



Page editor Mallory Christy

# New year begins with a new principal

by Mallory Christy

Mr. Manning is the new principal for Pella Middle School. He moved here from Grimes, Iowa. He moved to Pella because he wanted to raise his three children in a safe and good community. He has lived in Pella before and has gone to Central College for four years.

It is the beginning of Manning's fourth year as a principal. He has taught before becoming a principal for five years. He has taught third grade for one year, fifth grade for two years, and

sixth grade for two years.

In his free time, he enjoys biking, landscaping, playing golf, participating in triathlons, and most importantly, being a dad to his three boys. His oldest son Michael is four. His second oldest son Sam is two and a half. His youngest son Emmett is six months old.

Mr. Manning said, "I appreciate the student and teacher efforts to make Pella Middle School a special place."



Mr. Manning works at his desk.

(photo by Mallory Christy)

# *Publications* makes changes for 2011-12 school year

by Emily Irwin

*Publications* is a class in which students create the middle school paper, yearbook, and other projects directed at telling the middle school story.

This trimester there are eight girls enrolled in *Publications*. They are Tori Swanson, Aletta Verhey, Emily Masek, Lydia Warin, Sara Aguilar, Lauren Kingery, Mackenzie Dugger, Mallory Christy, and Emily Irwin.

*Publications* meets daily during tenth period. This time slot allows all interested eighth grade students to participate. Students can choose to take *Publications* all year if they want.

A large part of the class involves photography. When students take pictures, it is important to ask first before taking them. When taking pictures for the class, it is also very important to take a variety of pictures which include many students and tell the whole middle school story. Photo journalists learn to keep an eye open for good pictures.

Mallory Christy said, "*Publications* is a big commitment because you have to take lots of pictures and be responsible with the cameras. *Publications* also requires some time

out of school to finish projects and take pictures of after-school sports."

Sara Aguilar said, "It is a big new change from my old school. I have never seen a newspaper like this before."



**8th Grade Publications students for the first trimester include the following: Aletta Verhey, Mallory Christy, Tori Swanson, Lauren Kingery, Lydia Warin, Sara Aguilar, Makenzie Dugger, Emily Masek and Emily Irwin.**



## La Nina is back

by Ben Tysseling

La Nina is coming back this year to bring more rain, more snow, more droughts, and other severe weather. A La Nina is cooling of water over a tropical Pacific, and the wind patterns bring droughts in part of the world, and snow fall in the Colorado Rockies through-out the Midwest. This winter, Pella could be up for some heavy snow fall.

Last year's La Nina sent record winter snowfall, spring flooding and drought across the United States, as well as other extreme weather events around the world, such as heavy rain in Australia and extremely dry weather in eastern Africa. This year's predictions show the northwestern U.S. can expect a colder than normal winter while southern U.S. should see warmer temperatures.

On September 7, the NOAA (National Ocean and Atmosphere Administration) set a La Nina advisory across the world. La Nina is supposed to take place this fall and go through next spring in 2012.

## Hospital considers hiring new employees

by Reid Leidigh

Pella Regional Health Center first opened their doors in 1960 as an acute care hospital for the town of Pella. There were 17 employees and 7 doctors from Pella. The building was initially composed of about 24,000 square feet of space. Over the past 5 decades the Pella Regional Health Center was had many major and minor adjustments to improve the hospital. Now, in 2011, national trends are showing significant increases specifically with home health services and rehabilitation intervention. To help with this increase, the hospital is considering hiring more therapists. The Pella hospital is considering hiring a new speech pathologist. Speech therapists are an important part of the rehab department because they help their patients communicate and participate fully in their daily lives. Lately the caseload in this department has been expanding. Some of the current workers of the hospital feel it is time for a new therapist. Let's ask some

of the current workers of the hospital.

"I do think the hospital should hire another speech therapist. This would help us further develop our program and allow us to implement additional services and hours," says Linse Hawk, a part time speech therapist.

"Having another therapist would be most beneficial for patient convenience since an additional therapist could offer services at sites (i.e., Knoxville, home health) other than the Pella outpatient clinic. In turn these would benefit the hospital because more patients could be seen and therapists wouldn't waste time driving from site to site," Kayla Jiskoot noted.

Pella Regional Health Center has recently undergone major structural changes to keep up with an ever-increasing client population. The next logical step may certainly be the hiring of additional employees.

## Dancers share passion

by Kristin Rundle

Forte is the dance team for Pella Community High School. It is an opportunity for girls who have a passion for dance to use their abilities in high school. At the end of 8th grade, they can try out for the squad. This year 15 girls made the Varsity squad and 9 made the JV squad. Each squad has two captains, and they are the leaders of the team.

