



Staff says goodbye Mr. Dole counts the days

by *Stephanie Rennich*

Math teacher and athletic director, Alan Dole, has been teaching at Pella Middle School for 28 years. He will be retiring after the 2010-2011 school year. He has been devoted to helping these students learn and helping with the sports programs.

Mr. Dole said, "My favorite thing about teaching at Pella has been that I get to work with the students every day."

Along with being a seventh grade math teacher, he was also athletic director. As athletic director he scheduled games and hired the officials and the workers. Along with the scheduling jobs he has had to do, he also supervised all the home games.

Mr. Tjeerdsma will be taking over Mr. Dole's job as seventh grade math teacher starting with the 2011-2012 school year. Mr. Tjeerds-

ma will also be taking over as athletic director. Mr. Tjeerdsma has been teaching 5th grade at Jefferson.

After retiring, Dole doesn't plan on being lazy the whole time! He already has a job lined up. After he retires, he will be working at Weiler in Knoxville. At Weiler, he will work in an office for making machinery for road work.

Mr. Dole will really miss teaching at Pella Middle School, but one of the things he will miss most of all is not only being around his students, but also being with his fellow staff members.

Former students will also miss him when he retires. Jamison Roozeboom said, "Mr. Dole was the best, most amazing teacher to ever walk this Earth! The kids next year will really be missing out!"

Even though he will miss all of his former students, he will also be en-

joying his time on retirement. "It's bittersweet really," Mr Dole said, "I'm excited about retirement but I'm also going to miss teaching and being with all my students and the other staff members. I'll be sad and glad at the same time!"



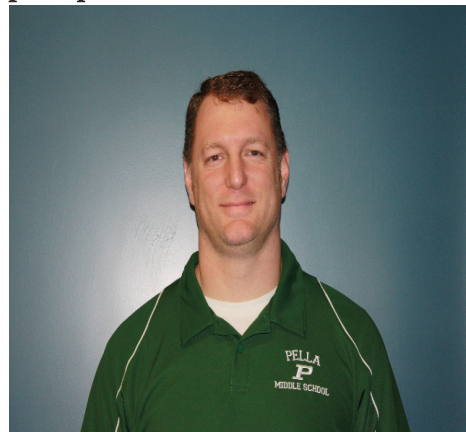
Athletic director and 7th grade math teacher, Mr. Dole is both excited and sad about retiring.

(photo by *Stephanie Rennich*)

Mr. Patton gives his final farewell

by *Sally Ropes*

Mr. Patton, principal of Pella Middle School, is moving to Baxter, Iowa. For four years Mr. Patton has been working at Pella Middle School as a principal and friend of students and staff.



Middle school principal, Mr. Patton is preparing for his move to Baxter.
(photo by *Sally Ropes*)

He has improved the quality of school life tremendously in the past years. While Mr. Patton has worked here, he has helped fundraise for organizations and much more. During the first year he started working here, the sixth graders transitioned to Jefferson Intermediate. For the quality of students' efforts, he has improved the schedule for more opportunities to get work done and stay active in a sport. He has hired almost half of the wonderful staff employed today. He also created policies to hold students accountable for their actions, as well as their academic performances, such as restricted lunch and summer school.

Early in 2011 Mr. Patton had a job offer as a superintendent in Bax-

ter, Iowa. He was excited and overwhelmed at the idea of leaving Pella.

Mr. Patton said, "I am going to miss Pella a lot. I know it will be hard to leave."

Mr. Patton is not the only one who is going to be distraught, many students and staff will miss him.

Alli Dingeman, an eighth grade student said, "I think most of the students and staff got along well with Mr. Patton. He has always been patient and considerate."

Mr. Manning, principal of Os-kaloosa Elementary school, is taking Mr. Patton's job. He was found fit for the job after a long interview process of deciding who would meet the qualifications of a middle school principal.

Tornado rips through Mapleton

by Tom Pettit

"It was just this big, wide, dark wall of cloud and wind," Dixie Peters said of the Mapleton tornado. "It wasn't just some little funnel." Dixie and her husband, Jim Peters, were eating dinner when the warning sirens went off. In panic, Jim drove a block away in his Ford Explorer, while Dixie ran down the street, crawled into a ditch and hung onto a telephone pole. The mud which covered her when the tornado was over turned her hair from blond to black.

On April 9, 2011, an F3 tornado with 135 mph winds stormed through Mapleton, Iowa. Mapleton is located east of Interstate 29, about 160 miles northwest of Pella and 40 miles southeast of Sioux City. The tornado caused damage and destruction to this small town. Mapleton's Mayor, Fred Standa, estimated that about 20% of the town was "almost flat." About 100 houses are condemned, or deemed unsafe to enter.

Monona County Sheriff Sgt. Roger Krohn said that about 50-60% of the town had been either damaged or destroyed by the tornado, which was three quarters of a mile wide and there had been no reports of serious injuries or deaths. Authorities said the fifteen minutes of warning, which is five to ten more than usually given, were crucial in preventing those serious injuries or fatalities. The worst injury was a broken leg.

Tornado season started in March and will continue throughout June. The area in which is commonly hit with tornadoes consist of the Central and Southeast U.S.A. Many tornadoes in the Southeast United States form from hurricanes. Tornado safety tips can be found at www.spc.noaa.gov.

Tornadoes are serious, natural disasters that can cause harm in an instant. Living in Iowa in the middle of tornado season is dangerous and you should know the proper safety procedures. During times like this it is important to stay safe for yourself and others.

Sterling holds summer lifting camp

by Zach Vande Weerd

Sterling Orthopedic and Sports Physical Therapy is holding a summer lifting camp for students entering grades 6, 7, and 8. The camp will be held Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from the beginning of June to July 29th with the 4th of July being a day off. It starts at 11:30 and will run for roughly an hour. This camp will be held at Kuyper Field House.

