

The Dog Pound

Adviser Sherri Permeswaran

It's a great day to be a Bulldog!



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Kasie Schindel joins LCHS staff

by Emily Wilson

Kasie Schindel is the new English teacher for sophomores and juniors.

Schindel graduated from LCHS in 2011 and from the University of Iowa in 2015.

Before coming to LCHS, she taught freshman English at Sioux City West for two years and 4th through 6th grade special education at Hinton for one.

Schindel was inspired to teach English by her mother, Kelly Collins, who has taught language arts at LCMS for over 20 years.

Schindel has two children, a two-year-old girl named Braxley and a baby boy named Oakley.

Schindel started her new job



in an unusual way. The first several weeks were spent on maternity leave during which she spent time with her new baby, hung out with her family around the house, and watched

hours of Netflix.

When she did return to school in October, she faced the complications of teaching during COVID: In addition to increased sanitation and masks, Schindel explained other changes: “The way we teach such as recording videos of us talking and explaining the tasks or assignments; you get thirsty really fast and you get hot after a while of talking and repeating lessons each period.”

Returning to school in October was also challenging: Schindel explained, “Starting off later than every teacher made me feel behind.”

Although it was a rough start, she has started getting into a routine and enjoys

teaching her classes. Already she has plans on how she is going to teach this year and how she might put her own spin on the sophomore and junior English curricula.

Kasie Schindel was “excited and ready” to come back to school and impressed by how self-sufficient the sophomores and juniors were while she was gone, especially compared to the younger classes she taught before.

Her students are also excited to be in her classes. One anonymous junior described Schindel as “a nice, energetic, easy-to-get-along-with teacher, who should make sophomore and junior year much easier.”

Video media class informs and entertains

by Autumn Maddox

Media specialist Nancy Isebrand has been teaching the Bulldog Video Media class for the last two years. This class was created to make all of the graphic designs for the school and the scoreboards.

Students in this class also create *Bulldog Bites*, informational videos about what is going on in and out of the school. The students film, edit, and participate in the videos.

Video media is mostly student run and allows for students to learn valuable skills in design and video making.

Senior Ben Ferris described

video media as “a fun way to use your imagination to create videos and get credit for it.”

Ben’s favorite part about video media is the bloopers they make from their *Bulldog Bites* videos.

Joe Rosener, who is also a senior, discovered video media when he was signing up for classes and knew instantly he wanted to join.

Joe stated, “I saw the class and the description and my immediate reaction was YES!”

He plans to use these skills in his future career. Joe recently released a short film called *Clue Fifteen*; it can be found

on YouTube.

LCHS offers many classes, but what makes video media special is the opportunity to grow skills all four years. Potentially a student could take eight semesters of video media in high school.

Video media students record the highlights of games. These students get into the games for free when they video, and they get to be close to the action.

Video media students also visited colleges to tour their media departments. Since this class at LCHS is still new, Isebrand believes visiting other schools’ media departments is

a great way to understand what LCHS still needs.

Those who watch *Bulldog Bites* say that they love it.

Senior Adrienne Stamer-Fuentes said, “I think they are very creative. They seem to know exactly what they are doing. Their hard work really pays off.”

Staff also enjoy watching *Bulldog Bites*. Spanish teacher

Jill Bomgaars states, “I like watching the videos because they give updates about the great things Le Mars students are doing! I also enjoy watching the incredible skills the video media class is learning as they

produce these videos. I have been really appreciative of how *Bulldog Bites* helps keep us all informed and supporting one another.”

Isebrand said the hardest challenges of this class are learning all the skills and technology that come with it.

Isebrand said, “I will take any students interested at any skill level no matter what period they can take it.”

She encourages any students interested to give it a try. Who knows? New students might just fall in love with film making and graphic design.

Life at LCHS



Accidents plague parking lot

by Devin Hansen

Eight driving accidents occurred in the high school parking lot during the first quarter according to Vice-Principal Kyle Formanek.

Students usually arrive between 8:00 and 8:15 AM, which is when most of the fender bender accidents happened.

About 300 students and teachers park in the lot on a daily basis.

Many students are upset with the way their fellow classmates act in the parking lot.

Senior Erica Koonce said, "Driving irresponsibly, speeding, and backing up without looking are the main problems in our parking lot."

Senior Madison Claussen added, "People drive really fast, and they don't stop at the stop signs."

Formanek explained, "Inexperienced teenage drivers not paying attention to the road is another cause of accidents in the parking lot."

Some students are also annoyed by the sounds. Senior

Noah Krommenhoek said, "People shouldn't squeal their tires in the lot."

School officials are trying to prevent accidents. According to Formanek, "The police have been making trips around the parking lot in the morning to try to get students to slow down."

If an accident occurs in the parking lot, students should report to the office and get officer Vickery involved as well as contact their parents, explained Formanek.

Golfers wrap up season

by Ellie Petersen

The Bulldog boys golf team ended their regular season with a dual record of 3-2. They finished 9th out of 14 teams at districts.

Jaxon Baumgartner got the most improved award, Cameron Daggett received the C.H.I.P award, and Dylan Susemihl the MVP.

The team consisted of seniors Jaxon Baumgartner, Donovan Daggett, Issac Johnson, Spencer Mackey, Dylan Pratt, and Brayden Schmidt; junior Cameron Daggett and Brody Vanderloo; sophomore Issac Tolzin; and freshmen Ben Hoss, Joseph Rasmussen, and Dylan Susemihl.

Covid-19 made many changes to the way the athletes competed this season. Coach Steve Wick said, "Iowa High School Athletic Association set out a very stringent list of items relating to the COVID virus, most dealing with social distancing, wearing of masks, and washing your hands."

"We also follow the LeMars School District policies as far as athletes being quarantined throughout our season. Regardless of all the new

requirements, the Le Mars Bulldogs still made the most of it."

The Bulldogs played tournaments at many different places. Baumgartner said, "Our home course Willow Creek, Green Valley, and Whispering Creek" were some of the places they played.

The guys made many memories. For example, Baumgartner explained, "Practicing with Schmidty and Pratt and scoring a 75 at Fox Run were enjoyable parts of the season."

Freshman Dylan Susemihl had a good experience as a freshman when he made varsity. He said the most difficult part of the season was "going up against juniors and

seniors as a freshman."

This season was definitely different from past seasons. Senior Donny Daggett said, "It was different because you could be gone at any time so you wanted to play as much as possible."

The Dogs had some tough competition. Senior Brayden Schmidt said, "East High School was the biggest competition this year."

Even through the struggles of the season, the boys still had some moments they enjoyed.

Coach Wick said, "The most enjoyable part of our season was the improvement our golfers made from opening practice to our last meet."



Lilly Brent gets support

by Pypr Stoeffler

The people of LCHS have been working hard to support sophomore Lilly Brent and her family during Lilly's battle with bone cancer (Ewing's Sarcoma).

Brent has been getting chemo treatments since late August.

The student council put on a fundraiser called "chuck-your-change" and raised a grand total of \$1,050.31! This was held in the high school parking lot on September 19 after school.

In addition, Lilly's stepmom, Tracey Brent, organized a shirt order form for people to buy; 250 shirts have already been sold.

The Brent family feels very supported: "I feel grateful to be a part of a community that is so thoughtful and giving! It is something that I have never experienced before, and I give my deepest gratitude towards the community!" said Tracey Brent.

Lilly's family admits that things have changed, but they are trying to make everything as normal as possible. Tracey also said that Monte (Lilly's father) and Lilly are away quite a bit for chemo treatments in Sioux Falls which makes time spent with Lilly a little bit different.

Levi Brent, Lilly's stepbrother, added some words of encouragement to Lilly as well: "Lilly, you are strong and you are loved. There are lots of

people that have your back in this fight; I love you sis."

Lilly's close friends have also been very supportive.

Elizabeth Koonce said, "A couple of us girls put some dye in our hair and helped Lilly dye hers as well. Then later when she started losing it, we helped her cut it in several hairstyles and shave it. I think that definitely helped cheer her up."

Emily Kuiken and Taylor Ouradnik went to visit Lilly in the hospital. Kuiken said, "Before school started and her treatments I was with Lilly 95% of the summer, and it [was hard] not being with her every day during the school year."

Lilly's friends are trying to make it as easy as possible for the change that she is going through.

Meredith Arnold said, "We have to be careful because although we miss her, her health is a lot more important. It was a tough adjustment for a lot of us at first, but at the end of the day, we all will always stick together and we know she will push through it. We've been trying to be as supportive as possible to her family, Lilly, and to each other."

Taylor Ouradnik added that she misses their "late night field trips to random places [and arguing about who's right]."

Seniors, use the qr code to fill out a senior profile.



Seniors say goodbye to activities they love

by Hannah Albert

One tradition for LCHS is a night where seniors get recognized for their hard work and leadership.

According to a recent *Dog Pound* survey, most seniors look forward to the opportunity to walk down the court, field, or stage with their parents/guardians and share their goals and plans after completing high school.

Several seniors think “the best part of senior night is walking out with parents/guardians and getting recognition from the crowd.”

In some LCHS activities, teammates write about each senior player on their team. For volleyball and dance team, underclassmen give speeches regarding how the seniors impacted the team and what they will miss about having seniors play with them.

As fall activities ended, seniors reported already feeling sad. Jaxon Baumgartner, Aaron Hauser, and Briley Pollema all said they will miss playing with their teammates.

Pyr Stoeffler said, “I will miss my teammates and

coaches, the fans who support us, and the environment in general.”

Ben Ferris already misses being part of his team: “It feels bad knowing that I’ll never play another legit football game again. Let alone step on another field again with that purpose or intent to play the game.”

Morgan Marienau also felt sad, explaining, “Another step in my life is done.”

Seniors will miss many different aspects about participating in activities

throughout the years.

“The coaches,” said Riayn Hoebelheinrich.

“Teammates,” said Collin Boehmer, Mya Kibby, Morgan Marienau, Caroline Meis, Mason Parrott, Adriana Stamer-Fuentes, and Aaraon Hauser.

“The atmosphere,” said Brenna Dirksen.

“Playing the sport I’ve been playing since I was little,” commented Kibby.