On December 2nd, Forte performs in Des Moines at the Iowa Dance and Drill Team Competition. They perform three routines every year. Last year they triple crowned and won first in all three routines. They perform at most of the varsity basketball games, pep rallies, and sometimes even football games.

The coach for the varsity team is Melissa Wimmer. She wanted to be the coach because she loves dance,

participated in drill team when she was in high school and she knew she would do a good job with the girls.

For state this year they are performing military, pom, and prop. Forte will also put on a spring show at the high school in late February, and they have many people that come to cheer them on. Every year Forte has a dance with guys that volunteer to dance, and there is also a mom's dance, and a dad/daughter dance. All of the parents are encouraged to dance.

There is also an opportunity for six dancers from the varsity team to go try out for the All Iowa Honor Dance Team. Saturday September 10th were the tryouts. The results will be given at a later date.

"It is a huge responsibility!" said junior Holly Reimer, one of the current varsity captains.

To be on the dance team it is important to put forth effort and be respectful. You also have to be willing to learn new things and try new things. Forte is definitely for those who have a passion for dance.



(photo by Pella High student Blake Lanser)



## Education heads in new direction

by Bryana Dawson

The Iowa State Board of Education is finding new ways in which technology can be used to promote learning. On-line resources are already being utilized by many; an expansion of this resource is being actively pursued by some schools already. According to Governor Brandstad, education is an important issue and he would like to see Iowa, once again, lead the way in education.

The goal is that there continues to be a great appreciation for excellent teachers and that their skills and creativity be used to better serve students. There are already

many changes going on throughout the United States. As the use of new learning styles is accepted, it is likely that this way of learning will be copied by schools around the country.

While students, in the future, would continue to go to school, their schedules may look different than they do now. When for example, there may be students who do better with a different approach to learning, or a different time schedule.

Some students are opposed to this idea. "I would rather have a teacher in front of the classroom teaching me, than looking at a computer screen,

which will make your eye sight bad," said Shounam Ches. But, other students like the idea.

"I think it is good, because everyone can get a good education," said Lauren Ashworth.

Some people think that this gives Iowa a good opportunity to excel in education. Parents are hopeful that there are no additional costs for the change in the school's approach.

The Iowa State Board of Education is not exactly sure when they would be able to obtain this goal, but they are hopeful to have this system in place in a few years.



Dontae Morgan completes a homework assignment using technology.

(photo by Lauren Kingery)



## Students participate in Peer P.E.

by Jennifer Van Haaften

Peer P.E. was created for kids with physical and mental disabilities. The program is designed to help these kids develop social skills as well as physical and mental skills.

Any student can volunteer to help the kids in Peer P.E improve these skills on a one on one basis at Pella Middle School.

Each Peer P.E. student is paired with a peer partner and remains in the pairing for the year. They meet twice a week for the class.

"I like getting to help kids that have a special need. I also like getting to know my partner," said peer partner Jessa Bokhoven.

In Peer P.E., the students do many of the same activities as traditional P.E. They also have a biking unit and take a field trip to Simpson College to participate in the Hoop It Up activity day.

"I like how happy and appreciative the students are when they see that you are there for them," said peer partner Kara Schaudt.

"Sometimes kids learn that they are so much alike and make new friends, and sometimes kids get stronger because we change things to better fit

them. For example, we might change it so they use a scooter to get around the gym faster, and someone might run faster because they have a friend to run with them," said Mrs. Belding, the Peer P.E. instructor.

To get involved in Peer P.E., interested students must fill out an application, and Mrs. Belding selects the number of students she needs, checking their schedules to make sure it works.



Students get fit using jump ropes in Peer P.E.

(photo by Emily Irwin)



Band and choir students practice in their lessons.

(photos by Emily Masek)

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.





*by Emily Masek*

students, it's being creative on the dress up days that gets them hyped up for the football games. For others, it's the pep rally.

“I was so excited for the pep rally on Friday!” commented Sara Tallman.

As the cheerleaders, Forte, and the Homecoming Court tried their best to get students riled up, it was the relays that made them stomp the bleachers. For the 7th and 8th grade

Champions of the screaming contest for the loudest grade goes once again to the 8th graders.

Overall, the middle school showed their Pella Pride over the week and at the football game.



(photos by Publications staff)



# Student council holds election

by Sarah Yoder

Student council is an important part of school life. Student council is a student-led board for a school or grade. If schools didn't have student council, the students would not have as much say in what they would like to happen in school or about school activities.