"I want kids that attend to come out of it knowing that they will get out what they put into it," said Coach Zach Fears, a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist at Sterling. Fears, a graduate of Central College, has been working with Pella High School and helped athletes gain a total of 7,000 more pounds to all their lifts.

A variety of people will be helping out in this camp. The director of the camp will be Jon Haugen, along with upperclassmen high school football

players and Central Strength Interns. One of the big reasons this camp is being held is for young athletes to become more successful in future years. According to Fears, "So many kids do not realize the importance of these things until it's too late. I want to see kids getting better from grade school age on up and wanting to get better."

Many kids are working harder and harder to excel in their sport at a young age. One example is 7th grader Noah Clayberg. "I started lifting weights in 4th or 5th grade to get stronger and faster for sports. It has definitely benefited me by being more powerful in football and quicker to make more plays."

If you are interested in attending this camp or have further questions, contact Sterling Orthopedic and Sports Physical Therapy at 641-621-1401.

Elementary students spend morning with big kids

by Mandy Nossaman

On Thursday, April 12, the eighth grade English students traveled to the local elementary schools to read their children's books. Half of the groups went to Lincoln Elementary and the other half went to Madison.

The eighth grade authors spent close to three weeks of class transforming their blank hardback books into stories they thought little people would enjoy. Some people dressed up or brought candy to entertain the children as they read to them.

Seth Johnson said, "Reading to those kids was an experience I've never had before. (In a good way.) Seeing them

smile and laugh during my story just made my day. I would do it again in a heart beat." Seth's group members were Jeannie Etnyre and Brandon Burnett.

The stories were about a variety of things. A few examples of topics are tacos that save the day, runts wishing to be large piglets, and ding-dong ditching a crazy old man. Several groups used special voices for the characters as they read their books.

Mrs. DeHaan said, "I am so proud of the eighth graders. They did a superb job of creating and presenting a book to the K-3 students."



Eighth grade students read to the children at Madison and Lincoln.
(photo by Mandy Nossaman)

Students get ready to move on

by Jessica Wieser

As the end of the school year draws near, that means that next year is even closer. Next year eighth graders will be at the high school, this year's seventh graders will be at the top of the middle school, and sixth graders will be up here at the middle school. Everyone at Pella schools is going to go through some sort of change next year.

When asked what she would miss most about Jefferson, sixth grader Micaela Veenstra's response was, "I will miss all the teachers!" Also, when she was asked if she was looking forward to middle school she said, "I am very excited for middle school because I want to see all my new teachers and different classes." When sixth grader Liz Pettit was asked the same question,

she answered, "Yes! Definitely!"

As for the seventh graders, next year they are going to be at the top here at the middle school and will set the tone for next year. When seventh grader Trent Schippers was asked about what his favorite things about seventh grade were, his response was, "My favorite thing about seventh grade is all the music opportunities that are available." When seventh grader Samantha Fuller was asked if she was excited about eighth grade, she said, "Yes." When she was also asked what she would miss most about seventh grade, her response was, "The teachers that teach seventh grade."

Finally, last but not least, the eighth graders this year will be freshmen

up at the high school next year. When asked what her favorite part about eighth grade was, Christina Gualtieri answered, "Being able to participate in show choir and meeting lots of new friends." Also, when asked if she was excited about high school, she said, "I am excited... but also nervous." When eighth grader Micheal Heredia was asked the same question, he said, "Yes."

As you can tell, most students are excited for next year but also nervous. Also, most the students are already registered for next year and have already chosen all their classes. Next year is coming quickly, and most of us are ready for it to come.

Students start a dance crew

by Elyse Parisee

"Reach for the stars and catch the moon." Leng Yang and Carter Terpstra of the seventh grade teach students to do just that. They do this in such a way that you may be inspired to jump off your feet and join in on the fun.

Born From a Boom-Box is their official name but they are usually referred to as, "The Dance Crew". Through the power of dance,

the supervision of Mrs. Nikkel. Each day they meet, they learn new moves and gain more determination to get each step perfect through the process of trial and error. When asked what pushed Yang to start the crew he stated, "I wanted everyone to see that dance is more than just moving your feet; it's a skill that should be appreciated."

yang certainly follows his

From a Boom-Box. Sometimes dance isn't for everyone though. One of the former dancers, Jackson Scholten, said, "It was a great experience but dance just isn't my forte." This experience includes learning hip-hop moves, tricks and dancing together in a series of routines the leaders have put together for the group.

They hope they will go far and all the practice they put in will pay off for others to enjoy at the end of the year talents show this year. Going far with a dream takes strength and the heart to take charge. This group brings smiles to members and observers who stop by



Born from a boom-box, members pose in the gym, where they practice as a group.

they spend each Monday, Wednesday, Friday and tenth period in the gym with

dream. He and Carter alike dance along with the ten other members of Born

to check it out. This is truly an example of having the strength to exceed all goals.

Teachers make use of staff development time

by Nicci Van Wyk

On those days when students get out of school two hours early and head to the skate park for some extra practice, hit the books for the next big test, or bask in the summer sun, teachers stay behind at school for their own festivities. Or at least that is what people are wondering.

Taryn Earnst guessed, "They have races on the P.E scooters down the hallways and play dodge ball in the gym. They also probably plan what days they are going to stress us out the most." Andrew Pavlat suspected, "They go out to Dairy Queen, hang out, order pizza, and party in the work room."

But in all reality, teachers don't stay behind to party in the work room or race down the halls on scooters. They stay behind and work. Mrs. Dehaan stated "We have staff development. What we usually do is meet in groups and discuss lessons that we are planning on teaching, and the other teachers give their opinions on it."

Early outs for staff development are usually held on various days once

a month after school. The teachers are lucky enough to spend two agonizing hours at school doing work.