Logan Gerdes said, “The competitions,”

A great number of seniors

report that they will miss the “connection/bond they created between the entire team.”

According to the survey, most seniors agree that the best part about being a Bulldog is “having family, friends, staff, and other students supporting the journey.”

As their time in high school comes to an end, seniors have mixed emotions.

Marienau explained, “I’m on to the next chapter of my career, and it is sad to be completing all the lasts.”

Robotics team’s success relies on team work

by Kennedi Masuen and Autumn Maddox

After a stellar season last year winning their league tournament, the LCHS robotics team is ready to kick off a new year and compete with new changes and challenges.

Robotics is a hands-on learning opportunity open to students in grades 9-12. However, a limited amount of open spots are available.

The team, made up of 10 members, is coached by Lori Carter and Tracy Wingert.

Carter said, “Robotics is open to everyone, but [students] have to apply because we are limited to a certain number of

players on our team.”

Anyone can join robotics as long as it does not conflict with other activities. Students have to be willing to put in at least 4 hours of time per week.

Sophomore Austin Hayworth said, “We have a survey of sorts that helps us determine how well one might work on a team. The most common reason we don’t allow people on the team is simply scheduling conflicts.

“If people have multiple extracurriculars or have a winter sport that requires them to practice after school daily, it is unlikely they will be able to

come in and work with us as a team.”

Many challenges have arisen due to the pandemic, and the robotics team feels those challenges heavily. Hayworth said, “In previous years, we’ve competed about once every month at different schools. This year, however, we will be competing virtually over a span of 9 weeks.”

Even with the challenges, the team still plans to compete if they get the chance. Carter said, “Even though it is less fun because we cannot compete in person, we still plan to do our best when we compete this December.”

The challenge for the robot this year is described by senior Jack Masuen as “picking up 3/4 inch x 5 inch discs and shooting them into a low medium or high goal.”

Sophomore Michael Meis explained, “A lot of it is learning by trial and error and ingenuity. However, I did have help from upperclassmen to show me how to do things, or Youtube.”

Robotics is completely self-taught. In fact, the advisors are not allowed to help build the robot. Many students join the club with very little if any

knowledge and learn from other students or the internet how to build a robot.

Some members have their own jobs when it comes to making the robot. Masuen and Meis are the ones who do most of the building. While they are doing that, Ethan Hulinsky, another senior, is doing coding to get the robot to move correctly.

Senior Alex Meier said his favorite part about robotics is that “students get to make all of the decisions; they run the team.”

Carter’s favorite part of coaching robotics is “watching the kids solve problems.”

At the matches the robot does 30 seconds for the first round, which is called autonomous. During autonomous, the robot has been programmed by the robotics members to move around without the students controlling it.

Next it goes through a 90-second round called teleop. During these 90 seconds the students are controlling the robot and working together with another team to get points. The highest of the three goals is the one that will earn the teams the most points when they throw the ring into it. The

middle and bottom goals will also get points, just not as many.

Then it is time for the 30 seconds of end game. The teams are trying to get as many points as possible in these periods of time. They continue to play just like they did in the last round, but they usually go as fast as possible. At the end of all the matches, the teams see who has the most points, making them the winner.

For the past few years, the Le Mars robotics team has gone to state competition in Coralville, Iowa. They have yet to win, but they have come close. Last year they placed 3rd overall, and 2nd in their division. This group of students works very well together trying to improve their robot every chance they get.

Senior Sophie Bixenman joined robotics because “it sounded like something fun and new to try.”

Masuen said he joined robotics “To get more involved in engineering and learn about the design process of making a robot.”

Senior Hunter LaPato said, “I joined robotics to try something new.”

Speech teams prepare for competition

by Kiley Allan and Ellie Petersen

The speech department has officially started its season that will look unlike any other.

In a typical year, over 100 students perform in highly competitive groups, traveling to contests, and attending numerous rehearsals, but with COVID-19 still rearing its horrible head, things will be a little different.

One aspect of the speech team that has not changed are the two head coaches. Sherri Permeswaran has coached speech at LCHS for 29 years; she heads the individual events (IE) speech team and assists with large group. Erin Ohrlund has coached at LCHS for 16 years; she heads the large group team and assists with IE’s.

Permeswaran and Ohrlund were thrilled to welcome new assistant coach Molly Grell.

Grell said, “I am excited to work with some of my students outside of class.”

She hopes to help them by teaching skills that they can apply to other classes and careers and become better

public speakers.

Grell recently helped the Le Mars FFA Chapter prepare students for various leadership and public speaking contests.

Grell, who was offered the coaching job in June, participated in both large group and IE speech in high school, and she will assist both teams at LCHS. As a student, some of her favorite groups included choral reading, mime, musical theater, storytelling, and acting.

LCHS teams will compete at four contests this year: district large group on January, 23; state LG on February 6; district IE’s on February 27; and state IE’s on March 13. All four of these events will be held at LCHS; only Gehlen students have been invited to join the competition.

Although it will be strange not competing with other schools (76 teams performed at state LG contest last year), Permeswaran is happy to be having a season. “For awhile I was afraid the whole thing would be cancelled. I’m

ecstatic that we get to practice together and have fun. Whoo hoo!”

Ohrlund is also excited to get started. She noted, “I love rehearsing with kids and watching them improve their skills. Speech is an activity that allows everyone to participate and excel!”

Students such as seniors Mackenzie Hardyk and Sophie Bixenman say they are looking forward to performing again but are growing new concerns, such as how competition might look.

Hardyk said, “Whether we are performing in a mask or doing a recorded submission, it will be difficult.” She explained the challenges of performing in a mask and trying to communicate emotions with only the upper half of the face.

Bixenman is excited for the season, but is “worried the season may be cut short.” She explained another concern, saying, “There is a huge difference in performing with or without an audience.”

Though a little worried, most

team members are optimistic. Hardyk said, “Whatever happens, we need to make the most of it.”

Senior Emma Michael, a long-time speech performer agreed: “I am looking forward to spending time with my friends and excited to compete and improve my skills.”

Each year the team travels to district, state, and all-state performances. In most categories, one judge critiques the groups at districts. If a I rating is received, the performers move on to state where they perform in front of three judges.

At state the judges have the option to nominate performers for all-state. This prestigious honor is only earned by a select few. Last season, five LCHS large group performances and nine individuals were named outstanding performers.

This year, both all-state festivals have been canceled. However, “the IHSSA is hoping to have an outdoor combined LG and IE festival in the summer where all who

qualify may safely perform” according to Ohrlund.

The LCHS Speech Team has a rich history of excellence. The LCHS speech program regularly fills the quota for the number of groups that are able to perform in both Large and Individual Speech. Only one other school in the state can make the same claim.

The team also involves a great portion, over one-sixth, of the student body. Ohrlund said, “Last year we had 96 students in Large Group and 32 in Individual Events. We hope to see similar numbers this year.”

Speech students have many things to look forward to this coming season. Laila Archer said, “I am looking forward to being able to do things I love once again since my season last year got cut off.”

Many of the performers have their own reasons to go out for speech. Kaitlyn Meier said, “It is very fun, and I enjoy being around my teammates.”

Being in speech can almost guarantee good memories. Senior Adriane Stramer-Fuentes said, “The best memories are made at All-State Speech in Ames.”

The hardest part of being in speech for sophomore Melfeena Kitilach is “staying in character when you are nervous.”

Junior Jade Oswald thinks speech is fun because of “all the laughs and memories at practice.”

Freshman Cambrie Lugwigs said, the Little Theatre is her favorite place to perform.

Speech kids say overcoming the fear of talking in front of lots of people can be hard. Ludwigs said, “I try to talk to people I don’t usually talk to.”

However, Freshman Kemper Bowden does not have a problem speaking to a crowd. He explained, “It comes to me naturally.”



Ethan Hulinsky, Michael Meis, and Hunter LaPato enjoy working in the robotics room.



Show above is the 2020 large group speech team. The 2021 speech competition season will begin in January.

Cross country guys finish 10th in state

by Devin Hansen

The boys cross country team ended their season on a high note, finishing 10th at the state meet.

The team started official practices in August; however, many of the boys have been training since the beginning of the school cancelation last spring.

Throughout the season, the team has bonding events such as spaghetti feeds to get to know each other and to get well nourished for future meets.

The coach of the team is Al Engebretson.

Blake Dirksen, Luke

Fuerhelm, Ethan Hulinsky, Michael Meis, Juan Sanchez, Jason Sudtelgte, Jaxon Sudtelgte, and Kaden Wingert made up the varsity team.

The guys prepared for meets in several ways. Senior Kaden Wingert said “Other than just running, like you would think, we do distance runs and interval workouts and stuff like that.”

Senior Jackson Sudtelgte has advice to future runners: “If you want to be good, you have to start training at the beginning of the summer.”

Senior Jason Sudtelgte

explained why they were so good this year: “We have trained way harder than previous years, and we have 5 seniors on varsity.”

Senior Jackson Sudtelgte commented, “I think we did [well] at state but I could have [run] faster than what I did. The season ended great, and we are the best team in school history.”

The team earned many awards.

Outstanding runner awards went to Dirksen, Feuerhelm, Hulinsky, Meis, Sanchez, Jackson Sudtelgte, Jason

Sudtelgte, and Wingert.

All-Academic State awards went to Dirksen, Hulinsky, and Wingert.

The greatest manager award went to Grace Heeren.

The Senior All-Star Meet qualifiers were Dirksen, Hulinsky, Jason Sudtelgte, Jackson Sudtelgte, and Wingert.

The Fantastic Freshman Award was earned by Trace Obbink.

Super Sophomore Awards went to Sanchez and Meis.

According to Coach Engebretson, the season’s

most memorable moments are the following: “Running in the rain, hot, humid, hill workouts, workouts with snow on the ground, quarantines, cowboy hats, the Honor Run, Covid-19, pool workouts, Bob’s Challenge, pasta feeds, fox hunt, wavy American flag, stinky buses, masks, morning miles, Jeremy, planks and pushups, scraggly beards, Grace taking care of us, overcoming adversity, Corona virus and much, much more.”



