My sister had an account and so did everyone else. I decided to get one too," senior Tiara Dewees said.

Others, however, have made an account just for the fun of it.

"I made mine mainly for socializing," Royle said.

People have made an account not only because everyone else has, but they have made theirs because it was the thing to have.

"It was the thing and I could talk to my friends when I couldn't see them at school," Bailey said.

Facebook isn't only about talking to friends and sending Bumper Stickers. Sometimes you learn important informa-

tion in strange ways.

"I found out through Facebook that one of my friends had passed away," Butcher said.

Many people send group invites that people have found rather odd.

"Someone sent me the group Anti-Obama, and it was just weird," Royle said.

Facebook not only is about receiving strange facts; it can also be positive in ways to contact people we don't see everyday.

"I get to talk to friends that I can't see at school," Butcher said.

Facebook lets you add friends and possibly make new ones if you're willing to allow them to be your friend.

"I like adding and making new friends," Bailey said.

Facebook began its reign in 2004, yet it seems to have been around for ages.

"I've had my account for a year," Dewees said.

For some students, however, it's just the beginning to become a part of the Facebook family.

Facebook has been around for a mere four years, but roughly fifty million people have an account on the net.

OMG! txtng sweeps CHS students' lives

By Britnie Jenkins

Have you ever been at a restaurant & looked around, only to find the high school students to be texting under the table?

Texting seems to have become a necessity for students. It's hard to find a student without a phone with texting capabilities.

Some students such as junior Whitney Barton are constantly texting.

"I text 24/7," said Barton. "I'll wake up from sleeping because I heard my phone and text back; then, go back to sleep. It's an addiction."

Other students, such as senior Gretch-

en Bailey, may have their phones most of the day, but cannot do two things at once.

"I text for about three-fourths of the day," she said. "I cannot multitask though."

Sophomore Eva Giebler agrees with Bailey.

"It's really hard to talk to more than one person at the same time," she said.

You may see some students texting while eating at a restaurant, but other students have better manners.

"It's rude to text during dinner," said Bailey.

Some people think that students may never send anything in a text but "wuzzup?"

"brb," "g2g," or "lol." *See sidebar.

"I send meaningful texts," said Barton. "But all my meaningful texts are for my boyfriend."

English teachers such as Lynne Hewes are even finding "txt tkl" in students' English papers.

"It's driving me crazy this year," Hewes said. "Only in the last few years have I seen U R for 'your' and uncapitalized 'i's' for the pronoun 'I' in formal essays."

Texting is so addicting to some, they lose their phone privileges.

"I got my phone taken away for the day at work," said Bailey. "Then it got

taken away for a month at home."

For the addicted texters, losing their phone is not a good thing.

"I got my phone taken away by a teacher before," said Barton. "I could barely handle it for that few hours. I usually remember all my numbers, and I tell another friend to text the person I was texting that I can't text until I get my phone back."

Texting is becoming so addictive that even adults are starting to learn how to use text messages to communicate with their children.

"I text my mom a lot," said Barton. "She texts me back, but it takes her awhile

Texting Lingo for the unknowing person

brb= be right back
lol= laugh out loud
g2g= go to go
ntm= not too much
ily= I love you

ttul= talk to you later
wuzzup= what's up
idk= I don't know
bff= best friends forever
tmi= too much information

b4= before
<3= heart or love
asap= as soon as possible
bisflatm= boy, I sure feel like a turquoise monkey

cya= see you
l8er= later
tgif= thank God it's Friday
thnx= thanks
fyi= for your information

INTO LIVES OF STUDENTS, FACULTY

Man of copper fixes USD 102's network problems

by Kyle Maddox

Wires, copper, and plastic, when put together, become circuits, transistors, and chips, which become desktop and laptop computers, which, when combined, become networks. And when networks come together, you have lots of problems.

And that's where Wes Johnson comes in. As the technology coordinator of USD 102, he handles these kinds of problems and many more.

Born in Alva, Oklahoma, Johnson

moved to Cimarron in 1981. He lives here now with his wife, Cathy.

Johnson has many hobbies.

"Listening to music, fishing, and reading," he said. "I've also played in a band many, many times. I was in a rock and roll band called the Suite Raisins, who played in Cimarron once."

Johnson started out directing band for CHS, but in 2000, he switched to technology coordinator.

"They needed a tech coordinator, and I enjoyed it, so I thought I'd make the

change," Johnson said. "I can't say that [I like the technology coordinator job better than being the band director]. I had been the band director for a long, long time, and it was simply time for a change."

Johnson also teaches the Computer Applications II class.