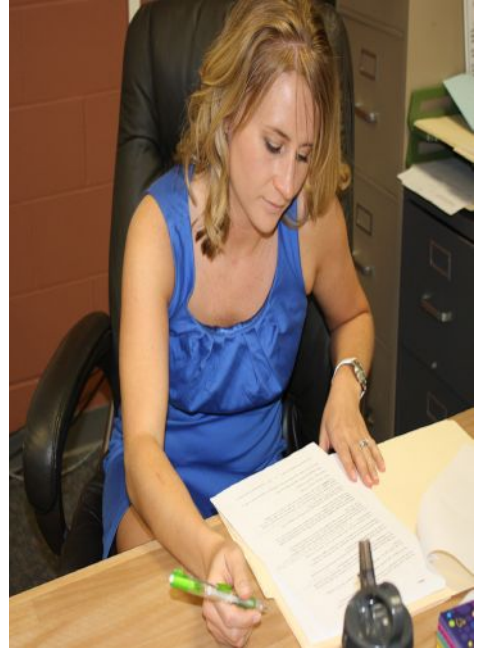
Mrs. Van Wyk said, "The meetings are needed to develop, enhance, and evaluate curriculum." Mr. Korver said about staff development meetings, "The meetings are informative. We get new ideas, get brainstorm time, get a chance to try new things, and we get feedback from other colleagues. We also learn about new teaching styles."

At these staff meetings, the teachers have been working on rigor and relevance. Rigor and relevance is when the teachers get together in a variety of groups. One teacher would explain their lesson plans and the other teachers give feedback on how to make it better.

Next year during staff development, teachers will continue doing rigor and relevance, but they will also include assessments. They will be discussing the tests they give and talk about how to make them more helpful to students.

Teachers don't have parties

after all. They don't stick around to order pizza or to play dodge ball. They actually work. Whether that surprises students or not, it's the truth.



Mrs. Peterson works hard on staff development papers.

(photo by Nicci Van Wyk)

Hard work prepares students for marching band in 2011

by Leah Wilborn

The sun is shining, the tulips are blooming, and the marching band has been preparing for weeks. Marching and playing, and then marching some more. Though it sounds like a lot of work, marching band is preferred over concert band in some students' cases.

Colin Jones prefers marching band, "...because we get to play more 'up to date' songs." He also likes being drum major better than playing the tenor saxophone, "Because of the leadership, I like leading people."

The eighth grade marching band

performed at the Thursday afternoon and Friday night parades. The seventh grade performed on Friday afternoon and in the Saturday night parade's. The sixth grade performed in the Thursday night and Saturday afternoon parades.



The marching band practices outside before Tulip Time.

(photo by Leah Wilborn)

The Middle Ground is a tabloid produced by the Pella Middle School students to serve as an informative, educational and entertaining communications media and to provide an open forum to students and readers. Submissions are welcomed and encouraged. The Middle Ground reserves the right to edit grammatical errors, libelous content and length due to space limitations. Not all submissions will be printed.

Trooper Karp shares about Iowa State Patrol

by Zach Marsh

Trooper Jim Karp came and spoke to the Publication and Tech Lit classes on Wednesday, April 20, 2011. Trooper Karp has come and spoken to Mrs. Knight's classes several times in the past. Trooper Karp showed a couple of videos and shared some facts about what he does all day.

Trooper Karp told that when he was in 7th grade he wanted to do something involving law enforcement, but it wasn't until he was 22 years old that he made the choice to become an Iowa State Trooper.

Trooper Karp works in southeast Iowa in approximately 15 counties. Trooper Karp's office is in Mt. Pleasant, but he has police powers in any part of Iowa.

Trooper Karp became an Iowa State Trooper because he hates violence

and drugs. He also wanted to help people and make difference. Trooper Karp loves what he does and has been doing it for 28 years. Trooper Karp also likes knowing he is helping people.

Trooper Karp plans to be an Iowa State Trooper for 5 more years until he is able to retire. After that, he will still do something that helps people.

Trooper Karp said, "Live a good life. Stay away from drugs and violence, and go after your dream. You can be anything you want to be. Everyone makes mistakes, but don't make the same mistake twice."

After Trooper Karp comes and speaks, the students write him letters thanking him for coming and speaking. Trooper Karp enjoys students, and he is impressed by Pella Middle School students.



Trooper Karp shows Publications class the sobriety test and how a typical drunk would walk.

(photo by Zach Marsh)

Color Guard works hard

by Stephanie Rennich

Eighth grade students involved with band had an opportunity to try out for color guard for marching band.

Fourteen girls tried out, but only nine got selected to participate.

Practices were held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for a few weeks before the auditions were held. Color guard leaders for the high school came down to the middle school to help the inexperienced eighth graders learn the moves. The helpers included Emily Drey, Tricia Wisniewski, and Karrissha Shaudt.

Marissa Borgerding said, "I had so much fun practicing and laughing when we messed up!" Auditions were held on April 13th. Six judges critiqued the girls. Those six judges included the color

guard leaders, Mr. McCombs, Mr. Stratton, and Mrs. Dykstra. The girls brave enough to audition went in four

Van Wyk, Marissa Borgerding, Mikayla Huston, Kira Hanson, and Jessica Wieser. Two girls were also selected to

hold the banner in front of the band. The two girls decided on were Katie Van Zee and Leah Wilborn.

The next couple of weeks, the nine girls picked continued to practice for the routine every week. Emily, Tricia, and

Karrissha taught the girls the routine they would need to know



8th grade colorguard members, (right) practicing for the Tulip Time parades. (photo by Stephanie Rennich)

groups of three, and one group of two. Jessica Wieser said, "The routine for flags is a lot of fun to do, but also some parts are hard because of the speed and movements we do."

These nine girls were designated to participate in the parades: Taika Dennill, Klaire DeVos, Annie Pfadenhauer, Stephanie Rennich, Nicci

for the Tulip Time parades.