Leadership club works to foster positive attitude among LCHS student body

by Payton Marienau

In 2017, a new group called LeadDogs was created by teacher Gabe Davis to spread positivity throughout LCHS.

In each meeting, the council talks about ways they can make people’s lives enjoyable at school by being constructive and looking at the better and bigger picture.

Although most councils have elections to vote who gets on, this organization does not.

Davis explained, “Our group

is open to any 9th-12th grade student at LCHS. We do take attendance to make sure we know who is actively involved, but it is a very open and loose environment.”

Davis added, “The only requirement to being a part of the LeadDog group is showing up. It’s pretty simple.”

This group meets in the HS Little Theater this year, allowing everyone to spread out a little more and create

some space.

LeadDogs students wake up early on Wednesday mornings once per month to discuss what events and activities they could do to make the school better.

Davis commented, “If we plan a bigger event for later in the school year, we may meet more than once a month.”

Caleb VanOtterloo works alongside Davis advising the group.

VanOtterloo said the key to

the group’s success is student involvement: “This club goes as far as the students take it. It is really centered around its members, and they are the key to any success.”

In the past, the club has done events to raise money. A four-year member of the club, Ashley Majeres explained, “We fundraise for families in need. There are many people in our community that would appreciate some help, and by

hosting these fundraisers, we can do that for them.”

LeadDogs participate for many reasons. Senior Kutter Wright said, “I joined Leadership Dogs because I want to help myself become a better leader.”

Senior Morgan Marienau said, “I joined this club to get involved, and to try and get others involved with what the school has to offer.”

Students prefer to learn in school

by Mya Kibby

This school year is the craziest LCHS students and staff have ever experienced with many differences compared to past school years.

One change is the use of Schoology, an online learning platform. The rationale for choosing Schoology was to make it easier for students if they needed to learn from home.

Administrators and teachers wanted to help students by having them all use the same program. Many teachers have used this website for years, including the majority of the English department.

While students were quarantined, most of them said that online learning was very easy and did not take them very long. However one student surveyed said, “I felt

as if I was learning nothing and just completing assignments.”

Learning from home is not the same as a normal school day. Most students slept in instead of keeping their normal school routine and waking up on time for school.

Then they would complete their assignments. Many students said it only took them one to four hours to complete all of their online school work.

Most students reported learning better in school. Students missed seeing their classmates and friends while they were quarantined.

Having no human interaction all day was not easy. Almost all of the students were very happy to return to school, especially if they were involved in a school activity.

All-state musicians selected



by Kyle Hubbell

Dozens of dedicated LCHS music students try out for all-state every fall. Even though the actual performance was canceled this year, multiple students still spent hours preparing for auditions.

A majority of musicians surveyed said that the best part of the process was the progress they made in musical skills.

Orchestra director Ted Hallberg explained, “It doesn’t

matter what the outcome is. Your skills will improve 10 fold.”

The following students were selected as all-state musicians this year. Band: Luke Benton, euphonium, 3rd year; Luke Geitz, clarinet, 3rd; Ellie Clark, trumpet, 2nd; Daniel Vacura, trumpet, 2nd; Katie Cunningham, flute, 1st; Amanda Martin, flute, 1st; Spencer Schnetzer, trombone,

1st; and Bradyn Anderson, alto saxophone, 2nd Alternate.

Choir: Jack McInnis, tenor, 4th year; Logan Gerdes, bass, 2nd; Aaron Hauser, tenor, 2nd; Brody Ohm, tenor, 2nd; Adriane Stamer-Fuentes, soprano, 2nd; Seth Albers, tenor, 1st; Grace Gerdes, alto, 1st; and Trayden Goodman, bass, 1st.

Orchestra: Abigail Tilberg, violin, 1st year.

Sophomore Tyra Thompson & family face challenges

by Shaniah Temple

LCHS sophomore Tyra Thompson is currently not in school; she is doing medical treatment in Rochester, MN.

Tyra is struggling with a condition called Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS), that is progressing into Leukemia. This disease causes the production of blood cells to decrease. The symptoms she has been experiencing are severe tiredness and nausea.

Deanna Thompson, Tyra’s mom, said that Tyra “was admitted into the University of Minnesota Masonic Children’s Hospital on Saturday the 21st of November. She will be in the hospital at a minimum through the end of December due to intense chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant.”

Deanna had a lot going through her head when she found out about Tyra’s diagnosis. She said, “My first thought was how difficult it would be to watch my child go through being really sick and/or in pain. I would have to be strong for her and my other three daughters. It’s scary.”

Tyra said that she first started feeling ill “at AAU basketball tournaments in the summer.” When she first found out, she said, “I thought mom was lying to me, and I couldn’t believe I had cancer.”

In order to help Tyra and her family, LCHS has come up with a fundraiser.

According to student council member Maggie Schilmoeller, the fundraiser is being held in

order for “the community to share their support for Tyra and to raise money for individuals fighting cancer.”

Student council adviser Nancy Isebrand stated, “We would like to do a fundraiser to help those people in our district fighting cancer, particularly, Tyra Thompson, a sophomore at LCHS. In order to raise funds, we will be selling t-shirts to be purchased through GetBranded.com. When the shirts are ordered, the purchaser will be allowed to request the first name of someone who fought or is fighting cancer.”

Senior Payton Marienau stated, “Having support through an illness where one has to go away for a while,

can bring happiness to the individual and the family as well. It is all about showing support.” Medical treatments can cost families hundreds of thousands of dollars, even if they do have insurance that helps pay. The bone marrow transplant that Tyra had was \$1 million without insurance and without the chemotherapy added onto the bill.

Tyra and her family also had to get an apartment in Minnesota so that they could all be together and be close to the hospital where she will be staying. She stays in her own hospital room, and she is not allowed to go anywhere else. Her family has to come in each morning and leave each night,

which adds up the gas money over time.

Payton Wright, a sophomore in Tyra’s class and a teammate, said, “It is very hard knowing that one of my classmates and teammates is sick. I don’t want her to feel like she is going through this alone. We are all here supporting her through it all, and I am glad I can be a part of a way to help raise money for her.”

Tyra’s mom said, “I’m just so grateful for the school’s support. We’ve only been in Le Mars for a little over a year and to have the school want to help our family out during this difficult time is greatly appreciated.”

Volleyball team wraps up season

by Shaniah Temple

The Bulldog volleyball season came to an end on October 20 with a loss against Spencer and a 10-15 record.

The JV season ended October 13 with an experience that provided growth this year. Emily Pick coached the JV team and helped with the varsity as well. She said working alongside Jakki Tentiger was “a great learning experience.”

Coach Pick has been coaching for four years. For her team this year, “the greatest thing [her] players did was adjust to the circumstances.”

The season was different for the volleyball team this year in so many ways. Pick stated,

“Games and practices could change at a moment’s notice and we simply had to adjust on the fly.”

The freshman volleyball team ended with a record of 5-8. Coach Mariah McCarty said that the biggest accomplishment for the freshman team this year was “taking a year that is more challenging than most, with everything going on, and still playing and working hard through it all.” The team consisted of 16 girls and a manager.

McCarty’s favorite part about coaching was “getting to know the girls as both people

and as athletes. It is great to see the improvement from the beginning of the season until now.”

Playing volleyball can be challenging. Sophomore Meredith Arnold explained, “The hardest part about playing volleyball is keeping your head up after you make a mistake.”

Another concern was playing without some of the team because they had to be quarantined.

Freshman Sarah Brown commented, “It was difficult at first, but we found ways to adapt.”

The team faced several good opponents this year.

Seniors Alivia Milbrodt and Kylie Dreckman said that the hardest team for them to play was SBL.

According to junior Kelsey Fuerhelm and senior Karlee Schiff, the hardest team to play was Sioux City East. “They were really good,” said Schiff.

Senior Pypr Stoeffler broke the record for number of digs in a season this year. She said, “I was very excited because it has been a goal since freshman year for me.”

She added, “I couldn’t have done it without my teammates.” Pypr also made her 1000th point this season.

Marching band grooves to 70s music

by Noah Krommenhoek

Marching band is a school activity where a group of students practice marching on a field and learn music to perform at competitions.

Nearly 100 students participated in marching band this season. In addition to musicians, a color guard performed with the band.

They used flags and other props during the show and did movements themed to make the show more entertaining and make it feel more alive.

The way they did this was with bright flashy colors and advanced dance moves. This year has been different

though because of covid. The band only went to one marching competition, the Dutchmen competition in Orange City; they placed 5th in 3A.

The directors of the band this season were Michael Prichard (head director), Mary Benton

(percussion), Randy Benton (on-field), and Lexi Klingbeil (color guard).

The drum majors were Ellie Clark, Logan Gerdes, and Abigail Tilberg.

The music was a compilation of 70s music.



FFA runs “Feed the Farmer” campaign

by Kiley Allan

During harvest season this fall, the Le Mars FFA Chapter delivered 150 meals to farmers in the area.

Each year, the chapter provides meals to farmers to thank them for their hard work and dedication to feeding the world.

“The members of the Feed the Farmer Committee partner with Morningside every year to pack and deliver meals to several area co-ops,” said Danielle James, the Le Mars FFA advisor.

James explained that the chapter receives the food from Morningside College and then packages and distributes the meals.

Students were excused from some of their classes and spent

the time giving back to their local communities.

Students delivered meals to co-ops in Brunsville, Craig, Le Mars, and Remsen. They also delivered to several farmers who were working in their fields. These locations were chosen to ensure that the chapter reached as many people in the community as possible.

Approximately 40 students in Agriscience 1 classes packaged the meals. They filled the paper bags with a deli sandwich, apple, chips, a dessert, and water.

Brady Allan, a freshman and first-year FFA member said, “It was great to know that I was helping out my fellow community members.”

James explained that Feed the Farmer “encompasses the building communities part of our program of activities [(POA)].”

Each FFA chapter has a POA that encompasses a goal that, ultimately, decides what activities the chapter participates in.

Activities such as Feed the Farmer help students learn many new skills that will take them far in life. For junior Jacob Spencer, it was, “the importance of giving back to [his] community that already does so much.”

Spencer said he not only enjoyed his time but also learned something from the experience. This is always the goal James has for her

students.