In the Pella Middle School, students get elected for student council in 7th grade by writing a speech with a minimum of 100 words and making a video in Mrs. Pentico's room. This video tells others why the candidate would like to be voted on to student council. The video was played during social studies classes. Once all the speeches were viewed, the student

body voted on five people for a seat on the student council.

Kayleen VanDyke wanted to make the school a better place with her ideas and opinions on how things should run. She considers herself very organized and likes to plan events for the 7th and 8th grade.

"We can put our opinion in for the students who don't have much say on what the faculty does while representing our grade. We also can make the lunch lines time-saving and more efficient and the dances as fun as possible," said Kayleen VanDyke, a student council member.

Student council members have done much in the past. They

have made homecoming dress up days a blast. The following people were placed on Pella Middle School Student Council:

## 8th Grade

Brad Bortscheller, Shanae Burch, Emily Dux, Sara Maakestad, Elyse Parisee, Jayda Robinson, Laurel Stelter, and Carter Terpstra

## 7th Grade

Cameron Blom, Paloma Mate-Kodjo, Liam Mock, Caleb Piersma, Kjersten Pingel, Joshua Van Dusseldorp, Kayleen Van Dyke, and Joy Van Wyngarden



**7th and 8th grade student council pose for a picture. Members include: (left to right) Liam Mock, Cameron Blom, Kjersten Pingle, Kayleen Van Dyke, Joy Van Wyngarden, Paloma Mate-Kodjo, Sara Maakestad, Laurel Stelter, Elyse Parisee, Jayda Robinson, Emily Dux, Josh Piersma, and Carter Terpstra.**

(photo by Aletta Verhey)



**Pella Middle School students participated in Gov. Terry Branstad's "Healthiest State Initiative".**

**Participants all across the state walked in a successful effort to set a new world record for most people walking in a coordinated effort.**

(photo by Mackenzie Dugger)



## Student council travels to Boone

by Eighth grade student council

On October 12, 2011, the student council traveled to Boone, Iowa for an Iowa student council meeting. To start off the day, they all gathered in the auditorium for a informational and entertaining speech.

Eighth grade student council member Shanae Burch says, "The speaker, Fax Gilbert, did a great job of mixing both humor and facts into his speech of the different pillars of character."

Eighth grade student council member Emily Dux stated, "Fax Gilbert did a great job putting on an entertaining show that really involved the audience. He talked a lot about bullying and how you should deal with bullying."

Eighth grader Elyse Parisee also stated, "Student council is a great opportunity to open other doors to other students by spreading ideas. It has really helped me build my relationship with this school and my fellow peers."

After listening to Fax they split into three different groups. One group stayed in the auditorium and talked as a group about bullying. Fax asked them questions and they all responded to what our schools did to help make bullying stop. In a different group they went to the gymnasium and a police officer talked to them about cyber bullying. He said that people were arrested for harassing people over phones or Facebook. The experience

was inspirational and the students on the council really were touched to make Pella Middle School a better place. In the presentation they watched a student who said that she hated walking throughout the halls. Pella Middle School is full of leaders and great children of character. But among the students that are happy to come to school, there are people like the girl in the presentation. Our student council learned how to deal with kids who were on the down side of things. This was just one of the many great things that came from this experience.

Mrs. Knight said, "We are blessed to have such talented leadership for our school."

## Ten go to SCIBA auditions

by Mackenzie Dugger

This October the South Central Iowa Bandmasters Association (SCIBA) will be holding the annual Middle School Honor Band Concert. For the sake of the smaller schools, each school is only allowed to take ten students to the audition. There are stations in which each student auditions in front of two judges (one station per instrument).

When asked what she thought of the SCIBA honor band auditions, Sara Maakestad remarked, "I think it's a great opportunity for the students (participating) to grow in their musicianship." Sara plays the French horn and is one of the ten students

going to the auditions at Waukee South Middle School. There are only four french horns in the eighth grade band, and, of the four, three of them are going to the auditions.

The percussionists must play both the snare drum and a mallet instrument. One might say that it could be harder for the percussionists because they have an entirely different criteria for the auditions.

Of the participants, one is a flute player, one is a bassoon player, one is a bass clarinet player, one is a trumpet player, three are French horn players, one is an alto saxophone player, one is a tenor saxophone player,

and one is a percussion player.