Annie Pfadenhauer said, "I love spinning the flag for some reason! I also like the feeling of playing with the bass drums." The eighth grade color guard and the rest of the marching band performed on the Thursday afternoon and Friday night parades.

Boys track team breaks records

by Noah Clayberg



Garrett Jansen heaves the discus.

Runners! On your mark! Get set! Bang! The gun has sounded, and the 2011 Pella Middle School track and field season is underway. According to one of the Head Coaches Brian Huddle, approximately 33 7th graders and 30 8th graders are out for the sport. All of coaches are coach Ben Bollard, Jay Murphy, and Brian Huddle. At this point in time, most of the season is over, but there is still one remaining meet and it is the most important – the conference meet. The conference showdown will be decided Tuesday, May 10, in Knoxville. Other schools competing will include Oskaloosa, Grinnell, Knoxville, Norwalk, Newton, and South Tama.

When asked what was most enjoyable in coaching middle school track, Huddle said “It’s the excitement that

the runners bring to the sport that makes it fun.” For the last 12 years Huddle has led the middle school program. “I hope the kids will learn some things about the sport of track and field, that they learn to work together, and have fun competing.” Of all the events, Huddle said that the discus throw is his favorite to coach and watch. “Success in the discus throw requires so much technique and work. I know it takes a lot of work to be a good discus thrower and I really appreciate the effort.”

One leader on the 7th grade team is Nathan Henry. Henry has enjoyed some great achievements this year, setting at least one record in every meet so far this season. Henry has also set a school record in the 100 meter dash, 11.9 seconds. This year Henry has run the 100m, 200m, 4x400m relay, and High Jump. His favorite event is probably also the hardest, the 4x400m relay. Henry said, “I like it because it is the last event, and everybody is tired. Winning the

4x400m relay shows what you’re made of.” When asked what it feels like to be the fastest 7th grader ever to run at Pella Middle School, Nathan said, “It feels really good to do your best, and then to find out that you beat somebody else’s best time.” Success in these events does not come without hard

work. Henry said, “Ladders are my least favorite workout because you have to run at a fast pace for a long distance.” The 7th grade team has been experiencing success as a unit, too. Besides two setbacks where they got 2nd place in the Grinnell meet and the Chariton meet, they have gotten 1st places. With Huddle, Bollard, and Murphy encouraging the team, and fast runners like Henry working



Chase Petty competes in the hurdle relay.

(photo by Colin Jones)

hard, they hope to complete the season with a great performance and win the conference meet.

The boys are now looking forward to next year.

Softball starts up

by Kate Van Roekel

Softball is in full swing. The first practice began on Monday, May 16, and Mr. Hellbusch and Ms. Nelson are the coaches. The games will begin on Thursday, June 2 and will run through July 1. There will be both home games and away games with a total of 21 games. Most will begin at nine o’clock in the morning.

This year the goals are: learn to respect your teammates, opponents, officials, and coaches.

Jazz Van Hemert, a player on this year’s team, said, “We will have a good softball team this year because we do have great talent and we know what we’re doing when we’re in the field and up to bat.”

Aanna Roslien said, “We have good players and great talent.”

During practices girls will be throwing, catching, working on fielding, batting, running and much more. Softball takes time, dedication, and teamwork, and friendships are made.

Girls track season starts with a bang

by Hannah Smart



Shanae DeHaan-Burch congratulates and comforts Isabelle Hall after running the shuttle hurdle relay.

(photo by Leah Wilborn)

The gun goes off, and the girls launch out of their starting blocks, a look of determination on each of their faces. It's a close race with Pella in the lead as they cross the finish line.

The girls' track season started the week after spring break with about 50 seventh and eighth graders signed up. Bob Boots, who has been coaching girls' track for 26 years, said that he wishes the team had more girls in case of injury. Assistant coaches are Kari Pingel, Brenda Versteeg, and Bethany Tangen.

As well as having fewer girls, there have also been some changes to the hurdle events. For instance, the 7-flight hurdle event has been changed to the 10-flight hurdles. The eighth grade hurdlers have had to get used to the new events.

Dayana Pringle, an eighth grade hurdler, prefers the 7-flight over the 10-flight because there are less hurdles to negotiate.

Pringle said, "They (hurdles) are fun to jump over."

The girls have definitely had

some success so far this year. Coach Boots said that the girls' track team is doing very well considering the terrible weather conditions. They've had it all: cold, rain, wind, and even hail.

The Pella Invitational got rained out, but the Knoxville meet was sunny and had better conditions. At Knoxville, Lydia Van Ee, Ashley Kirkland, Mackenzie Gustafson and Jessica Holterhaus set a new record for the 4x400.

Because of the small team, some girls are trying new field events, and a lot of seventh graders are trying to determine which ones they should pursue. Mr. Boots said that what he enjoys most about coaching girls' track is finding an athlete's natural talent and watching them develop into high school track athletes. Some seventh graders have already found their natural talent in many events. The girls are training hard for the Little Hawkeye Conference meet which will be in South Tama.

Coach Boots said, "The desire to work hard and try new things is the key to being a good track athlete."

Pella Babe Ruth teams don't mix

by Colton Williams

There have been some major changes this year for Babe Ruth Baseball. It used to be that there were two teams with a mix of 7th and 8th graders, but since there were too many players, there are now two 7th grade teams and one 8th grade team.

Brian Rundle, an 8th grader, said, "I think that it's a good idea for the future because when you are playing with your grade, you become more comfortable with your team which makes you play better."

Not everybody feels the same about the change.

Brad Bortschellar, a 7th grader, said, "I do not like it (the change) because then we obviously know who is on the best Pella team. We 7th graders have to play 8th graders, but other teams have a mix so it gives them a better chance than us."

Brady Cox, a 7th grader, said, "It may be unfair but at least everyone gets a chance to play."

Shooting team succeeds

Congratulations to all the members of the shooting team for a victorious weekend at the state SCTP competitions.