Spencer went to the Brunsville grain elevator and said that he enjoyed “getting out and reaching out to the community.”

Much like Spencer, Damion Grasz, a senior and committee chair of the Feed the Farmer event, said he looks forward to the event every year. “I enjoy experiencing people’s gratitude towards our much-needed meal and morale boost,” Grasz remarked with a smile.

Students said the farmers and workers at the co-ops and grain elevators enjoyed the meal and friendly company as they finished up their harvest for the year.

Some students, such as

senior Kelsie Lamp, do not have much exposure to the row-crop side of agriculture. Lamp said that it was a great opportunity to “learn how to communicate with those in that profession.”

Part of the National FFA Organization, the Le Mars FFA chapter was founded in 1940 and currently has 63 active members.

The National FFA mission statement is, “FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.”

“Ag in the Classroom” projects shared

by Kiley Allan

The Le Mars FFA Chapter sent out an educational video and activity to the second-grade classes in Le Mars. The video replaced their usual Ag in the Classroom activity.

The Ag in the Classroom program is in its third year at LCHS. In a typical year, a committee is formed by eager FFA members. These members meet to schedule and plan interactive, agriculture-related lessons for elementary students.

The Ag in the Classroom Committee Chair contacted Kluckhohn Elementary second grade teachers with three options. They could choose to have the students come to their classroom as usual (following required COVID precautions), a video, or a video and an activity. The teachers chose the latter.

On November 17, 2020, the students on the Ag in the Classroom Committee had their third and final meeting

to finish putting together the crafts and film the video. The committee consists of 12 FFA members from all grade levels.

“This project encompasses the education portion of our Program of Activities,” said Danielle James, the agriculture education instructor at LCHS and the advisor of the Le Mars FFA Chapter.

“It is important that we continue to educate the students. We have noticed that if we introduce agriculture in fun ways while they are in elementary school, they are eager to learn more as they get older.” James said she never tires of continuing to educate the youth about agriculture.

“The craft we are sending them is a solo cup chicken,” says Mia Haage, a senior and member of the Ag in the Classroom Committee. The cup is made with a string coming out of the top. It clucks when friction is applied in a downward motion with a wet

paper towel.

“We hope the second-graders will enjoy the craft and video as a way to make up for the fact that we can’t come into the classroom in this strange year,” remarked James.

Sarah Vacura is a freshman in the FFA chapter and says she has enjoyed the project. Her favorite part has been making the crafts.

Vacura initially chose to do Ag in the Classroom “to be involved [in the FFA chapter],” but has enjoyed the opportunity to grow her communication skills through the process.

Like Vacura, sophomore Matthew Vondrak has enjoyed the process of making the crafts with his friend Jacob Spencer who is a junior. “Jacob and I enjoyed the opportunity to get creative with different methods to construct the solo cup chickens,” Vondrak smiled when he referenced Spencer and his use of a drill to poke the hole in the bottom

of the cups for the string to be threaded through.

“The instructions we found online said to use a nail to put a hole in the bottom of the cups,” explained Spencer.

Vondrak explained that they initially tried several different methods, but found the drill to be the most efficient one.



Foreign-exchange students make the transition to life in Le Mars

by Pyp Stoeffler

Every year, LCHS gets a few foreign exchange students. This year is a bit crazy, but two students have traveled from out of the country to experience the way people here live their lives.

These students have gone through some challenges that most of the students and even teachers have never experienced such as learning a new language and adapting to the world outside of school. The two students are Luca Fraccastoro and Moon Nguyen.

A few teachers have at least one of these students in their class. Mary Westhoff had Nguyen last semester when she first arrived; this fall she has both students. Westhoff says, "They are fantastic to have in my class. Quite a few topics that we cover, they have already seen, so I hope my class isn't too stressful for them."

Other teachers are also

pleased with the work these two students have done. Kathy Bork has Nguyen in a class. She said, "She behaves extremely well, very respectful, and has a good work ethic."

Molly Grell has had Fraccastoro in two of her foods classes. She said, "He retains information so well and is able to apply it successfully in whatever the task at hand is. In addition to this, he always has a smile on his face and has been a great team member when



Luca Fraccastoro

working in groups. He seeks clarification when needed and values his education. I have enjoyed having him in class so far and look forward to the rest of the semester!"

Both exchange students have been very hard working and respectful not only in the classroom but also outside, according to teachers and staff.

Michael Bahr is one other teacher who has both. He said, "I always appreciate their smiles and the awesome attitude they approach their work with! They're terrific people, and that's even more important than being good students!"

Fraccastoro is from Roseto degli Abruzzi in Italy. With the transition, he said he has had some help with everything. "I live in a house with a host mother and two Vietnamese sisters and probably they all are the people that helped me more to make the transition better."

He has had some struggles with the transition. "I think that the biggest challenge I have and I'm having is the language. Sometimes I can't understand people that talk to me, but it's getting better," said Luca. He came here last year planning to improve his English skills.

Nguyen is from a small city in the central highland of Vietnam called Kon Tum City. Moon came to the United States by herself when she was 16. She received a scholarship



Moon Nguyen

to attend school at the age of 16 so she took the opportunity.

"Studying abroad, typically in the United States, has been a part of my to-do list for years. I love traveling and experiencing diverse cultures around the world," she said.

She does have to go back to her hometown after the first semester because of visa rules.

Nguyen has had a few people who helped her make the change, but one student has really stuck out to her.

"I would say Mitzully Morales has helped me a lot throughout my school year in the U.S.," said Moon. "She has been my friend since the first week at school. She joyfully came up and talked to me as one of her best friends even though she just knew me a few seconds ago. Mitzully even invited me to join cross country for fun and also for spaghetti feeds, which were the reason why I decided to go," added Nguyen.

Students can join a variety of LCHS clubs

by Emily Wilson

LCHS offers a wide variety of clubs anyone can join based on different interests and hobbies, including LAG Club, Spanish Club, and Art Club.

LAG stands for Le Mars Area Gamers. The club's faculty adviser is band director Michael Prichard.

Members play interactive or board games at meetings after school. The most famous game LAG plays is Dungeons and Dragons. Students who like a more chill environment tend to join the LAG Club.

The next club is the talented Art Club run by art teacher Kathy Bork. The club offers many new art tips and styles to learn and use.

Last year art club students painted murals in the cafeteria

such as the sports one featuring the people silhouettes playing a sport, as well as the desk and the globe with the valuable core classes and lessons students learn here at LCHS.

The way one could interpret these murals is the message of greatness through the athletics



of LCHS and the knowledge students can obtain in the classroom.

Students enjoy looking at the murals. Senior Adriane Stramer-Fuentes said, "I think they are very creative. They bring light to the rooms. I also love the details put into them.

I love and support the art club for these murals one hundred percent."

Sophie Bixemann, a senior and returning member of the art club said, "Participants learn how to paint pictures on different surfaces other than paper. As well as the murals hung around the school, they taught us how to collectively have an idea of how their mural should turn out, as well as work together as a group, and contribute tips, color ideas, and ideas about what they're doing."

Bixenman added, "We all look forward to seeing what the art club will come up with this year."

The Spanish Club is led by Spanish teachers Jill Bomgaars

and Jenna Bowmaster. Students in any grade level can join this group. The goal of Spanish Club is for Spanish speakers to share their culture and activities with others.

Anyone who wants to join must pay one dollar for membership.

Sophomore Oscar Guterrez explained his reason for joining: "I'm already in Spanish class, and I'm taking Spanish 2 this year. I figured I might as well help myself out and join."

Sophomore Emma Brennan said, "Spanish Club helps me picture the ideas and subjects of Spanish we learn in class, which helps me become a better Spanish student."

Adaptive PE helpers and students make connections

by Hannah Albert

LCHS offers a physical education class called Adaptive PE.

This elective course brings students with special needs together with regular education high school students. The students play games, do activities, and get on their feet with socializing while moving around during a long day of learning.

Adaptive PE is led by healthcare teacher Kellie Bork.

Many high school students have created special bonds with students from middle school and high school. This year the class has eight high school helpers, four high school students, and fifteen

middle school kids. The age range of the students is seventh to twelfth grade.

Bork reported, "Activities that are completed during the class are hide and seek, capture the flag, kickball, free days, cup stacking, tag games, and bowling." Bork also said that hide and seek is the students' favorite game to play in PE.

Bork said the virus has not changed the class much. Bork stated, "It's very much the same. Except the most important part is we don't get to give hugs and high 5's. That is a bummer."

The students have a wide variety of challenges throughout participating in PE.

"Some students have physical and motor skills challenges and others have challenges understanding the game and rules while we play games," said Bork.

High school students are allowed to take Adaptive PE as an elective compared to strength training or leisure activities.

Senior Shainah Temple states her favorite part of Adaptive PE is the bowling section and the most challenging part of the class is explaining to the kids why they have to keep their mask on all the time this year.

She said, "Being a helper in adaptive PE taught me to



look at life through a new viewpoint. Working with kids that have different life experiences and ways of looking at things allows me to look at challenges the way they see them and take a different

approach to situations. It is really eye opening, and I would recommend it to anyone if they get the chance to work with people with disabilities to do it for sure!"

Chromebooks make live easier for students and staff

by Autumn Maddox

New Dell Chromebooks are used by every student at Le Mars Community High School this year throughout the day. This change was made to try and limit the amount of items students are sharing to prevent the spread of COVID. Students pick up these laptops during advisory and drop them off there as well.

Some aspects of the laptops

that students enjoy include the touchscreen and that they are useful for doing homework in and out of school.

In fact, many students take them home, such as senior Morgan Lee, who states that she takes hers home "almost everyday, including the weekends."

However, these computers are not without their faults.

Senior Ben Ferris said, "They disabled the dinosaur game which is a real bummer."

Senior Kennedy Masuen said, "I usually forget I have a laptop, so when I go to lunch I throw my bag in the backseat forgetting there's a laptop in there. I'm surprised I haven't broken it yet."

Business teacher Tifany Wright stated, "I do not allow

students to use their phones in class, but I now see students playing games or watching movies on their computers when they are supposed to be doing school work."

Overall, however, the laptops seem to be a big hit.