The participants left for the audition October 4, after 9th period. They will go to Waukee South Middle School to audition. They will be there till about 9:30. Flutes, trumpets, alto saxophones, and percussionists will have to go through an extra round of auditions because there are so many of these instruments participating. This extra audition is called a call-back or a re-call.

All of the participants from Pella Middle School are both nervous and excited for the auditions. If chosen, they will perform in a concert on November 1.

**Honor band includes Craig Miller, Lauren Kriegel, Lucia Martisovita, Jack Sytsma, Sara Maakestad, Kiara Schnoebelen, Macy Nossaman, Mackenzie Dugger, and Megan Kooker.**

(photo by Emily Masek)





## 8th grade volleyball season sets to close

by Sara Aguilar

This year's volleyball coaches are Dia Robbins, and Sarah Abele. There are 35 members on the team; 34 players and the manager who is Kayla Ryun. Her job is to set up the nets with the assigned helpers of that week, help with the drills, and keep track of the serves on game day.

Coach Robbins said, "I like everything about volleyball and it's hard to put into words what I like best, but I guess it would be to Bump Set and Spike the ball (a way to get the ball over the net)."

Coach Abele said, "I like the feeling when the ball hits the ground after I hit it, and playing as a team."

The uniform of the players are green shorts with a no sleeve shirt where the shoulders are white and the number is white, big in the back and small in the front on the left hand side right under the shoulder.

The team plays against 6 other schools. They play 10 games, 4 at home and 6 away. Each game goes to 15 points. The team plays in two different gyms so that more athletes get a chance to play. The season started August 23 and it goes through October 19, 2011.

Both coaches agreed that, "the season is going great and the girls have improved a lot, I enjoy each one of the girls on the 8th grade volleyball team."

On October 13th the team played Prairie City Monroe (PCM), and only half the team went. The game was very exciting, but the team lost 6 to 4. This was the 8th game of the season and only 2 remain, one at home and one away, the next game is at home against Oskaloosa on Monday the 17th at 4:30. This game went really well. The team won 17 games out of 20.

## Lady Dutch set, spike and score

by Aimme Dieleman

If someone were to walk past the Jefferson gym after school they would hear tons of commotion inside: yelling, applauding, congratulating, and calling. They will also hear the sounds of balls being spiked, served, set, and passed over the net, and the at the end of a volley, the sound of the ball hitting the ground. The girls in the gym are the Pella Middle School's 7th grade volleyball players of 2011- 2012.

Coaches Amy Belding and Jill Parsons started the teams every day after school for an hour and thirty minute practices in late August. Right now the team has forty- one players,

which does seem like a lot, but the coaches expected more girls to try out and have had up to fifty-one players before.

The 7th grade volleyball team had their first game of the season on Monday, September 12th, against the Knoxville Panthers. Half the team played down in the Jefferson gym, and the other half played in the middle school gym. The team up at the middle school won eight out of ten games, and the team in the Jefferson gym won six out of ten. The teams' goals this season are zero footfalls. Footfall are when the server's foot going over the line

during a serve. As the year progresses, serving percentage increases. Passes to the target and communication gets better in each match.

Expectations of 2011-12 volleyball team are each student athlete understands and enjoys the game of volleyball each week. Also for student athletes to encourage each other and help the team grow and do well. Coach Belding says, "7th grade volleyball) is a great place to be, (we have) a talented and enjoyable group of girls."



**7th grade team members huddle up and make plans with their coach.**

(photo by Tori Swanson)



**8th grade players prepare for their next match.**

(photo by Lauren Kingery)



## 8th grade football season ends with a bang

*Lauren Kingery*

He's at the 40, now the 30, now the 20, now the 10 TOUCHDOWN! The 8th grade football boys have had a great start to the season by winning five for the A team and only tied once. Then the B team won four and have only lost twice.

For the Pella Middle School, sports are a very important thing. Pella in general takes football very seriously so football is a very popular sport! Thankfully the Pella Middle School has many talented athletes. We, as a school, are very blessed to have many gifted football players. The boys all contribute to the team. It doesn't matter what team you are on, A or B. You being on the team is important alone.

You are contributing to the team with every move you make. Both of the teams have had a great start to their football seasons.

"It was a totall rush playing. I felt amazing when I played. It was like I was on top of the world," Nathan Henry said.

"I think everyone should be proud of how they have started the season off," Nathan also said.

Nathan added, "Success isn't measured by how many touchdowns you can make, it's how hard you try."

We can all conclude that the 8th grade football boys are doing a great job. The football boys need to keep it up! We're right there, supporting

them every step of the way! Go get 'em boys!