In the sporting clays competition for the intermediate advanced, the squad of Spencer Schroder, Remington Schroder, and Kolbie VanDuseldorp got second in the state. Alaina Rahn was top shooter for girls. Spencer Schroder recieved third in state.

In the skeet competition for intermediate advanced the squad of Spencer Schroder, Cole Siewert, and Remington Schroder finished second in state. Alaina Rahn finished second in state for skeet for girls. Cole Siewert was individual skeet champion.

Students prepare for Tulip Time

by Meghan Van Brogen

Tulip Time is a big tradition in Pella. People in Pella look forward to Tulip Time. Many middle schoolers hang out with friends and watch the parades. The streets are crowded with people who come from all over to see the colored tulips. Many things attract people to Tulip Time: the parades, the food, and the tulips.

People line up at the stands for food. There are a lot of stands all around the square that sell food and drinks. There are foods like frozen cookie dough, walking tacos, Dutch ribbons, nachos, funnel cakes, corn dogs, cheese curds, ice cream, smoothies, shiscabbobs, and the list could go on.

8th grader Stacia Pope said, "Poffertjes are my favorite food at Tulip Time."

"I like to hang out with friends and eat good food," said 7th grader Alex Bragg. The Pella Middle School band plays in almost all of the parades. Many people go to West Market Park to buy souvenir for friends, family, or maybe themselves.

Pella is lucky to have Tulip Time to bring attention to the little town of Pella and help raise money.



Eighth grader Marissa Borgerding is walking in the Tulip Time parade Friday afternoon with one of TulipTime's many parade entries.

(photo by Jessica Wieser)



These eighth graders are waiting to go into the Casino de Pella.

(photo by Hannah Smart)

Students get excited for 8th Grade Party

by Stacia Pope

Lori Van Heukelom said, "It took me six hours to get ready, get my dress on and doing my hair, nails, and make-up. I was looking forward to the dance because it's the first dance without the 7th graders being annoying and bothering us."

Meghan Van Brogen said, "It took me six hours to get ready. I was looking forward to it because it's the first dance without the 7th graders and it was our first formal dance."

8th graders counted down since the beginning of the year. The time had finally come. The theme for the 8th grade party this year was Casino de Pella. Everyone had been so psyched for the day to come and ready for a party night.

The decorations were lots of cards. There were tons of bright lights. Streamers were scattered all about. It had lots of games.

There were tons of people supervising, lots of parents and some teachers. At 7:00, a class photo was taken. Everyone went to the gym and sat on the bleachers while the professionals told everyone what they needed to do. After the class photo

was done, anyone who wanted a picture with friends could have that taken.

There was also a photo booth, where friends could go, put on dress up stuff and get three pictures taken. There was never a dull moment. At the party there was lots of dancing, games, treats, drinks, and much more. The games were the kind people would play at a casino like cards, poker, etc. The dancing was like any other dance, slow, fast, medium speed, some old music and some new.

One of the game systems was Wii. You could play Guitar Hero with a friend or by yourself. There was also a bungee run, jousting, money machine, dodgeball, scooter races, and ping pong.

Throughout the whole party the D.J. was handing out gifts like Central College shirts, bags, blankets, Smokey Row gift cards, water bottles from Central and McDonald's gift cards. At the end of the dance everyone got a t-shirt and a poker chip. The t-shirt had 2015 written on it with everyone's names signed in big bubble numbers. Overall, the dance had lots of exciting moments and there was tons to do.



Infomercials for FCS help kids

by Carlee Ver Helst

The students in FCS 1 made infomercials targeted to sell the audience small appliances. They talked about the many features of their appliance. The students also prepared a recipe that uses that small appliance to make it.

Students referred to key tools, terms, and safety and sanitation information they learned this trimester in FCS 1 during the infomercial. Students were also graded on whether or not the safe way to use and clean the appliance was mentioned in the infomercial. Since the students are attempting to sell their small appliances, mentioning the cost of the appliance and its comparisons was essential. They also had to mention the cost to make the recipe at home compared to buying the product already made. This project served as a form of semester test for FCS 1.

Two of these students are Shanae Dehaan-Burch and Carlee Ver Helst. Their small appliance is the stand mixer. They made multi-measurement cookies for their infomercial. Students are given one week to prepare and practice, a second week to tape their infomercials, and a third week to edit the tapes on iMovie. These infomercials will be watched in the classes at the end of the year. Students had fun during the process and are excited for the finished product!

Making octane bars

by Payson Vande Lune

Specifically speaking, this is a healthy treat. It has lots of good stuff in it, and it is packed with energy so it's a great thing to have before playing a sport. It is also an easy snack to make.

All that is required to make these is to mix the ingredients in a large bowl, then mash it all into a pan.

My initial thought when looking at the completed product was that it looked like oatmeal with chocolate in it. I wasn't too excited to taste it (looking like oatmeal and all). I expected it to have no taste, whatsoever. My mind was then blown away with the first bite. One thought came to my head- cookie dough.

I have always loved eating chocolate chip cookie dough before they are able to be baked, and that's what this reminded me. While it doesn't lack a dessert-like taste, it does lack certain characteristics of a dessert.

So all in all, I would give it a 4/5 star rating. In my personal opinion, there could be more chocolate, but that's the only improvement I can think of.

Octane Bars:

- 2 cups of quick oats
- 1 cup crunchy peanut butter
- 1 cup honey
- 1 cup dark chocolate chips
- 1 cup raisins or dried cranberries
- 1 cup milled flax seed
- 1 cup vanilla protein powder

Mix ingredients in a large bowl and press into 8x8 pan. Refrigerate until cold.



Healthy food made for students to enjoy before school.

(photo by Logan Heerema)

Meet the Staff *by Mandy Nossaman*



Mr. Nick Harthorn's favorite subject has always been math. He had a great high school math teacher who really influenced him into his current career. Harthorn went to Northwestern college in Orange City, Iowa and

received a math degree as well as secondary education.

