



Page editor Harley Atchison

Renovations start, anticipation builds

by Pauline Lopez

A year ago, a committee, including Josh Manning and the superintendent, came together and analyzed the whole building of Pella Middle School. They decided to come up with a plan that would begin this year and throughout next year. This plan will improve our safety, flexible learning, small group working, acoustics, and natural lighting.

The cost of the plan is around \$4 million. The plan began on April and will continue throughout next year. Teachers started to empty their rooms on the first week of April. It is scheduled to finish on July 15, 2015.

This plan will affect teachers, as well as students. This will affect teachers by moving their belongings to their new "home".

It also has an opportunity for teachers to work together with their same subjects. Lindsay Brandt, eighth grade math teacher said, "It will affect teachers in a positive way. They will have more opportunities to work with their same subject. The 8th grade team will not be as close. I will miss being close to Mrs. Bonjour and Mr. Korver and talking to them between classes. I will miss having the 8th grade hall."

This plan will also affect the students. It will enhance the students learning and create a better learning environment. Josh Manning, principal of Middle School said, "This plan will create anxiety for teachers. It will also enhance learning and a better learning environment for our students."

Manning said, "We do not

have a secure front entrance. Safety is the most important one for me."

Safety was the main priority for this plan. The office will be moved to the front of the building for safety precautions. The new plan will increase more flexible learning for students. The plan will enhance better collaborations for the teachers. The plan will increase our acoustics as well. It will also increase the natural lighting around our school by adding more windows.

Manning describes his feelings towards the plan as excited, anxious, and nice.

Brandt said, "Change is always difficult, but we need to have a positive attitude."



Ceiling tiles get ripped out for new electrical wiring.

(photo by Codi Holdeman)



The dumpsters get filled with rubble from the new construction.

(photo by Harley Atchison)



The floor gets torn up to put new pipes and wires under the ground.

(photo by Harley Atchison)

What's the hardest part of the renovations going on around the school?



"The noise is annoying. It's hard to concentrate, depending on where you are."

-Kaleena Van Haften

"The smell is really bad, but it will be good in the end."

-Payton Bone

SmartLink desks spark interest

by Heather Kirkland

The Pella Middle School currently has about fifteen new SmartLink Student desks on trial in the library. If the desks work well, they would possibly be used in the future in the new school renovations next year. The desks consist of orange seats with a movable desk top, optimal storage on the bottom, and they are on wheels for mobility purposes.

In the new school renovations being done later on, one of the new additions will be a hallway type study room by the seventh grade wing, called the Learning Street. If the desks worked well on trial, they could possibly be put in the Learning Street, used for reading and working in smaller groups. If the Smartlink desks were to be put in the

new addition, about fifteen to twenty would be included.

Jill Roberts, librarian, said, "I think they would work really well for classes that were not very big. Since you can move them, you can get a small group or groups of students to work together and it works really well."

According to Principal Josh Manning, one of the most vital factors to be met with these desks is that students' learning needs are being met. Aside from that, he's looking for something with plenty of mobility and flexibility, also for the material to be durable and easy to keep clean.

Manning said, "We want our new spaces to be flexible. Flexible, but supporting students' needs."

The furniture trials will be around for about a month at a time. During the month, the staff will be getting feedback on how the desks work for students and how they like them. New possible trials this year may include a few different shapes of tables that are currently at the high school. Some of the tables are in the shapes of boomerangs, quarter circles, and more compact desk pods to be put in groups or individually.



Students give the new desks a test run. (photo by Heather Kirkland)

Blood drive impacts lives

(by Kelly Murphy)

A blood drive has different meanings to people. Some mean giving back, and others are for a special cause for something or someone.

On Monday April 21, there was a blood drive held in the middle school gym. This was held by Sherri Lauritsen who helps with the Pella Middle School band. Lauritsen came up with the idea for this after her brother, David Lee Thomas, passed away.

Around 22 years ago, Dave Thomas's heart started to have an irregular heartbeat. It sounded like a washing machine instead of the normal thumping sound. When he went to the doctor, they said his heart would double in size. He then had open heart surgery to monitor it. An internal defibrillator was placed inside to help try and control the blood in it. An internal defibrillator sends electronic impulses to the heart.

After Thomas recovered from the surgery, he went to school to become a person who takes ultrasounds of the heart. Although things were going well for him, on December 19, 2013, he had an emergency surgery. He was hooked up to machines when doctors told him he would not survive for very much longer. They said it was due to all the

damage that was done to his liver since he had been taking medications so long. The unfortunate day came on January 5, 2014 when he passed away.

This blood drive was set up and run by Lauritsen. Lauritsen said, "My goal is to have one every year, and have more new donors than the last. I also want to honor a new person every year to show how many people this affects every year."

Lauritsen also said she understands people who are afraid to give blood, but says it is not that bad. She added, "People who need it suffer more than we do." Lauritsen also remarked that it is worth any amount of discomfort to help someone who needs it.

Lauritsen said, "The first time I gave blood, I tried not to think of my brother. In death it is healing to give to others."

She would like to extend her thanks to Mr. Manning, Mrs. Belding, staff, students, and anyone who helped with Thomas's memory.

Thomas's memory and blood drives like this provide opportunities to save lives.



Next to her brother's photo, Lauritsen welcomes donors.