**8th grade football team huddles together after a win**

*(photo by Aletta Verhey)*

## 7th Football hits the field



**7th grade boys eagerly get their first taste of school football**



*(photos by Emily Masek)*

## Cross country closes with a bang

*by Tori Swanson*

The Pella Middle School cross country team has had many successful meets this year. The girls' team got first in every meet this year.

The cross country team has endured many different weather conditions. They have run in freezing rain, hard wind, and in extremely hot weather. The cross country team starts

practice at 3:30 and ends at 4:45. The team meets outside the east gym doors, and runs in various places around town.

They prepare for meets by practicing endurance, speed, and running the terrain of the upcoming course. Their meets have been at Grinnell, Ballard, Newton, Knoxville,

Norwalk, and South Tama.

Mrs. Tangen said, "That the best part of being the coach for cross country is watching the team reach new levels of running."

Cross country is not for everyone. It takes time, and one needs to enjoy running for long periods at a time.



# Meet the Musician

by Mackenzie Dugger

Lauren Kriegel is a music master. She plays the bassoon in concert band, flute in marching band and sings soprano in choir. When asked how she likes playing two instruments and singing, she replied, "It's fun, but you have to really work at keeping up."

She has played the flute since fifth grade. When asked how she likes playing the flute in marching band, she said, "It's great, we play a lot of high notes."

She has also been playing the bassoon since sixth grade, and when asked how she likes playing it, she answered, "It's fun and challenging. Very different from flute."

Lauren has also been in choir since sixth grade. She sings soprano, or "Part 1", the highest part in most mixed choirs. When asked what her favorite part of choir was, she answered, "All of the songs we sing, different parts in rounds, too."



Lauren Kriegel excels in music.

(photo by Mackenzie Dugger)

# Meet the Student

by Mackenzie Dugger



Emily Dux is a model student.

(photo by Mackenzie Dugger)

"I think *Gifted and Talented* is a really good program because it lets kids do some extra work and have some fun after all of our school work."

Emily Dux is involved with a program at school called Gifted and Talented (G/T). "We do lots of different things like Mock Trial, Math Counts, Knowledge Bowl, and individual or group projects like art projects or movie projects like the boys are doing right now. We also just get together and talk about things that are going on in school and we get to decide what we should do next, if there isn't any big program (like Mock Trial or Math Counts) to prepare for."

She also enjoys the fact that they get "to skip study hall and do fun stuff." The big programs, such as Mock Trial and Knowledge bowl, are spaced out around the entire school year.

When asked what she thought about the extra work, Emily said, "I think it's really fun to do and even though it takes some extra work, it's always worth it. And our teacher, Mrs. Wimmer, is definitely the best."



# Meet the Teacher

by Aletta Verhey

Meet the new eighth grade literature teacher, Mrs. Bonjour. This is Mrs. Bonjour's first year teaching at the Pella Middle School. She's originally from Waverly, Iowa and went to Central College.

"I've always liked helping other people and I had great teachers that inspired me," said Mrs. Bonjour.

She says nobody ever put her down and her parents motivated her the most. Mrs. Bonjour has four house pets, a chinchilla (Carlos), two turtles (Boomer and Michelangelo), and an American bulldog (Milo). She also has an aquarium with twenty three fish.

"I participated in track and basketball while I went to Central and also sang in three different choirs." Mrs. Bonjour loves to read. "I'm kind of a bookworm. I want to inspire kids to enjoy reading as well," she added.

If she had a chance to go back into the past and do something different, she would do the same thing.

"Everything happens for a reason, and wherever I am is where I'm supposed to be," she said.



**Mrs. Bonjour, the new eighth grade literature teacher, holds her pet, Carlos, the chinchilla.**  
(photo by Aletta Verhey)

# Meet the Athlete

by Aletta Verhey

Meet Makenna Bogaard. She is a fantastic volleyball player from Pella Middle School. Makenna has been playing volleyball ever since she began fifth grade.

Her favorite thing to do is to spike and serve. Makenna can even jump serve, which is really challenging. She likes both school and other volleyball activities such as playing "pepper". "Pepper" is a game in which you pass the ball gracefully to a partner back and forth.

"My other team is good competition. School volleyball is fun because it's with friends."

Makenna would choose not to play volleyball as a career in the future, even though she's an excellent player. She is very good at jump serving, but she doesn't do it in games. She plays on other teams that go all over the state and play other teams that are just as good as her.