Mr. Harthorn has not always taught in the Pella Community School District. He started out teaching eighth grade math in Waukee and was there for three years.

Harthorn was also the head basketball coach at Lynnville this year. He has a good year with a season record of twenty-three wins and only three losses. His team ended up in the state tournament, however lost in the first round. He plans to coach next year, as well.

All added together, Harthorn has taught at the middle school level for seven years - three years at Waukee and four years at Pella.

When asked what his favorite part about teaching eighth graders was, he responded with, "The enthusiasm and life they bring to the classroom each day."

MEET THE ATHLETE



by Mandy Nossaman

Sebastian Baugh was nine years old when he started playing basketball. The first team he played on was "All Iowa Attack," a nine-year-old traveling team. He traveled

to places like Texas, Indiana, Kansas, and Wisconsin.

Baugh played football in third grade, but quit after two weeks because it was too much running. Now Baugh plays basketball on three different teams: "Kingdom Hoop U13," "Kingdom Hoops U16," and the "Milwaukee Playground Elite."

When asked about how long his basketball season is, Baugh said, "Three-hundred sixty-five days and a half. Actually I think it's a fourth, but I don't know."

In the past Baugh has traveled to many places, such as San Diego, California, Fort Wayne and South Bend, Indiana, Lawrence, Kansas, Little Rock, Arkansas, and all over Iowa.

Baugh would like to continue to play basketball in his future, but he says whatever happens is God's plan, and he can't really control what that is.

Meet The Student

by Leah Wilborn

Emma Johnson moved to Pella on February 15, 2011 from Omaha, Nebraska. Even though she misses her old town, she is enjoying Pella Middle School so far. "The people here are really nice, and there's a ton of stuff to do."

Her favorite subjects are social studies and literature, and she enjoys texting, sleeping, and hanging out with friends. She plays volleyball and is a very good poet. Emma has moved five times before moving to Pella and has been to almost all fifty states.



(photo by Leah Wilborn)

Meet the Musician

by Devin McCain

Eleanor Witt is a classical musical prodigy. She started playing piano when she was four. Then she started



to play saxophone in fifth grade. She has played in several different piano competitions and has played piano pieces in choir concerts. She says if there was any other instrument she would like to play but never got the chance, "Probably guitar. Good guitar

players always look so awesome when they play."

Along with band, she is in choir and performs in show choir and other plays. She has been in *The Sound of Music*, *School House Rock*, and *Music Man*. She also played in jazz band both middle school years.

In sixth grade, she auditioned and successfully made it into the state honor choir, Opus. She has been a part of it for three years. Her greatest music idol she says is "Probably Kris DeWild. She's my piano teacher. Because she plays piano really well I really look up to her." She loves being on stage and says that "Every time I'm on stage is such a memorable moment."

Students show off artwork

by Leah Wilborn

The following students' artwork was displayed at the Community Center Art Show. Congratulations!

3D Art:

Mobiles:

Chuefeng Vue

Pop Art Person/Character:

Courtney Gritman

Danielle Brouillard

Annyka Morris

Autumn Moran

Emily Masek

Pop Art product:

Lori VanHoekelum

Garret Jansen

Mackenzie Gustafson

Keelie Haselett

Courtney Gritman

Brooke Edwards

Makayla Allsup

Marbled Books:

Jaiden VerSteeg

Rachel Scheepers

Makayla Allsup

Keelie Haselett

Hunter Boertje

Anne Williamson

Ansel Zalcborg

Megan Kooker

Hanna Picket

Marbled Paper:

Bailey Wilson

Megan Atkins

Ashley Kirkland

2-D Art:

Tessellation:

Lucia Martisovitsova

Impossible World:

Taylor Fleenor

Jessica Pottridge

William Lovell

Heidi Groenendyk

Module Design:

Emily Dux

Paige Miller

Parody project allows students to show off their skills

story by Leah Wilborn

Tenth period, eight students gathered at the library to show off their parodies. A panel of judges watched each one and picked a winner. "Well it was kinda scary, cause I was the only girl; but it was a lot of fun, and getting third is pretty good too," said Devin McCain. In the end, Andre Hernandez and his parody won overall.



(photo by Jessica Wieser)



Mrs. DeHaan shows off her CO2 car award certificate.

(photo by Mandy Nossaman)

Racing business is booming

by Cole Janssen

My name is Cole Janssen. I have raced for four years now, and I love it! Many of you don't understand what I do, and I would like to make that change. I hate to sit here and say it's impossible to do, because it's not.

Some races my family and I go to, have more than 3000 people! Most of those people are families of the drivers, though. Usually 400 race drivers show up and only 20 make the main event. That is not a good percentage.

I have only missed one race in my whole career. I have won many races, about 50, and I am looking forward to winning many more this summer.

Winning a race is the best, most exhilarating feeling in the world! There is so much preparation and hard work that goes into winning, or even just finishing well.

I have spent countless hours working and studying how racing works and how to get the best results. When I drive out of turn number two on the last lap, I am so nervous that someone will pass me that I hug the bottom. Then I get really nervous about the last corner and the straight away leading up to the finish-line. Once I cross it, I can slow down and thank goodness I didn't mess up on the last lap. It is an experience that you could only feel for yourself.

I also own my own racing business with the help of my dad. He helped me start it money-wise, but I have paid him back and have made thousands of dollars which I have saved or put back into the company.

I put chemicals on the insides of the tires and on the outsides of the tire's in the right amount in order to improve

the tires speed and help them roll better.

My father and I studied tires for a long time, and we have won many races for people that needed help on their tire program. A tire program is the patterns in the chemicals someone puts on his tires. Most people have preferences. Now my dad has set me free to improve my position in the racing world.