Spanish teacher Jill Bomgaars said, "I have been grateful to have students be assigned their own laptop for

the day. They do not have to sign-in and sign-out which not only saves class time, but it also allows them to work on activities throughout the day as their schedule allows."

With all the new changes this year due to the pandemic, laptops seem to be making things easier for everyone.

Football team faces challenges but ends regular season on high note

by Ellie Petersen

The Bulldogs won the final game of the regular football season 21-6 on Friday, October 9 at Heelan.

The junior varsity's record was 3-2.

The Bulldogs started practicing football in August with 85 players.

The guys were coached by head coach Gabe Tardive and assistant coaches Cody Dyhrkopp, Trevor Hightree, Tyler Phelan, Kurt Van Kley, Caleb VanOtterloo, and LeRoy Wichers.

The players had to adjust

to hard things due to COVID, which was challenging for them. They had to wear masks at practices and for games. However, players who had a face shield did not have to wear a mask for the games.

Players also could not change in the locker room.

Because of the virus some players were quarantined for two weeks. Senior Mason Parrot said, "Missing key players and not having a full team especially hours before the game was hard."

One game got cancelled

due to Covid 19. Junior TeiTei Selet said, "It was really bad for the team because we didn't get to play another team and get better."

Some players came back from quarantine the same day as a game. Senior Carter Arens said, "I was dead, tired, very exhausted, and confused coming back on a Friday we had a game."

Several players were quarantined for two weeks. Senior Brandon Kass said, "It was tough to come back because my options for

exercise were limited on quarantine."

One key player was out for a month. He got quarantined twice. Senior Colton Hoag said, "It was really frustrating being out for so long. Just knowing that nobody could do anything, and I just had to wait was horrible. It was also frustrating watching my team play because I knew I should be out there with them. After all of that I've learned one thing underclassmen should learn. Never take anything for granted."

Senior Mason Parrot was last out for football freshmen year, but came back out his senior year. Parrot said, "It was an experience and harder than I thought it would be. I had to work extra hard to prove that I deserved a spot."

Sophomore Elijah Dougherty had some big highlights on Friday, October 2. He scored the first touchdown of the homecoming game against Storm Lake. He said, "playing my first varsity game was a highlight for me."

Senior Mason Parrot was last out for football freshmen year, but came back out his senior year. Parrot said, "It was an experience and harder than I thought it would be. I had to work extra hard to prove that I deserved a spot."

Schedule change moves semester tests to before winter break

by Madison Claussen

Semester tests are right around the corner, and LCHS students are getting prepared. This year students will be taking semester tests before Christmas break instead of after.

Senior Morgan Marienau said that she will study more now that the tests are before break. She also said the worst part about semester tests before break is that “the second semester will feel longer than the first.”

Even though some students might not like taking semester

tests before break, students will not have any stress during break and get to relax. Freshman Kara Garnatz said, “I will be able to spend more time with friends and family.”

Math teacher Emily Pick explained some benefits of moving the tests: “Students and staff get a true break. They don’t have to worry about remembering where we left off two weeks prior, and we get a fresh start.”

Senior English teacher Sherri Permeswaran believes the new schedule will benefit

students in the long run: “College students take their fall finals before going home for the winter break, so doing the same thing at LCHS will help people prepare for college.”

For freshmen, this will be their first time taking semester tests. Many freshmen are nervous, but here is some advice to help face the challenge of taking many big tests in a short period of time.

Senior Karlee Schiff said, “Don’t stress too much, but take them seriously because they will affect your grade.”

Sophomore Payton Wright said, “Look over past material, but most importantly don’t stress.”

FFA teacher Danielle James said, “Don’t be on your phone while studying. If you don’t know the answer right away, use the process of elimination or skip and come back.”

Permeswaran suggested, “Start studying early and do a small chunk each day. Don’t try to cram it all in or stay up late the last day.”

Senior Autumn Maddox advised, “Try your best and

don’t fail.”

Students prepare for semester tests in various ways that benefit them.

In a recent survey, 59 out of 81 students say that they use Quizlet to help them prepare for semester tests.

Other ways to prepare for the tests include study guides, looking over notes, studying with a friend, or flash cards.

Maddox said, “I use Quizlet, look over my notes, and do study guides to prepare for semester tests.”

Directors coordinate to allow choir students opportunity to sing

by Kiley Allan

With fewer performances and COVID-19 precautions, the choir program looks different this year.

Randy Ewing has been teaching music for 28 years; 15 of those years he has been directing the choirs at LCHS. He said that although the challenges are great and many with COVID-19, he has found ways to keep his students learning.

Normally, LCHS choirs are constantly pushing for their next performance, but as Ewing explained, “We have been able to spend some of our extra time refreshing and

building sight reading skills as well as overall musical skills.”

The singers typically work vigorously towards performances learning music with quick turn arounds. This year their performances are scarce and uncertain. This has allowed Ewing to work on foundational choral and musical skills that they have not had time to cover in-depth before.

COVID-19 has brought many challenges to choir across the nation. Instead of throwing in the towel as others have, Ewing has made an effort to keep his choirs singing.

Unfortunately, this has not been easy. To prevent the spread of COVID-19, Ewing has put several precautionary measures in place.

“We are just so fortunate that we are able to sing thanks to our mask mandate and social distancing,” remarked Ewing.

The singers are spread out to meet the six-foot social distancing guideline. This means he had to make a decision early on in the year.

He had to have smaller classes and meet in different places in the building. He explained, “Mrs. Ewing and I are team teaching all choirs so

we can keep everyone socially distanced.”

Ewing said he is lucky to have MS director Nancy Ewing’s help in instructing his high school choirs.

Singing with masks is difficult. They muffle singers’ sound and make them harder to understand. It can be hard to get the space to properly pronounce vowels and produce a resonating sound. “Singing with masks and being socially distanced has really pushed the students to be much more independent as singers,” Ewing remarked.

Typically, LCHS has two

main choirs, concert and chamber choir. But this year, Ewing established a third group: chorale choir.

Both chorale and chamber choirs are auditioned groups. The singers who auditioned were evaluated on intonation, musicality, technique, and sight reading. The highest-scoring individuals were placed in the chorale choir. The next set of high-performing students were placed in chamber choir. Ewing said he is fortunate to be have enough highly talented students to create two highly talented choirs.



Quiz bowl team competes in online tournaments

by Kennedy Masuen

Quiz bowl is a team trivia contest. At LCHS, the team has 23 members, which is slightly fewer than last year. The members compete against

different schools.

The objective of quiz bowl is to answer the questions quickly and correctly. It is currently coached by Kathi

Oetken, and 2020 is her first year as the challenge teacher in the middle school.

Virtual competitions started the week of November 8. The

questions the members have to answer are prerecorded. All the teams answer on an online program. The quiz bowl team has been doing well this season; they won their last competition on November 18.

According to Oetken, the members get to choose their teammates when competing. It is not like most sports where the coach picks who will play on each team.

Practice is not required. However, the more practices the students attend, the more likely they are to get to compete. Practices occur twice a week in Oetken’s classroom, but some members practice on their own time as well.

Senior Caroline Meis says she likes to do some practicing at home. She said, “I have studied country capitals and literature/authors in the past.”

The team enjoys quiz bowl

for a number of reasons, but most of them said their favorite part is the people.

Coach Oetken said, “My favorite part of quiz bowl is the students and their competitive spirit.”

The quiz bowl members have many goals. Some want to win competitions, and others just want to have fun.

Sophomore Kiera Laske is hoping “To come out knowing more than I did going in.”

Though the students have fun being in quiz bowl, many challenges come with it.

Junior Grace Heeren said the toughest part about quiz bowl is “When you’re sure you know the answer, but you can’t think of it.”

Sophomore Austin Haworth says the hardest part of quiz bowl is “Remembering so much information.”



Caroline Meis, Kaden Wingert, Hannah Albrecht, and Grace Heeren prepare for a quiz bowl tournament. Competitions have gone online this year.

Experienced custodial staff focuses on sanitizing school

by Hannah Albert

The custodians of LCHS are Mike Weaver, Brian Orban, Cameron Galles, and Bryce Boekhout.

Principal Mark Iverson said these four are going above and beyond during the pandemic.

The custodians have been putting in more steps to their routine to keep surfaces clean for the students and staff of LCHS. Iverson explained, “They have to do more disinfecting so sometimes other things do not get done as they used to. They have limited hours they can work and because of that, they cannot get some things done some days. Disinfecting is their number one priority.”

Mike Weaver has been at LCHS since December 4, 2013. Weaver’s favorite part of the job is the students and staff.

However, he added that “students could be more courteous by cleaning up after themselves” so the custodians could spend more time on disinfecting. Weaver said his job focuses on “extra cleaning and sanitizing.” Even though he likes his job, “stripping the halls in the summer” is Weaver’s least favorite part about his job.

Brian Orban has been at LCHS since June 3, 1992. Orban said his favorite parts of the job are that the staff is always friendly and taking care of banquets or team meals.

Orban asked for “people pick up after themselves more” so the custodians can focus on their main goal, sanitizing to keep students and staff healthy. Orban stated, “My least favorite part is cleaning

restrooms.”

Cameron Galles has been working at LCHS since the summer of 2019. Galles says his favorite part of his job is having friendly students and staff and working outside in the summer.

Again, Galles believes students could help the staff by taking a moment to clean up after themselves so the janitors can put their focus on disinfecting thoroughly.

“I have to disinfect more often and just generally be more thorough,” said Galles. He added, “Cleaning toilets is not the best part of my day.”

Bryce Boekhout started at LCHS on September 1, 2020. Boekhout said, “My favorite part of the job is the people and being able to listen to my headphones while I clean.”

His least favorite part of the job is “changing the high ceiling light bulbs on a ladder, the ones in the library and weight room specifically.” Boekhout said that his day-to-day routine has not changed and that students are doing

great on cleaning up after themselves. While working at LCHS during a pandemic, he says worrying about bringing the virus home to his three year old daughter is the toughest part.



Mike Weaver and Cameron Galles (above), as well as Brian Orban and Bryce Boekhout, work hard to sanitize the school.

Students and staff make list of wishes for Santa

by Kennedy Masuen

With Christmas coming up, many students and staff are figuring out what they would like to ask Santa for.