**Makenna Bogaard plays volleyball at recess.**

(photo by  
Aletta Verhey)



# Breakdance has a rich history

by Shounam Ches

The crowd gathers and watches in amazement as African American and Latino b-boys show-off with their top rocks, down rocks, freezes, suicides, and power moves on the streets of New York.

No one knows who created b-boying (breakdance), but people think it started in the Bronx, and it is said that African-Americans and Latinos have created breakdance from the origins of hip-hop.

The point of creating breakdancing was to bring hip hop to the next level. This dance style wasn't created all at once, because it started out with street dancing, then it was the top rock, down rock, freezes/suicides, and the power moves and those are the four elements in boying.

It started to get popular around the 60's and 70's because it was something new to watch back then, but it also was almost forgotten in the 1977's because breakdancing lost its popularity with African American kids and teens. B-boying was a little different back then because it just started out with footwork and then the freezes/suicides. B-boying is usually for people who have a liking for hip-hop, or people who have a hip-hop culture.

When B-boying was created Dj's also took a step forward and started to make rhythmic breaks in dance songs. It would give a chance for break dancers to show-off their skills with those rhythmic breaks.

The original name for breakdancing is "breakin", or

"B-boying" and "B-girling".

B-Boying is a male breakdancer, and B-Girling is a female breakdancer. B-boying also includes popping, locking, and electric boogaloo, so it is similar to hip-hop but not quite. It has its own unique style like every other dance style too.

"An important thing to clarify is that the term 'Break dancing' is wrong, I read that in many magazines but that is a media term. The correct term is 'Breakin'; people who do it are B-Boys and B-Girls. The term 'Break dancing' has to be thrown out of the dance vocabulary," said Timothy Solomon, who is a b-boy nicknamed "Popin' Pete".

# Pilgrims seek new life in Plymouth

by Lexy Hutchinson

Thanksgiving is normally thought of as a holiday to eat until one drops, however there is a bigger meaning to why Thanksgiving is a holiday.

In 1620 Pilgrims wanted to be free of the religious laws in England and worship in their own way so they looked for new life in America. They were able to find someone to sponsor them on their journey, and that is where it all began.

The sponsoring ship was called the Mayflower. In the 17th century it was considered an extremely large ship. It was a total of about 100 feet long and 25 feet wide. The Mayflower was able to carry up to 180 tons of supplies for the passenger and the crew combined, so most people came on the Mayflower with little to nothing that they could call their own.

The trip started on September 6, 1620 and ended November 11, 1620. With the winter's approach, the ship was knocked off its original course to Virginia and landed in Plymouth,

Massachusetts. The voyage totaled sixty-six days. Those days were filled with sickness and disease, and a death total of two passengers.

They landed with the arrival of winter and little shelter and food. Several people endured starvation, and some eventually died because of the hardships.

The Pilgrims may not have been able to survive if it weren't for the Wampanoag Native Americans that lived around Plymouth in the 17th century. The Wampanoags were able to teach the Pilgrims how to plant corn, beans, and squash.

This was all possible because a Wampanoag named Squanto was able to speak English and communicate with the Pilgrims. So the following harvest the Pilgrims invited the Wampanoags to share a feast with them, to celebrate the harvest.

This was the first Thanksgiving day to remember the hard times the Pilgrims had endured in 1621, when they first came to America. The

celebration was to give the Lord thanks for the bountiful harvest they had that fall after the cruel first year.

No one truly knows when the original feast was held, but historians do know that it happened, and it lasted for three days. Thanksgiving was almost forgotten until 1863 when Abraham Lincoln announced it as a national holiday. Since then the United States of America has celebrated it on the third Thursday of November each year.

Thanksgiving's meaning is a little different to everyone. For some it's about spending time with family, and others it's all about the food.

Jacey Davis, a 7th grader, said, "Thanksgiving is all about the food and sharing memories."

Mackenzie Becker, a 7th grader, said, "Thanksgiving is a day to be thankful for everything you have."

7th grader, Zack Deyoung said, "Thanksgiving is all about spending time with family."



## Halloween is more than trick-or-treating



by Angela Ball

The first signs of Halloween are friends asking each other what they are going to dress up as and pumpkins on the footsteps of houses. The usual "procedure" is a child will get dressed up, and then once the sun goes down, they will go from house to house and get candy.

People who don't like to get dressed up and go house to house, have plenty of other things to do. People can go to Halloween attractions, dances, etc. On Halloween don't just stay home, go out there and do something. Face it, this is the only holiday where you can dress up; you should have fun doing it.

The history of Halloween is said to have been started by the Romans; it was actually started by the Celtic festival of Samhain. Its meaning was "summer's end".