"The teaching is the best part of my day; that's what I like," he said. "Truthfully, what makes it possible is the fact that we have Macs over PCs. The OS is more stable and easier to handle than Windows. No viruses or malware, but those are just a few of the reasons we chose Mac."

Johnson teaches four major computer programs; InDesign, Photoshop, Dreamweaver, and iMovie.

"My favorite program to teach is Photoshop," he said, "because it's more exciting for the students."

With the world quickly turning digital, any sort of technology coordinator has a big job to do.

"The most important part of what I do is keeping the school's technology in operation," Johnson said.

Also, in this information age, digital is the way to go.

"[The laptops] make getting information much more convenient," Johnson

said. "We also think that it helps prepare students for what will come after high school."

Johnson's career isn't just playing with computers and teaching kids how to do the same, however. There are both good and bad parts to his job.

"Constant variety would be one of the best aspects of it," he said. "Having too many projects going at the same time is one of the parts I don't handle as well as I should."

Computer technology changes constantly.

"The changing from dial-up to hi-speed DSL alone was amazing," Johnson said. "Our first computers' speed was 16 MHz compared to 1.83 GHz, and the early ones cost almost \$2000 a piece, compared to the \$920 for the current laptops."

The currently failing economy affects almost every aspect of daily life, even something so seemingly sheltered as our school.

"Of course, there's never enough money; that goes without saying. But here, we've done pretty well," Johnson said.

"I've never wanted for anything I can prove useful to the school board."



MODERN MUSIC MAN TURNS TOWARDS TECHNOLOGY: Computer Applications II teacher Wes Johnson watches over his student's Photoshop projects. Johnson teaches InDesign, Photoshop, Dreamweaver, and iMovie. "Teaching is the best part of my day," says Johnson. (Maddox photo)

Multi-faceted student takes talent to new

By Kaitlin Unruh

When it comes to pictures and the technology, for most it can get a little complicated. Taking what others would describe as confusing, Maria Rodriquez, CHS senior, is a whiz when it comes to pictures and their relating computer programs. But it didn't just come to this talented girl.

"I spent a lot of time at home messing around on my computer when we first got them last year," Rodriquez said. "It's just a lot of practice."

Focusing her practice on the photo applications just seemed natural when Rodriquez became involved in Yearbook, a course in high school which involves a lot of work with pictures.

"I like taking pictures," said Rodriquez. "That's the main reason why I signed up for Yearbook."

Combining her two hobbies, taking pictures and messing around on computers, Rodriquez naturally learned all the shortcuts in Adobe PhotoShop, an application that helps enhance and edit photos.

"I normally try to make my page better than the others," Rodriquez said. "I take what I've learned and apply it to my yearbook pages."

All in all, Rodriquez wouldn't mind having a career relating to computers.

"I wouldn't mind doing Yearbook stuff for a career," she said, "but then I wouldn't mind being a teacher or a photographer either."

Keeping her options open for college and a career, this capable student will undoubtedly do great things.

Taking her experience and gift for understanding technical machines, Rodriquez shows a lot of promise.



BOOK IT: Senior Maria Rodriquez sits at her yearbook station, working on her page and assisting her classmates. This is Maria's second year in Yearbook, where she takes pictures and improves their quality on a computer to make our school's annual.

Sports Updates

Wrestling

Ulysses Boys Wrestling Results:

JV

Jason Maddox-2nd Place
Eduardo Ramirez-4th Place
Tyler White-1st Place

Varsity

Chris Lacy-4th Place
John Shaugnessy-4th Place

Boys' Basketball

The boys' basketball season starts with a hoot and a holler, as the Jays reach it to the championship of the **Bluejay Invitational**. On December 20, they begin league play, in a league the features current state favorites Holcomb, a strong Lakin squad, and that ever-enigmatic Sublette.

Kicking league play off will be Elkhart, who the Bluejay boys have fared very well against in recent years.

Girls' Basket-

With high expectations, the girls' basketball team has not disappointed. Going to 3-1 after a heartbreaking championship loss, the Bluejays are captained by a number of different girls, in a number of different classes this year.

With strong play from freshmen **Lindsay Wehkamp** and **Avery Burns**, as well as seniors **Taylor Claar**, **Alicia Owens**, **Alicia Schlicht**, and **Yomaira Rosas**, the

Upcoming Events

Christmas break means Christmas practice, and that isn't holly jolly for anyone. Make sure to eat your carbs, and avoid fatty food that might slow you down on that dreaded first day back.