Senior Autumn Maddox starts looking for present ideas early. She explained, “I start on my birthday, October 4th when I don’t get all the things I want.”

Senior Morgan Lee said, “I start figuring out what I will ask for in late October or early November.” Their searches start anywhere from the aisles of Walmart to a popular app, like TikTok or Pinterest.

The folks at LCHS have a wide range of interests. They are asking for all kinds of things.

Freshman Jeremy Condon

wants “A Nintendo Switch, charger for the Nintendo, and a Mario action figure.”

Senior Kutter Wright would like to get “a Macbook.”

Senior Mya Kibby wants “giftcards, clothes, and an Apple watch.”

Freshman Seth VanderSluis is hoping for “the iPhone 12.”

Sophomore Melfeena Kitilach wants “food, art supplies, and a pair of good socks.”

Senior Shaniah Temple is asking for “shoes, intelligence, happiness, and a new car.”

English teacher Jodi Richey said, “Time with family is what I want most.”

Senior Jaxon Baumgartner said, “I want a golden labrador.”

A popular thing to ask Santa for is clothing. Hannah Albrecht, Sarah Brown, Kara Garnatz, and many other students are hoping to find some under the tree this year, including junior Davina Kabongo.

Davina is asking for “Some cute t-shirts and some shoes.”

Freshman Stella Hector is planning to ask for “a pair of shoes and clothes.” She added,

“I am really hoping to get a car.”

Hector is not the only one wishing for a car this year.

Libby Leraas, a sophomore, wants “a new Jeep Grand Wagoneer.”

Pypr Stoeffler, a senior, would like “a car that doesn’t

fall apart.”

Another popular present to ask for is money.

Junior Conner Von Hagel is asking for “just like \$2000.”

Some students have gone with one-of-a-kind wishes this year. Such as sophomore Sione Fifita.

Fifita is asking for “One of Santa’s elves, a deer, and a kiss from Mrs. Claus.”

Freshman Genesis Pena would like “Inches to grow taller.”

With this crazy year comes some unique things to ask Santa to bring.

History teacher Terry Fitzgerald would like “Santa to give all students the motivation to be the best students that they

possibly can be even when stuck at home.”

Deb Richarz, a substitute teacher, said, “I hope for my family to stay healthy and safe.”

History teacher Michael Bahr wants “Health, happiness, and staying in school!”

Sophomore Ayden Brent is hoping “To be able to go to basketball games!!”

Along with that was the wish from senior, Morgan Marienau.

She wants “A vaccine for covid.”

Hopefully these teachers, students, and everyone else get the present they want most from Santa Claus this year!

Basketball team has high hopes for season

by Payton Marienau

As the Le Mars boys basketball season begins, coaches and team members are excited about what this year may bring and are working hard with pride, passion, and purpose to accomplish a successful season.

The senior guys include Jaxon Baumgartner, Ryan Brown, Alec Dreckman, Carlos Duran, Ethan Kuiken, and Spencer Mackey.

Some coaching changes were made this year because of the freshman coach David Den Herder leaving to another program. The coaches this year are Alex Struck for freshmen, Gabe Davis for JV, and Dave Irwin and Benji Kasel for varsity.

Eager to start the season, head coach Dave Irwin explained, “Hopefully this year brings us back to a little more of normality. We have a lot of guys back with experience, so hopefully it brings us back to

the success that we want. Our guys deserve it.”

He then stated, “My coaching is what you’ve always seen in the past. I don’t normally change anything especially since these boys come back. We look to guard hard.”

Irwin explained, “We have good talent. We could be a match up nightmare for the opposing teams.”

Some of the senior boys have similar thoughts on this 2020-2021 season. They all seem to have strong minds to start basketball off with confidence. Senior starter Jaxon Baumgartner stated, “Hopefully this season is as successful as we believe and we grow as a team.”

Another senior starter Spencer Mackey replied, “This year will be different but very exciting. We have potential to be a very talented team this year.”

Growing as a team is one

of both Baumgartner and Mackey’s priorities, along with goal accomplishment.

Baumgartner explained, “I want to be a leader for the guys with less experience.” Mackey added, “I’m willing to do anything to help my team win.”

This team seems to be made up of young men striving to play a sport they love with the people they love.

Another senior Carlos Duran, stated, “I joined basketball because I love the game and everyone on the team.”

He added, “We do team bonding activities, and everyone has a great time together.”

Teamwork seems to be a big part of success for the Bulldog Boys. These young men all have the same ideas to build a bond with their temporary family.

Teachers asked for advice

by Kyle Hubbell

Life is not always easy, especially in these tough and trying times. Luckily, LCHS has a lot of great teachers who are willing to share great advice.

English teacher Jodi Richey said “You do you. There will always be people around you that try to change who you are. Do what makes you happy instead of trying to make others happy.”

Science teacher Tracey Sadoski said “Find something to be happy about each day. Happiness is a choice. Even if it is a small moment, enjoy that moment fully.”

Several teachers suggest

students see constructive criticism as advice, not critical remarks. Social studies teacher Terry Fitzgerald explained that “advice is easier to take” than straight criticism.

Richey clarified that the difference could be in the tone in which the suggestions are given. “Constructive criticism is advice. It’s not meant to be mean; it’s meant to offer assistance.”

Over 70% of teachers surveyed said they like to give people advice. Nearly 80% of teachers surveyed said they feel like they help students who come to them for advice.

Have a great break!
See you next year!

Mental health concerns grow during pandemic

by Mya Kibby

This year, and the pandemic along with it, has affected the mental health of some students and staff at LCHS. Some good has come out of COVID-19 and having to be quarantined. but it has mainly affected students and staff negatively.

All LCHS students and staff were asked in a recent informal survey sent out by the *Dog Pound* if COVID has affected their mental health in any way and 63.5% said yes.

LCHS students and staff were asked how their mental health has been affected by covid; the minority stated

some of their opinions, such as: “It hasn’t affected my mental health.” “It gave me time to focus on myself and to do things on my own.”

On the other hand many people had said that COVID was very stressful and triggered a lot of depression. For example some students and staff explained how it has affected them individually:

“Quarantine made my anxiety and depression worse.”

“I’m more stressed.”

“Everything that I was looking forward to is being taken away.”

“It has made me super stressed with school and being away from people I love.”

A lot of activities have been canceled or altered over the last 10 months. These changes have made some people appreciate their activities better. Students reported, “I actually enjoy them much more because I couldn’t do them for so long,” and “If anything it has made me want to do these activities more.”

LCHS students and staff were also asked if being stuck in their house and not having any social interaction was

hard on them. Over 40% said yes, 33.9% said no, and the remaining 22.6% were other options.

Of the others, some said, “The time with family was priceless.”

Another person said, “Yes and no; I liked part of it because I got to sleep in, work out, spend more time with my family, focus on myself, but I also really missed having routine and my friends.”

And another explained, “It was [hard] but it was calming for me. Once I adjusted, I found that I could become

self-sufficient during my time away.”

Lastly, this whole pandemic has brought a lot of emotion along with it. LCHS students and staff were asked what their strongest emotion(s) were towards COVID-19. Frustration was the highest emotion picked with a 61%; anger and sadness following right behind with 30%.

Anyone with mental health concerns should contact counselors Melissa Hill or Judd Kopperud, or Yabi Doornick from Plains Area.

Woods classes give students creative outlet

by Pypr Stoeffler

Le Mars High School offers many elective classes for students to break up their schedule and do something that they enjoy. Two of these electives are woodworking classes.

In the first semester, Woods I has 40 students enrolled and Woods II has 12. Semester 2 has 40 students in Woods I and 35 in Woods II.



Instructor LeRoy Wichers is in his 23rd year of teaching at Le Mars and his 37th year total. He enjoys many aspects of his job, but he explained, “My favorite part is working with the students one on one.”

Most of the wood used is oak, pine, and green treated lumber. Students are able to pick their choice of wood for each project. In Woods I,

students have to make all the same projects.

The two projects performed in Woods I include a shelf and a mass production folding table.

In Woods II, students get the opportunity to come up with their own project ideas. Some of the projects that students have chosen to make include decks, end tables, gun cabinets, and entertainment centers.

Since students get to choose their own projects after the two mandatory ones, senior Spencer Mackey is working on building bean bag boards. He said, “I took this class so I could learn how to be more handy.”

Senior Morgan Marienau said, “I wanted to do something other than just sitting in a class and taking notes.” Woods gets students out of a classroom and into a workshop.

Senior Mason Parrott said, “I wanted to take [Woods] senior year...so I saved it for this year instead of taking it earlier in high school.”

Senior Mya Kibby and senior Karlee Schiff say that they really enjoy the class and they



are glad they decided to take it.

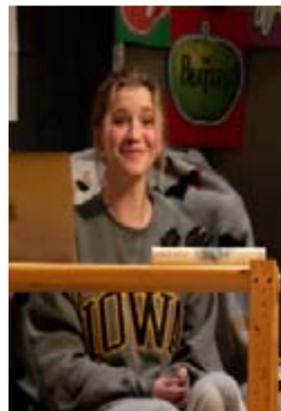
Both students are in Woods I and starting their own personal projects. Kibby is planning to make a mirror frame for her open project and Schiff is

making octagon shelves.

Woodworking classes are open to any grade student in the high school.

Fall play goes virtual Student council members look for projects

by Kyle Hubbell



Sophie Bixenman (left) and Kiley Allan co-hosted the show.

The LCHS Drama Department presented “10 Ways to Survive Life In a Quarantine” in November. The performances were live streamed.

Lead actress Kiley Allan said her favorite part was “getting to finally put it all together and getting to see the final product.”

Sophomore Melfeena Kitilach said that her favorite part was “watching the other actors.”

Besides being live streamed so people could watch it from the safety of their homes, this play did a lot of other firsts in LCHS history.

For example, two live pets were introduced onstage.



Adriane Stamer-Fuentes (left) and Mackenzie Hardyk explained some ways to deal with life during quarantine.



by Payton Marienau

Student council (StuCo) is a group of students who work together to improve LCHS.

The senior class officers include Kutter Wright as president, Kaden Wingert as vice president, Cady Wilhelm as secretary, and Brenna Dirksen as communications director.