Today we carve Jack O' Lanterns, but they used to carve turnips to remember the people who were held in purgatory. They started using pumpkins because it was easier to carve than turnips. Pumpkin carving started in 1837.

Some popular things people enjoy on Halloween are hayrides and. Not all countries celebrate Halloween.

Miss Parsons, a 5th grade teacher at Jefferson said, "I like to go haunted housing and watch scary movies around Halloween. I also like to hand out candy! Mmmm...I love candy! My dog, Jasper, gets all dressed up and we hand out candy when students come over on Trick or Treat night. It is always fun to see the creative costumes people come up with to go trick or treating!"

Miss Abele, a 5th grade teacher at Jefferson said, "I like to dress up for Halloween and get together with friends."

Sarah Davis, an 11th grader at Pella High School said, "I am going to a Halloween party with my friends!"

## What are you going to do for Halloween this year?

Makenzie Bossard: I am going to dress up like Rachel from *Glee*.

Maggie Showman: I am going to be a cowgirl.

Nathan Henry: I am going to play some good ole' football at a tourney with my buddies.

Jackson Scholten: I will be playing the real version of football and then eating candy.

Payson VanderLune: I am going to watch Jackson and Nathan play footballs 'cuz I'm crippled. Then I am going to a corn maze.

Allee Kowzan: On Thursday, I am going to Central College to trick-or-trick at the dorms. The students stand outside their rooms and decorate the hallways.

## Long lunch line becomes problem

by Ani Tangellapalli

Stomachs growl, and students moan. The overly drawn out wait for lunch is unreasonable. Students are waiting because of the long line during lunch. Because of this, students aren't getting enough time to eat lunch. It is a problem that must be solved.

Some people have choir or band and come to lunch late and have to stand at the back of the line. Students get really hungry and complain when they stand in the long line during lunch. This problem can be solved by the staff.

The staff could send classes to join the line after the line becomes shorter, or wait until the class before is done.

"We could add another counter. That might solve the problem. It will make the line go faster," said Mr.

Pabich, study hall teacher.

However, this solution is time consuming and the staff might need to increase lunch time and give less recess time. Students will likely disagree with this idea. Students already have little recess time.

The staff could also increase lunch time without lessening the recess time, which could mean lessening period time. Teachers may argue this since it means lessening education time.

The 6th grade line was very much like this one, and the staff there solved it by calling classes individually and added ten minutes to lunch. This solved the problem very quickly. The 7th grade problem can be solved in a similar way. This way the solution can be activated quickly and can take care



Craft Corner by Lydia Warin 7th Grade First Impressions

At the beginning of the school year last year, I bought a Pella Middle School lanyard. I like to express myself and I like bright and fun colors. So I decided to make a lanyard.

- What you need:
- Fabric
  - Key Chain Ring
  - Lanyard Clip

I looked on the internet for a pattern, but I couldn't find one so I created a pattern for the lanyards I would make. I first found some fabric that I thought would express myself.

I taped three pieces of paper together and cut it into thirds and used one of the thirds for the pattern. Then I put the pattern over the fabric, pinned it down, and then I cut it out. Then I folded the wrong sides together. After that I ironed it out as I folded it down

After that thread your sewing machine, and sew the lanyard. Then use a dowel to turn it inside out. Make sure you get the corners to be flat. Iron it again. Fold the fabric strip in half,

put a key chain ring on the fabric strip, the fabric should go through the middle of the ring. Sew the fabric an inch away from the key chain ring. After that sew the two loose ends together. And there you have it! A lanyard!

I have made lanyards for my friends and here are some of their quotes: "I love the lanyards! They are amazing! Lydia does great work!" Mackenzie Dugger said.

"They add a new vibe!" Remarked Emily Masek.



7th grade students shared a few thoughts about their first impressions of being students at middle school.

"The best thing in 7th grade to me is having a P.E. locker."  
- Sarah Van Norden

"In 7th grade you do most activities by yourself. You switch classes by yourself and go to and from football by yourself. I like being independent in these things."  
- Reid Leidigh

"The best thing about 7th grade is football. The feeling of stepping on the field is like winning the lottery."  
-Dalton Bauman

"There are so many different personalities. That is my favorite thing about 7th grade."  
- Bryana Dawson

"In study hall, it is very quiet so you can read easily. In that study hall, you can feel that you are in the story along with the characters."  
-Kate Furr

"In math I get to challenge myself. I get to do things that I haven't every done before."  
-Jennifer Van Haaften