Also, HPL basketball tournament starts on the 19th, and the Bluejays will try and continue their success inside the league, facing tough schedules on each

Bluejays have sensational invitational

By J.M. Kliever

Heading into the Bluejay Invitational, no one knew quite what to expect. Both Bluejay basketball teams, however, stunned the whole community, by reaching the finals.

Starting off strong by beating Healy, the boys' and girls' teams were set up well for a chance at the big game.

Deerfield stood in the boys' way, and Bucklin loomed in the girls' future. Both schools were no match for the intensity that the Bluejays were bringing to the table all week.

Both girls and boys played stellar defense that shut down their opponents. Getting the offense going was the only problem for the Bluejay boys, but eventually that fell into place right behind the ironclad defense of Cimarron.

"It felt really good to do so well," said senior guard Stephen Austin. "We played with a lot of heart and it paid off."

The championship round didn't fair as well for the mighty blue. Both teams fell to the returning state champions, South Gray.

"They are a tough team, definitely one of the best in the area," starting point guard Jordan Toothaker said.

And tough they were. The Rebels controlled both games from the beginning and went on to take the gold at the



NOT IN HER HOUSE: Freshman Lindsay Wehkamp boards the ball with ferocity as the Bluejay girls once again find themselves knocking on victory's door. Wehkamp has really come on strong all year, and is a big part of the Bluejay post game. (Yearbook photo).

invitational.

Still, second is better than third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, and especially eighth. Both set of players have nothing to be ashamed about, and should be proud with their victories.

The Cimarron girls sported a plethora

of all tournament players, including Janae Helfrich, Alisha Schlicht, Avery Burns, and Alicia Owens.

The boys' team had one player enter the elite group of all tournament; Stephen Austin's play throughout the tournament earned him a spot at the top.

Rant with Kliever

Let me hear those bird calls

By J.M. Kliever

This month, my normal column had to be revised quite a bit. Instead of ranting about things that are wrong, I'd like to take time and mention a few things that have gone just swimmingly recently.

Not two days before I started writing the story before you right now, I had a copied and pressed story about how awful our student section was for abandoning our boys in that dreadful loss to Meade.

However, you have all made me eat my words. Not only did the "Bird Watchers" all suit up in the wonderful shirts provided through the hard work of StuCo President-elect Spence Byer, but they have shaken the

foundation of our gym with their incessant cheering and outrageously funny chants.

I have never been prouder of our crowd than I was after the Bluejay Invitational. With claps, stomps, and a few flamboyant comments, the CHS student section has become a feared sixth man for the Cimarron basketball teams.

Sure, the effort on the court has been absolutely wonderful from both of the featured Bluejay basketball teams, but the effort produced in the crowd also helped tremendously.

With the new shirts and new cheers and jeers, the successful "Blue Out" our fans have produced is one that strikes a

sense of unease in every opponent we face.

Not only did our athletic teams both make it to the championship of the Invitational, but our crowd also has.

The decibels produced by every CHS student have reached a record level, and never before has an opposing player been more afraid to drive in and get blocked or pull out and airball a shot.

So how do we keep such an intense level of candor and enthusiasm? Well, mainly, it is going to have to come from pure school pride.

We aren't going to win every game, and where we need to set ourselves apart

Brothers band together for Honor Band

By Kaitlin Unruh

State Honor Band auditions will be held on January 3 in Salina. This year CHS has two seniors attending these live auditions.

"I'm really nervous for the live auditions," said Senior Joel Baublits, who will be auditioning as a percussionist. "You only get one chance. After that there's nothing you can do."

Joel Baublits and his brother Matt Baublits, also a senior, both auditioned for District Honor Band.

For District, the instrumentalists are able to rerecord their auditions until they think it is perfect.

After recording their auditions on tape, the school mails them in.

"I like the live audition better," Matt Baublits said. "You only have to do it once instead of over and over again, which only makes you more nervous."

Although the brothers don't agree on which audition they would prefer, both are excited for the opportunity.