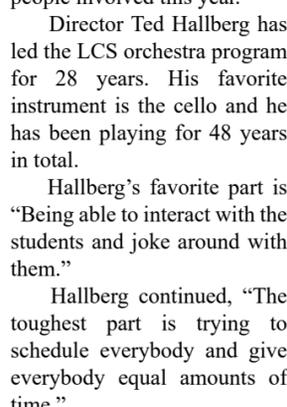
Members of StuCo make it clear that they love being part of this organization. Three-year member Hannah Albert, exclaimed, “Giving as much as we can to people of our community is the best part of the Student Council.” She then stated, “Student Council doesn’t really have a worst part. Everything we do is for a reason, and that’s what makes it great.”

New member and freshman Sarah Brown, stated with no hesitation, “I joined the Student Council because I’ve heard good words about it.

My brother, Ryan Brown, has been a part of this council for a few years now. He made it live stream again.”

One problem cast member senior Liam Parks had was “finding rehearsal time.”

Director Ohrlund said that the thing she had the most difficulty with was “set changes.”



Sophomore Abigail Tillberg said, “My favorite thing about orchestra is the emotion that

clear that doing things for the community through a school council is worth it.”

StuCo is still searching for ways to show school spirit. Isebrand said, “I try to think about what the kids need, rather than myself.”

Adviser Nancy Isebrand tries to fulfill what the kids of the council want to do to make this year high-spirited as she still makes an effort to obey by COVID guidelines to keep the members and community safe.

She said, “So far we have decorated the sidewalks for this year’s students as a welcome back to school. We have done a ‘Chuck Your Change’ for Lilly Brent. We have also done class projects.”

“Our goal is to do much more as we go on with this school year.”

Giving help to their community is what this group is all about. Mya Kibby, a three-year member, explained “The council has made packages to send to soldiers

from our program called Support Siouland Soldiers. We’ve also been working on class projects and coming up with different activities.”

Senior Maggie Schilmoeller stated, “We always have something to do or work on whether it be for our community or just school activities.”

Vice Principal and StuCo adviser Kyle Formanek said the best part of StuCo is “the size of the group and the willingness of the students to put effort forward to make things happen. It’s large, compared to most schools.” He added, “Personally, I like to be a part of this council because I want to spread positivity. I want to have high standards of behavior from students so they are better prepared for their future.”

Freshman Payton Wright said, “I joined to learn the bigger picture of things. I want to make a difference like the rest of the people who joined.”

Musicians love playing in orchestra

by Devin Hansen

Orchestra students are excited for the performing season. The orchestra has 24 people involved this year.

Director Ted Hallberg has led the LCS orchestra program for 28 years. His favorite instrument is the cello and he has been playing for 48 years in total.

Hallberg’s favorite part is “Being able to interact with the students and joke around with them.”

Hallberg continued, “The toughest part is trying to schedule everybody and give everybody equal amounts of time.”

Sophomore Abigail Tillberg said, “My favorite thing about orchestra is the emotion that

you can add to the sound, probably even more so than you can by playing most other instruments. It is always cool when you get to hear the spots where everybody is in tune and the blend is perfect.”

Tillberg continued “The hardest part about orchestra is staying in tune. Wood instruments are the hardest to keep in tune, and unlike band, there is no ‘certain fingering’. You move your hand depending on where the note is and whether it is high or low. I also would make an argument that orchestra lessons are the hardest to learn in the beginning. It takes some time and lots of practice to progress a group to a harder level.”

A student added, “Beginning a string instrument is one of the hardest things I’ve done because there are so many little things you have to get right and you just want it to sound good, but it doesn’t for a while.”

Senior Kiley Allan said, “I enjoy symphony because it gives the strings a chance to play with the horns and percussion.”

Allan added, “My favorite piece of all time is Ships of Ireland because of the cello part.”

Many students like all the music that they are playing right now, but students’ favorite is The Pirates of the Caribbean.

Returning varsity wrestlers are sophomore Conner Peterson; junior Riley Sadoski;

Bowling team ready to take on competition and make memories

by Emily Wilson

Another bowling season for LCHS has already started. After last year’s victories and qualification for state, they started another year preparing to crush the competition.

The team is comprised of 25 boys and 11 girls. Both teams advanced to the state tournament last year, with the guys finishing 8th and the girls 2nd. The teams are coached by Kellie Bork and Gary Brady.

The interviewees for this scoop are first a junior Zach Dempster, as well as a returning member of the bowling team; a freshman, Sami, one of the new bowling team members this year; and health teacher and coach of the bowling team, Kellie Bork.

Like many other activities, bowling has adapted in response to the pandemic.

Dempster explained some of the new procedures. “Corona makes us sanitize everything all the time, such as our bowling balls, [and we have to] keep our distance from the other school’s team and fans just to be safe.”

Coach Bork added, “For starters, we have to have less fans, students, and families than a normal amount; we have to follow a limit of what’s recommended for covid.”

Other changes include “social distancing from the other team as much as possible and wearing masks. Masks might be a bit easier for the

bowling team to wear than any other sport. But it still makes communication a lot harder than without them. Lastly, sanitation such as sometimes needing to sanitize our hands and bowling balls between meets and throughout practices” said Bork.

Even with the new safety procedure, bowling is still a great deal of fun.

Dempster said his favorite parts include the following: “My teammates, being able to bowl with them after the season, as well as the senior team last year, watching them with things I’m getting better at really made me try to bowl like them and hope I do as well as them in the next seasons.”

Bork enjoys his coaching position: “Just going out there and bowling, doing great, and just having fun on the team.”

People join the team for different reasons.

Freshman Sami Otto explained, “We were doing bowling in gym, and I enjoyed it and he asked me to join, so I did. I would consider myself pretty good at bowling, so I was like, Why not?”

Dempster said, “I have always considered myself a good bowler, and have always had interest and a love for bowling in bowling, so it was just right.

My friends also influenced me to join the bowling team. Now, as a returning junior on the bowling team I have more

experience and a lot of great memories. I hope to continue with the team. I’m glad I made the decision to join the team.”

Dempster continued, “I would say it’s all about self improvement on bowling and working and bonding as a team. Having friends and pitching in with your teammates, working as a team, creating memories, and lastly sharing victories. As well as just enjoying competing in bowling and having fun.”

The bowling team has already started to have a great season. They have high hopes after going to state last year. The state tournament will be held in Waterloo on February 20.

Cheerleaders get crowds excited at games, matches

by Madison Claussen

The cheer team has been pretty busy with football, basketball, and wrestling cheer these past few months.

The football coach is Sherrie Moritz, the basketball coach is Steph Buhman, and the wrestling coach is Tracey Sadoski.

Football cheer season was a success. The football cheerleaders did their best to keep the crowd excited with all the different rules with COVID.

The football cheer team included Kaylee Arens, Alli Britt, Brenna Dirksen, Allison Feeney, Madison Gonzales,

Morgan Murphy, Yadira Ramirez, Julia Sadoski, Layla Searl, Lexi Sturgeon, and Kylie Westhoff.

The cheerleaders were excited to start the winter cheer season. Basketball cheer practice started on October 31. Ramirez said, “I am looking forward to hopefully cheering the boys and girls basketball to state this year.”

The basketball cheer team includes Addalyn Anderson, Kaylee Arens, Brenna Bollin, Alli Britt, Karly Ellis, Lizzie Koonce, Amanda Martin, Kylie Martin, Morgan Murphy, Yadira Ramirez, Layla Searl,

and Lexi Sturgeon.

Sophomore Lizzie Koonce said, “I was most excited to be active and have fun with my friends.”

The wrestling cheer team is also very excited to start the season. Practices for wrestling cheer started on October 27.

Coach Sadoski said, “I am most excited for hopefully cheering at a lot of different events this year. I also have quite a few new girls on the team and I am excited to see them learn the new cheers and see how the team works together.”

Dirksen said, “I am excited

to be able to cheer and watch my brother wrestle.”

The wrestling cheer team includes Kylie Biggs, Skyler DeBoer, Brenna Dirksen, Ava Penne, Julia Sadoski, and Kylie Westhoff.

Due to COVID the cheerleaders cannot do stunts, and are required to wear a face mask at every practice and game. They do not use pom poms and stand apart from each other at games.

Having all these new rules has not stopped the cheerleaders from having fun though. Dirksen said, “Cheer is a great way to get involved

and you make memories that you will not forget.”

Most cheerleaders say that their best memory from cheer is state wrestling, homecoming, and going to all the away games.

Biggs said, “My best memory from cheer is state wrestling last year.”

Sturgeon said, “Everyone on [the] team is really nice, it is like a family.”

Something that Dirksen would tell people, “just sign up because cheer is a great way to get involved and there are lots of different experiences and memories to be made.”

Wrestling season starts with high hopes for a good year

by Kyle Hubbell

Bulldog wrestling has officially started the season with 12 female and 33 male wrestlers working to improve themselves.

Returning varsity wrestlers are sophomore Conner Peterson; junior Riley Sadoski;

and seniors Blake Dirksen, Daniel Hinds, Colton Hoag, and Jackson Sudtelgte.

Head Coach Shane Hessenius has been coaching at LCHS for nine years and wrestling since he was six years old.

In high school, Hessenius

was a four-time Class 3A qualifier for LCHS. He finished his high school career with 128 victories when he graduated in 1998. Hessenius’s favorite part about the sport is the “values and work ethic that is installed by wrestling.”

Hessenius says that the hardest part of wrestling this year is “making sure everyone is following the protocol for COVID.”

Despite all this, all the wrestlers seem to be excited for the season and are getting

prepared for districts that will be held February 13.

Assistant Coaches include Rich Hessenius, Paul Fischer, Jason Weiland, Brad Small, Alex Hermes, and Shawn DeBoer.

Coaching staff changes for girls basketball team

by Shaniah Temple

The LeMars girls basketball team started practice in November with some coaching changes.

Cody Dyhrkopp is the new head coach. He has been coaching for four years and coached the players that are seniors today when they were freshmen.