"The new building makes me feel like I have a new opportunity to learn, so that is what I'll do."  
- Chase Petty

"The library is where I go for peace and education."  
-Ani Tangellapalli

"What I think the best thing about 7th grade is going home after school and saying, 'I learned something today!'"  
- Austin Bragg

"The best thing about 7th grade so far is art. I chose art because I can express my feelings and thoughts through it."  
- Alexis Bugera-Brown

Halloween Word Search

Z Z C L B N K N C T T N M O M  
T O H L U V Q O H L E E M W F  
H U A G I K F R T U I U E A G  
F C T F I F E D X L P C D Z K  
K N S G F R P L R W E W S I H  
P S D O O L B U U W S L C J Y  
M G W O M C K A T O I M Z Z B  
U S H O K A C C I Q I T J K F  
M J L N R E T N A L O K C A J  
M J F L K C M N C X R I Z H P  
Y X M H U H E R C I R T S L X  
V X X J F N M R I T B E A E I  
B I T R E A T M A P G F O C H  
M R A O B A D H V C Z N N I J  
X V E P F H W M X J S R O N B

- BLACK  
CAULDRON  
SCARECROWS  
WITCH
- BLOOD  
JACK-O-LANTERN  
TREAT
- CAT  
MUMMY  
TRICK



# Harry Talks

by Emily Masek

*Harry Tallman is a three year old boy; he's cute, funny and smart. He loves to talk, scream, and answer questions. So I decided to ask him a few questions for the newspaper. When I got there, he ran up to me screaming, Emily. And he hugged me. I was worried about him not focusing on the interview, but he was almost totally perfect. He actually thought about the question and answered it!*

**Emily:** Harry, what do you want to be when you grow up?

**Harry:** A... Cow. I like cow pictures!

**Emily:** What is your favorite thing to eat?

**Harry:** Marcori and cheese!

**Emily:** What do you do when your sisters leave for school?

**Harry:** The bus! I see the bus drive up, and the children won't let me in with pull-ups, and they won't let me in with a diaper! But they can let me in with, uh, underwear!

**Emily:** Do you like cookie monster?

**Harry:** Yeah! Cookie Monster eats cookies and you know bird gird? Bird gird....  
(trails off, thinking.)

**Emily:** What do you like to play?

**Harry:** Umm, Let me go get my phone.  
(He yells from the living room.)  
You wanna see my phone?  
(He comes back with a toy phone)  
You push this button.  
HERE COMES CLIFF HANGER!  
(The phone repeats.)  
HERE COMES CLIFF HANGER!  
UBBABA, GOHOOLOO!  
(The phone repeats.)  
UBBABA, GOHOOLOO!

**Emily:** Harry, what's your favorite TV show?

**Harry:** Uhhh, Thomas, something like Thomas (the train) Tomas is like something else and he's a TRAIN! THOMAS THE TRAIN!

**Emily:** Are you excited for school?

**Harry:** Yeah! I'm going to the bus!

**Emily:** How do you think peanut butter is made?

**Harry:** A sandwich! A peanut butter sandwich! Those things make me slobbery.

**Emily:** Why do you think the sky is blue?

**Harry:** The phone, the phone is blue (the sky is blue because the

phone is blue) You know blue, black! Black and white!

**Emily:** What does the tooth fairy do with your teeth?

(Harry interrupts to tell me his phone is ringing.

**Harry:** (Talking to his phone)  
Hello, oh, uh oh!  
A fire! A fire, I think I can put the water out. Oh Mayor's going to put the fire out? Okay bye! (Hangs ups)

**Emily:** Harry, what does the tooth fairy do with your teeth?

**Harry:** Brushes them, and gets them out, and, and the tooth fairy gives a PRESENT! I want.....I want..... I want a CHICK!

**Emily:** What do your sisters do?

**Harry:** They play, soccer, and softball, and voollyball.

**Emily:** How do shows get on the TV?

**Harry:** They show it and like it! You press a button like with a remote, and there's a button like right on there!

**Emily:** Alright Harry, thank you!

**Harry:** Bye-bye!



Please take your Box Tops to  
Mrs. Tinker, Mrs. Bonjour, or the  
office!



These photos represent the *Publication* staff’s personal favorites.



(photo by Emily Masek)



(photo by Tori Swanson)



(photo by Lydia Warin)



(photo by Mallory Christy)



(photo by Makenzie Dugger)



(photo by Aletta Verhey)



(photo by Lauren Kingery)



(photo by Emily Irwin)



(photo by Grace Solomon)



(photo by Sara Aguilar)