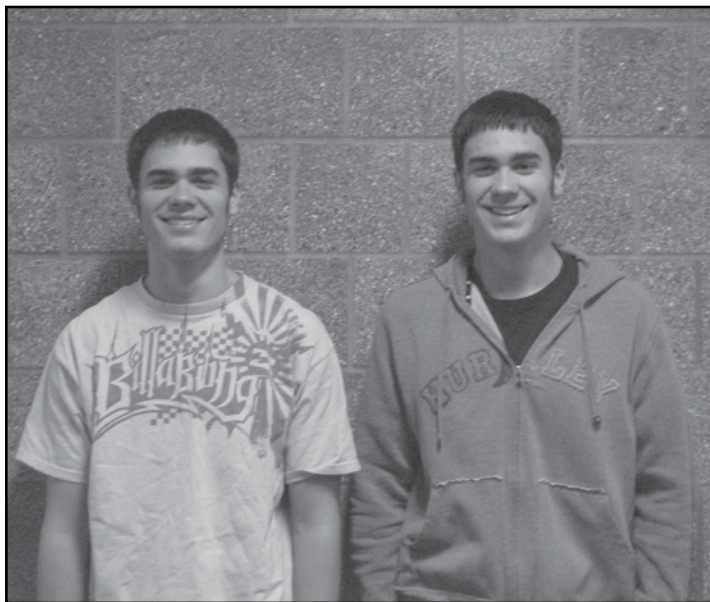
"I think we have a pretty good chance to make it into State," Joel Baublits said. "We've been practicing nonstop."

Practicing isn't enough sometimes.

"They don't just want to know you can play," Matt Baublits said. "They want to see that you're a musician."

On occasion the six judges will ask for performers to play a scale of some sort.

Requiring them to be well versed in not only their instrument, but



PLAY IT: Seniors Matt and Joel Baublits will be going to Salina on January 3 to audition for State Honor Band. The brothers auditioned for District Honor Band by tape. Their State auditions will be live.

also music in general.

"Then the judges will score you and

Wiseman to offer new classic literature class, elective option excites English department

by Kyle Maddox

If you happen to belong to the junior and senior classes, you know the terror and difficulty of required reading of classic novels. If you're not, well, get ready for a wild ride.

Sue Wiseman, English teacher, plans to replace her Composition II class with a Classic Literature course.

"Classic Literature is an upper-level elective course intended to prepare students for college in the areas of reading, comprehending, and writing about classic literature," states the class's syllabus.

Wiseman will be covering three classic novels.

"We are going to read Animal Farm [by George Orwell], The Great Gatsby [by F. Scott Fitzgerald], and The Scarlet Letter [Nathaniel Hawthorne]," said Wiseman. "Since I haven't taught this class before, I'm only scheduling three, but if we have time, we'll cover more."

Many college classes require knowledge of the classics, but said knowledge is a good idea if one wishes to be a well-rounded individual.

"I am personally excited about this

new elective," said Lynne Hewes, who teaches Junior English, "because our school doesn't offer any other electives from the English Department. This class will give students a taste of just how interesting literary classes can be. Those classes should be mostly discussion, not dry reading."

Many students consider classics to be difficult works to read.

"Through close reading of the works, supplemented by study guide questions, discussion, quizzes, tests, and films," said Wiseman, "students benefit from studying

Early November.

Early November began in 1999 and ended in 2007. Since then, Enders has begun a new solo project that he intends to call Arthur Enders and a Million Different People. He will be touring with Angels and Airwaves.

Ace Enders song, "Reaction", off the album The Secret Wars, is an upbeat song with catchy sound. "Reaction" is a love song, yet it doesn't sound sappy and depressing the way most love songs

do. It has more meaningful lyrics that are easy to memorize and a sound that is fun to dance to.

"I hold my breath and wait for your reaction. I stand my ground 'cause I'm not ready to back down. I know but where could I go. Wait for your reaction, wait for your reaction."

Ace Enders is an amazing artist, but not only does he have a voice that melts in your ears, he also has an incredible sound that even heavy metal rockers

Organizational Bytes

The Scholars' Bowl meet that was originally scheduled for December

9 has been rescheduled for January 13. Scholars' Bowl also has a meet at Hugoton on January 15. It starts at 4:00 p.m. For more information about



On January 29 Cottey College will hold a tea party for junior and senior girls. Cottey College is

an all-girls college located in Nevada, Missouri. It is a two-year school built

Forensics season starts the year off with their first meet at Satanta on January 31. Lynne Hewes and Rebecca Koehn are sharing coach-



At the beginning of February, the KAYS club will be collecting money for the "Pennies for Patients." Seventy-five percent of the earnings will go to Kansas

The National Honor Society clothing sales will be handed out on January 9.

This will be the final time to get clothing before next school year, so if you are wanting some Bluejay gear to show your school spirit, be sure and pick up an order form from Mrs. Johnson, NHS sponsor.



Ace Enders Voice wins with an ace

By Nicole Marshall

Ace Enders is beginning in the music world and, it is not difficult for him at all.