Some people think owning a business is hard at such a young age. Yes, it has its challenges. But I don't regret a single thing about it. I have to be organized and a good people person. I have to deal with up's and down's, but more importantly, I don't give up and stay happy and confident.

Thank you for reading my article. If you ever have any questions about my business, just ask me.



Brian Rundle and Ashley Kirkland are racing their CO2 cars from tech. lit.



Sarah DeWolf is decorating her CO2 car for tech. lit.

Bradley soars above Red Rock

by Colton Bradley

Using a kite to catch wind while you speed below on a board over water is a rush.

Kiteboarding is an exciting and thrilling extreme sport. This sport contains high speeds, heights, and the possibility of amazing aerobatic moves.

To participate in this sport you need very specific and specialized kiteboarding equipment. Depending on your experience and skill level, you have two options for the variety of kite

you use. The first option, which is preferred by most riders, especially beginners, is called a leading edge inflatable kite. They are made of strong fabric, usually nylon, and feature many different inflatable bladders in its body along the edge. The bladders make it so the kite won't sink in the water, and so the kite is lightweight. The air bladders also keep the kite's shape.

The second option to choose from are foil kites. They feature air pockets in the body rather than bladders, and they are heavier than leading edge inflatables because they have a hard-bodied bridle to maintain its shape. Beginners have a harder time controlling their ride with this type of kite. This kite is quicker to set up and start riding though because there are no bladders that require manual inflation.

Additional equipment needed include flying lines, a control bar, and a

on the rider. They can be very light and small, wooden, made of plastic or other materials.

Some resemble wakeboards and have bindings just like wakeboards. However, some boarders choose to use traditional surfboards, which do not have bindings. It all depends on the level of experience of the rider and what type of ride they are looking for.

Kiteboarding can be a dangerous sport, but the thrill is amazing. This

sport is incorporated to be on water, land

and snow. The sport is completely powered by mother nature after the purchase. This is kiteboarding!

Comic Break



Colton Bradley standing with his kite board.
(picture submitted by Colton Bradley)

harness. These items are all connected together when in use, but can be purchased separately. The flying lines are made of a very strong material and are what connect the kite to the user. They must withstand unpredictable wind bursts. There are many different line configurations that all vary based on the boarders experience and preference, and which type of kite they use.

The control center of the experience is at the control bar. The flying lines are connected to the control bar and the user then navigates their ride with the bar. The boarder wears a harness which is also connected to the kite. Most harnesses are worn around the waist to ease strain from arms while controlling the kite.

Finally, the rider needs a kiteboard. The type of board used depends

Summer, fashion come quick

by Devin McCain

Spring and summer fashions are blooming. Vintage, mixed and matched patterns, and preppy accessories are coming back. One of the main goals for every girl is to have the perfect fitting clothes that compliment their body type. One of the clothing types would be dresses. Hourglass figures want to have dresses that have a sash or come in at the center. As for a pear shaped body, a skirt with ruffles at the top evens out the rest of your body's curves. Petite figures want to have clothing that makes them look taller, a.k.a. v-necks and u-necks. Dressing casual clothes up with a long cardigan that is pink, orange, or red with a belt is also fun to do. Larger jewelry also helps make casual clothing dressy, so it's wearable to a formal event. Having a pair of dark washed skinny jeans with a fitted graphic tee and a royal or navy blue dance sleeved cardigan is also big for spring. Stripes also make you look smaller around your waist. Black helps too, so a striped shirt with a long dark blue cardigan and a large black belt around the waist compliments your figure. You can also pair up dressy shoes with casual

clothing so you can wear it to school. Shorts that go about 5-6 inches below your waist line are perfect for the summer. Any shorter will not look very attractive. Cargo shorts right above your knees, if you're not comfortable to wear shorter shorts. Anything lower would be capris, which are awesome to have during the spring and early summer. Sandals are great for the summer. My favorite are gladiator sandals; they can go half way up your calves! Others can go below your ankles, but most go just above your ankles. Fun colors for the summer are red, pink, yellow, orange, bright blue, bright green, and classic, warmer, toned colors. Sandals that have beads on them are fun too! Shoes with flowers or other accessories are also cute. In fact, you can make easy flower accessories by getting flower hair clips, and clipping it onto your shoe straps, or anywhere else. The trick to get this perfect is to make sure your colors don't clash, but also have no other accessories on it. Otherwise it just gets to be too much. That's all for now! If you have any questions or comments, you can email me at, devmccai@student.pella.k12.ia.us.



Lent brings students closer to God

by Logan Heerema

Lent is a time of sacrifice. Lent is a forty day period that ends on Good Friday. During the period of Lent, people give up something that they love because it helps their relationship with God. It brings them closer to Him and strengthens their relationship.

This time can still be a struggle for some. It can be hard for people to give up something they love for forty days. It takes a lot of strength and faith.

Some people have shared their point of view on Lent. Jack Meyer said, "Jesus was in the desert for forty days and forty nights and he did it for us. We should give something up that we should stop or that's keeping us away from Him, such as T.V. or video games. I gave up soda because it is way too hard to give up video games. It's sad because that is what the world is coming to, video games and electronics."

Andrew Pavlat said, "We should give up something that is hard to give up that we love, something that keeps us away from God. When we give up certain things we should take more time to spend with God." Andrew decided to give up dating along with his friend, Quinton Murphy. Quinton Murphy said, "It is a time when you show God how much you love him and what you would give up for him."

Austin Hill also shared his point of view on Lent, "I gave up my computer because Lent is a good thing, and it brings us closer to God."

Mandy Nosaman (left) flaunts her style for the eighth grade party while trying on clothes.
(photo by Devin McCain)



Eighth graders lend advice

by Lori VanHuekelom

"Mind your own business. Don't look teachers in the eye. Make sure you get your homework in on time." This is advice from Megan Atkins an eighth grader at Pella Middle School.