Coach D has several goals: “First and foremost I want our girls to play as hard as they possibly can and have fun with each other. If there is one thing we can learn from this year, it’s to take nothing for granted. The next practice or game is never guaranteed. If we can play hard and have fun, then the wins will take care of themselves.”

Assistant Coach Shane Dreckman has been coaching for a total of 19 years now. He

even coached the boys team at one point.

Dreckman also has goals for the year: “I hope the team keeps getting better. I hope the girls keep pushing each other to get better and they have a great time doing it. I hope when the season is over the girls can look at each other and say ‘that was worth all the hard work and I wouldn’t change a thing.’”

Ben Vanheeder, the new freshmen coach, also teaches the freshmen team; they will play a total of 16 games.

Vanheeder likes “any competitive drill” during practice. He stated, “I love watching the girls battle and compete because those are the moments that they are building their will to win.”

Tyler Phelan is the JV head coach and an assistant varsity coach as well. He has been coaching for quite some time and has had a lot of experience not only from coaching but from when he played as a Bulldog from 2000 to 2004.

Discussing his favorite practice drills, Coach Phelan said, “That is like asking which child is my favorite. I’ll say it’s tied between Hoosier Transition or Lions in the Cage.”

Haley Birks is an assistant coach for all the teams this year. During practices, she helps mainly with the varsity group. Coach Birks stated, “I have enjoyed working with Coach Dyrrkopp as the new head coach. We have similar basketball backgrounds and have a lot of the same ideas.”

“Coach Dyrrkopp and I went to small schools in the same conference in high school and both played basketball in college. Our dads are also both coaches so we grew up as coaches’ kids.”

Coach Birks has been coaching for 3 years; she said her favorite parts about coaching are “creating relationships with the players and the other coaches, sharing my knowledge of basketball, and continuing to compete in a different way.”

Senior Mya Kibby stated that practices were not only different because of “wearing masks all the time” and having “different drills to run,” but also because they were “harder” and “more fun” for her this year.

Some girls have been playing

basketball for years, and some have only been out for a short period of time. Different girls value basketball for different reasons.

Senior Karlee Schiff said her favorite part about playing basketball is game days. She claimed that it “is fun to work hard in practice and when you compete against other schools and see that your hard work has paid off, it feels good”.

Freshman Sarah Brown likes to “see [her]self improve against new people outside of our team.”

According to Coach Phelan, “Each player brings a different factor to the team; this is what makes a team special, diversity. Some players excel more than others in different situations.”

Manley enjoys a “feeling of accomplishment.”

Karr said, “To maintain good health.”

Dreckman said, “Being happier and noticing the difference.”

And lastly, the students were asked if they have felt like they have been making progress since they started working out/lifting weights. The majority of the students said “yes.”

However some students explained a little more. Junior Matthew Bates said, “Yes I was 130 pounds and now I am 170 pounds.”

Junior Dylan Wurth said, “Yes, a lot of progress.”

Freshman Riley Ernst said, “Yes, I’ve gained muscle and lost weight.”

Senior Sean Kayser said, “I feel like I am slowly making progress.”

Senior Morgan Marienau said, “In my free time.”

Freshmen Devin Devall and Sarah Vacura said they lift at night.

Students lift weights for a variety of reasons. Freshman Sarah Brown said, “To be better and stronger for sports.”

Freshman Trayden Goodman said, “So I can be strong enough to do well in football.”

Senior Hannah Albert said, “Get them gains.”

Sophomore Savannah Manley said, “I want to get stronger.”

Senior Peter Karr said, “It’s enjoyable.”

Freshman Brayden Dreckman said, “Build mindset, good for clearing mind, and makes me stronger for sports.”

These students have noticed benefits from lifting weights.

Brown said, “I became more in shape.”

Goodman said, “I stay healthy and more muscular.”

Weight lifting builds students’ strength and confidence

by Mya Kibby

Weight training has been a part of the sports programs at LCHS for a long time.

The school purchased an app a few years ago that provides the student athletes with a workout plan each lifting day. Even some of the students that are not involved in sports enjoy lifting weights in their free time.

All LCHS students were asked in a recent informal survey sent out by the *Dog Pound* on their preferences and thoughts on weight training.

Weight lifting can impact more students than just athletes. Some students do it just to better themselves and to take their mind off things. And the majority of the student athletes lift to better themselves for their sport and get stronger.

Students lift weights at a variety of places. For example, over 37% of the students said they enjoy lifting in the

school weight room. Another 25% said they lift at a fitness center. And 21.3% said they lift at their house. Lastly, the remaining 16.2% said they do not lift weights.

Student athletes prefer to lift weights different places. Senior Mason Parrott said, “I lift at the Body Shop Fitness Center because it gives me more time to do my own thing. It also gives me a chance to get away from distractions and focus on my lift.”

Senior Alivia Van Otterloo said, “I enjoy lifting weights in the Bulldog weight room the most because it’s free and it is usually a fun environment to be in because of the music and my teammates are there with me.”

Senior Kylie Dreckman stated, “At the school weight room but only if it is just the girls basketball team in there because we have fun.”

All LCHS students were asked how they felt about the school’s PLT4M app and if they felt like they were getting stronger because of it. Sophomore Helen Goeken said, “Yes, when I am in sports or with a group of other motivated people.”

Freshman Samantha Otto stated, “It’s not personalized enough.”

Next, the students were asked when they preferred to put in the time to go lift weights. For the students who do lift, 31.7% said they go after school, 26.8% said they lift after they get done working or after their extra curricular activity, 17.1% said they lift in the morning, and 6.1% said they lift during their strength class period.

Other responses include the following: Sophomore Arik Burnett said, “Whenever I have time and am in the mood.”

Anxiously awaiting break

by Noah Krommenhoek

Christmas spirit is something that is fueled by joyful times and family get togethers. Most people look forward to this time of the year. All over Christmas lights begin to go up, and snow begins to fall. Christmas spirit can help spread love, happiness, and kindness.

A week after Christmas comes the new year. Many people get out of school or get off work during this week to celebrate and spend time with their family and friends.

Senior Pypyr Stoeffler gets into the Christmas spirit by listening to Christmas music and decorating. For her the Christmas spirit can begin in late November and go until January. She especially enjoys how happy and generous people tend to be around this season.

Senior Devin Hansen likes to watch Hallmark movies, relax, and bake cookies to

get into the Christmas spirit. He usually begins this any time after Thanksgiving. He believes the reason to “get into the religious spirit is to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.” Devin plans to work and sleep during his Christmas break.

Students and staff are looking forward to the break for several reasons.

Stoeffler said her favorite part of the holiday season is “Christmas lights and family getting together.”

Math teacher Elizabeth Anderson said, “I like winter break because I get to spend more time with my family.”

Study hall teacher Shalin Plueger-Eilts said she is looking forward to Christmas break: “I am anxious to sleep in and relax with my family.”

Senior Mia Haage said, “I’m going to use the time to sleep and spend more time with my siblings.”

Crimson and Black season begins amid uncertainty

by Ellie Peterson

Crimson and Black, the LCHS show choir, started Monday, November 16 with auditions; 41 members were selected.

Director Randy Ewing explained, “There were three components to the audition: a short dance routine, part of a song, and a major scale. The auditions were scheduled to be live, but had to switch to virtual at the last minute due to the weather and our early out.”

Ewing also mentioned, “The students in this group always strive to be the best they can be. Many hours of sweat and hard work go into putting this show together!”

Show choir normally performs at many different competitions. However, the schedule will be much

different this year. Ewing said, “The only contest we will POSSIBLY participate in is our state contest sponsored by the Iowa High School Music Association. There is a good chance that this will be a virtual contest.”

Ewing added, “Not attending our regular competitions will be a big difference, but at this point, we’re not sure those events will even take place.”

The pandemic has made several other changes this season. Ewing said, “The students will be wearing masks during all practices and performances. In addition to following our school’s mask mandate, it is the only way we can safely sing during this pandemic.”

He continued, “We will

Students join newspaper/yearbook staff

by Madison Claussen



This semester, 14 students have been working to create both the *Dog Pound* (the school newspaper you are reading right now) and the *Bark* (the school yearbook you should definitely order if you have not already done so!).

Students in the class take pictures or candids, create pages in the yearbook, and write news stories.

The staff includes Hannah Albert, Kiley Allan, Madison

Claussen, Devin Hansen, Kyle Hubbell, Mya Kibby, Noah Krommenhoek, Autumn Maddox, Payton Marienau, Kennedy Masuen, Ellie Petersen, Pypyr Stoeffler, Shaniah Temple, and Emily Wilson.

The unique pages of the yearbook are created on a website through Jostens.

Every week staff members take 5 pictures or candids to be used in the yearbook.

While finding people to take pictures of, senior Autumn Maddox said, “I gained a better understanding of classmates below me.”

Senior Kennedi Masuen said, “The easiest part about yearbook is getting pictures of different people and working at your own pace.”

Senior Noah Krommenhoek said, “In yearbook the deadlines for the stories aren’t too fast and there are always people to ask if I need help.”

Senior Devin Hansen signed up for yearbook class for a special reason: “I needed an elective class to fill my schedule.”

Kiley Allan said, “I signed up for news writing because I need to know how to write in a news style for my career and yearbook happens to be in the same class.”

Sherri Permeswaran advises both the newspaper and the yearbook.

all going to make memories, and they will be remembered because no one will forget this year I promise you that.”

Senior Adriane Stramer-Fuentes said, “The most challenging thing about show choir is learning how to dance in 3-inch heels. It took me a while to learn how to properly dance in them, and I still struggle to dance in them to this day.”

Samuel Bowen sees several benefits of being in show choir: he said, “I enjoy getting to make my singing and dancing better.”

Senior Lucas Gerdes said, “all the practices” are the most challenging thing about show choir.

competitions are the best memories.”

Junior Grace Gerdes says show choir is “very enjoyable, so fun.”

Freshman Brookleyn Britt said, “I wanted to go out for show choir because of the experience I had in middle school; every time you join a new group once you start practicing is like a family. No one else understands the bond made in groups like that unless they are a part of it. It is overall a new experience, and I have no doubt it will be a great year, and that it will bring us all closer.

“We will make it through this pandemic and we will come out stronger than when we entered it. Stuff like the little extra groups during these were