Arthur "Ace" Enders didn't start out as a solo artist. He was formerly the lead singer and guitarist for the emo/punk band

The Principal's Perspective

Three Factors Influencing Enrollment Choices

My momma always told me that time would speed up as I grew older. Time must really be flying because I just can't believe that the school year is almost half over already. As I look ahead to the remainder of the school year, I see many events on the horizon. We have basketball/wrestling, spring break, parent-teacher conferences, music contests, and graduation all coming up this spring.

One event that is coming quickly is that of enrollment. Starting in January, we will begin enrolling students for next year. Mrs. Millershaski will advise students on what classes are required for graduation and what electives are available.

I recently read an article that discussed why people get caught into patterns, routines, or 'ruts' in their lives. When faced with decisions, we often allow three different factors to influence our decisions. Those factors are 'knowledge, beliefs, and experience.' When we are unwilling to confront and address these three factors, they can influence us to stay in our comfort zone or to remain stagnate.

For example, as a former mathematics teacher, I would usually use the 'lecture' mode for delivering my subject matter to the students. I felt comfortable with using 'lecture' as my teaching technique. When a principal suggested that I use 'cooperative learning,' I initially refused the idea. Now, in hindsight, I can see that I refused his suggestion because of the three factors of 'knowledge, beliefs, and experience.'

Specifically, I didn't have any 'knowledge' of how cooperative learning worked, I 'believed' that lecture was working great (it wasn't), and I didn't have any 'experience' in teaching in a cooperative learning mode. Therefore, I didn't take my administrator's advice for a long time. Finally, when I tried it, I've found it to be the most effective teaching model for me.

Now, back to the enrollment issue... often times, we see students take the easiest classes they can take. They don't take classes that challenge. They take a particular class only because a friend is taking the same class. Many times, they take one class over another because of the three factors I mentioned above.

The student doesn't really have 'knowledge' of what the class involves, so they avoid ever learning new information. They may not 'believe' that they can be successful in the class. Students usually know more than they think they do, but just don't realize it. (As a side note, I used to teach some beginning principles of Calculus to my Algebra I students without them ever knowing it.) Finally, since the student has no 'experience' in the class, they avoid it all together.

In summary, encourage your children to 'branch out' when they enroll. I think that they will be pleasantly surprised when they learn something out of the ordinary.

Look over their enrollment sheets to make sure that your child is taking a few challenging classes. Encourage them to 'expand' their experiences. Education is about learning, not about always taking the easy road.

--Mr. Brown, CHS Principal

Counselor's Corner

As we come to the end of first semester and begin to plan for spring semester, I have two topics that I would like to share with you.

For many of my seniors and their parents the big topic right now is **financial aid to help with the cost of college.**

Recently, a meeting was held here for junior and senior parents regarding this topic. I wanted to highlight a couple of items regarding the FAFSA process.

First, **financial aid** is defined as monetary assistance for students to pay educational expenses at the postsecondary level. Financial aid comes in the form of **grants, loans and work-study.**

This year the government is highly encouraging people to complete and submit the form on-line. Please make sure that you go to the correct site, www.fafsa.ed.gov, to complete the free application. If you mistakenly go to the **.com** site, you will have to pay a fee.

For those of you who prefer working on paper, you can print the application and mail it. If you have any questions regarding financial aid or filling out the FAFSA form, please call me.

I am very excited about the next topic. Our new superintendent is heading up a project called "**Honor Flight**" It is a national program to help get WWII Veterans to Washington, D.C., in order to see the WWII memorial.

Juniors or seniors are matched with veterans as their guardian for the day. It will be a great experience for all who go. If you have a WWII veteran that you would like to see go, contact the board office to sign up.

Juniors and seniors, if you are interested in being a guardian, please stop by the counseling office.

I will close with a quote that I read the other day that really has stayed with me:

"It is not whether you get knocked down. It's whether you get up again."

---Vince Lombardi

Mrs. Millershaski, CHS Counselor

January Birthdays

2	Joshua Robinson	19	Alberto Soto
2	Alisha Schlicht	21	Katie Herkelman
2	Ashley Schlicht	21	Kourtney Herkelman
4	Jordan Beck	21	Michaela Herron
4	Joseph Franzitta	23	Melynda McDonald
5	Dylana Hemmert	24	Jenessa Smith
8	Tyler Royle	25	Janie Jacobson
12	Diana Arreola	27	Ross Addison
12	Tiffany Becker	27	Jarron Boardman
14	Avery Burns	28	Luke Reed
16	Nathan Jenkins	28	Juliette Reimer
18	Adian Shaughnessy	29	Nicholas Hibbert
19	Alexandra Adams		
19	Garret Lacy		
19	Wyatt Slaven		