A lot of students would say that eighth grade was the best year at the middle school. In eighth grade you get a lot of freedom and the teachers are easy going. One thing that you don't want to do is get in the habit of turning in your homework late. Just like in 7th grade, you'll get put on the restricted list, but also the teachers get mad more easily.

Meghan Van Brogen gave some advice, too. "Make sure the person you choose to be your locker partner is who you really want because you won't be able to change them. Also don't write on your locker with dry erase markers!"

When Julie VanEe was asked

what advice she would give to new eighth graders she said, "Have fun and don't worry about dating; well, don't obsess over it. Just worry about who your real friends are. A good thing to get into is sports because you meet new people, and it's good exercise. Also, don't be late to your classes!"

Taika Dennill said, "Pass all of your classes, and get good grades so you don't have to re-do it."

Logan Heerema advised, "Don't get into trouble and try to get on the teachers' good side. 'Cause if you aren't, they will have it out for you for the rest of the year, and that's not fun."

Well, now that some eighth graders have given you advice from their vast experience, good luck next year, Seviales!



Kiley Elder and Amelia Vande Lune are going to the highschool next year.

Jimmy Johns comes to Pella

by Colin Jones

The sub sandwich super-giant Subway has ruled the town of Pella for years. But Subway has finally found a competitor in the relatively new restaurant Jimmy Johns.

Jimmy Johns opened earlier this year in downtown Pella next to State Farm insurance. Jimmy Johns has not only provided a easy to reach job place for teenagers looking for work, but has also provided a nice change in Pella's restaurant scene providing delicious sandwiches. Admittedly the sandwiches are a bit overpriced costing around \$6-\$7 per sandwich depending on what you choose, but the quality of the sandwich I think is worth it.

When you walk into the restaurant you are welcomed by a cash register calling out "Welcome to Jimmy Johns!" which is a stark contrast to the usually daunting silence that welcomes you when you walk into Subway. Along with this light atmosphere they have slogans and pictures to lighten the mood where as Subway has the garden green and floral patterns.

So if you want to break out of your normal routine of a \$5 foot-long at Subway and want to enjoy a delicious sandwich, with bread to rival Jaarsma's, go on in to Jimmy Johns and be welcomed by employees singing to the latest top 40.

Review of "The Mountains of Madness"

by Matthew Sutija

A troop of explorers from Miskatonic University finds something unbelievable in "The Mountains of Madness" by H.P. Lovecraft.

This book perfectly blends the macabre and scientific side of H.P. Lovecraft's writings. In "The Mountains of Madness", H.P. Lovecraft writes about an exploration team that goes to Antarctica to find the last research team and to continue researching.

When they get there, all they see are the bodies of the research team and the remains of a large monster. The mystery deepens when they come upon an ancient city filled with hieroglyphics and mosaics of a time before humankind, when an ancient race ruled the world. Then that race fell in a revolt by the shoggoth, the elder one's slaves.

After learning this shocking truth and realizing what the corpse in their camp was, they are chased by the shoggoth. Only time will tell if they will survive their journey past the peaks of "The Mountains of Madness".

"The Mountains of Madness" is a good book to read if you enjoy mysteries, horror and adventure books. The writer, H.P. Lovecraft was an insane author who lived in the early 20th century.

His creative mind made an entire universe, which is why I enjoy his books. His other books are just as mind blowing and entertaining.

I enjoyed this book because his plotlines are deep and they have twists, but not average twists, his twists are truly unexpected unlike other author's twists are.

That's why more readers should read the writings of H.P. Lovecraft and especially, "The Mountains of Madness".



Ask Jessica

by Jessica Wieser

Hi middle schoolers! It's me, Jessica. The girl who answered all of your questions this month. Some of them were funny, some were serious, and others were very wierd. Some of them I didn't know how I should answer, while others I knew the answer to right away. I hope you all like my answers.

-Jessica

Dear Jessica,

What is the square root of onions?

-Green Onion

Dear Green Onion,

This is a very odd question for you to ask. I think the square root of an onion is its bulb because you need a bulb for there to be an onion.

-Jessica

Dear Jessica,

What if the guy I like told/acts like he hates me?

-No Name

Dear NoName,

If the guy you like told you that he hates you, then that totally sucks. Don't cry over him though, because he's not worth it. It's his loss. If he is acting like he hates you, he might not really hate you. Still don't cry over him.

-Jessica

Dear Jessica,

Okay, so my friends are always asking for advice, and usually I'm pretty good at answering them, but then also my sisters are bugging me about teaching them how to do the stuff that I do and my mom doesn't trust me too much. Everyone kind of thinks I'm a really good person and I have all my problems solved, but really I don't. How can I find the time to solve my own problems if people never stop bothering me about theirs?

-Advise Me

Dear Advise Me,

I think you're in a tough situation. You want to solve your friends' problems, but you also want to solve your own problems. I think you should tell your friends that they should solve their problems on their own because, "I have some problems that I need to work out first for myself. I really do want to help you but I don't have the time." That shows them that you do care, but you just don't have the time. If they are good friends, then they'll understand.

-Jessica

Dear Jessica,

I know who you are! Anyway, what do I do if lightning hits me?

-No Name

Dear No Name,

If lightning hits you and you are still alive, I would call 911. If you don't have a phone, then yell for help. Someone will probably hear you.

-Jessica

Dear Jessica,

I spelled my friend's name wrong! Then I spelled my name wrong! What is wrong with me?

-Opazz

Dear Opazz,

My guess is that you are just distracted so you weren't really thinking when you spelled your friend's name and your name. When I'm distracted, I'll spell my name wrong some times.

-Jessica

Dear Jessica,

Did you know pineapples don't grow on trees? If so, how do you know?

-Curious

Dear Curious,

I do know that pineapples don't grow on trees, but I can't remember where I've heard that before. I think one of my friends told me this the other day.

-Jessica



by Nicholas VanEngen