(photo by Kelly Murphy)

Results of Blood Drive

Whole Blood Donors - 52
Double Red Donors - 7
LifeServe counts that as 66 donations.

First Time Donors - 24
Lives Saved - 170



Tulip Time springs into action

(by Brooke De Nooy)

On May 1st through the 3rd, 2014, the town of Pella will be celebrating the 79th annual Tulip Time. The first Tulip Time ever in Pella was in 1935, to promote and commemorate Pella's Dutch heritage. Today the town of Pella still holds many traditions from the very first Tulip Time, although they have added many more over time.

One major tradition of the Pella Tulip Festival is the Tulip Queen and Court. This year's Court includes Faith Van Wyngarden, Mariah Eekhoff, Sarah Muller, and Rachel Mueller. The Tulip Queen for 2014 is Leah Blankespoor.

"I have been dreaming about being Tulip Queen since I was a little girl, so this is a huge honor," Leah Blankespoor said.

Along with the Tulip Queen and Court one of the many favorites of the Tulip

Festival is the food. The Tulip Festival is filled with Dutch treats; from poffertjes to funnel cakes, they have it all. Businesses and organizations from Pella, and places near Pella, set up stands around the square to earn money for their organization. Many tourists come from all over to taste these Dutch delicacies.

Along with food, the Tulip Festival has many parades during the three days. Each day of the festival has two parades: one in the afternoon and one in the evening. Many of the floats in the parades are designed by the businesses of Pella and show the community's heritage.

"Tulip Time is what helps our small businesses be able to make it year round. It is a unique way for us to remember and embrace our Dutch heritage, and get involved in

the community," stated Tulip Queen Blankespoor.

People from all over the community take part in these parades and help set up and prepare for this event. The people of Pella also take part in other activities to help with this event and take part in the festival. Dutch dancing, hosting, being a Dutchess, street scrubbing, and many more. The community of Pella and volunteers make Tulip Time possible. Tulip Time is Pella's largest event, people from everywhere celebrating a town's heritage, and making special memories.

"The best part about Tulip Time is just spending a lot of time with friends and family and enjoying our lovely Tulip Festival." said VanWyngarden.

Band students march in Tulip Time parades

(by Lexi DeJong)

Excitement was high as the seventh and eighth grade bands marched in the Tulip Time parades. The eighth grade band marches Thursday afternoon and Friday night, while the seventh grade band marches Friday afternoon and Saturday night.

This year the eighth grade band has mixed it up by changing their music to "Don't Stop Believing" recorded by Journey. They have been practicing since the end of March. They focus on reinforcing the marching techniques they have learned in the past two years and learning new techniques that they will use in high school marching band.

The seventh grade band is playing "Strike up the Band" this year. They also have been practicing since the end of March. They focus on reinforcing the marching techniques they learned in sixth grade and learning

new marching techniques that they use in eighth grade.

Also this year the eighth grade band had the opportunity to audition for color guard. Color guard auditions took place at the end of March after practicing the week before. Out of the ten people that auditioned, eight people got the opportunity to be part of the color guard group.

The seventh and eighth grade band students also had the opportunity to audition for the drum major position. This took place at one of the band students' practices. The students had to go up in front of the band and demonstrate their marching skills and directing skills to the band. After every student who wanted to participate had gone, the band voted for their drum major. In seventh grade, Andie Sunderman was voted into the position.

In eighth grade, Noah Chaplin was voted into the position. These students have been leading the band, also practicing their marching skills.

The marching bands practiced during their band periods, seventh grade during fifth period and eighth grade during fourth period, on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Each band student has their own opinion on marching band. Camryn Norton, a member of color guard group, said, "I like marching band because it's different from regular band, so we get the opportunity to do some different things. It's a lot of fun!"

Kim Benson, eighth grade band director, said, "I think it is a great way to promote teamwork and a great way to teach the kids discipline."

Students get running start at Klompen Classic

(by Cloe Kelling)

Tulip Time began on April 30 with the Klompen Classic, a 5K walk/run. Participants get to pick if they want to run or walk.

The runners go first and then the walkers follow. Some people think of it as a race, but many people think of it as a fun thing to do.

Avery Van Zee, eighth grader,

said, "I did the Klompen Classic because I like to run, and it's a traditional thing."

Water is supplied by several stands. 200 people participated in Klompen Classic.

Middle school students did well this year. Eighth grader Soren Stelter earned first for boys, and Mackenna

Goemaat earned first for girls in their brackets. Goemaat had a time of 24:23 while Stelter got 19:09.



PMS students run the race.

(photo by Cloe Kelling)

Forté accepts new members

by Emma Anderson

New and returning Forté members tried out for Forté's upcoming season at Pella High School on March 13th in the Pella High School gymnasium. The girls began by stretching, working on a routine and their skills. They soon presented these skills to the judges.

This year there were 21 girls that tried out, and all 21 of them made it. Although they all made the team, not all the girls in the same grades made the same teams. Brynn VanderBeek, a new Forté member said, "I tried out for Forté because I love to dance and because I've wanted to be on Forté since I was in kindergarten. I've been working really hard for it throughout the years." There are two separate teams, varsity and junior varsity. They are divided for performances, but during the summer they have summer workouts and practice together.

Since Forté is not school

funded, during the fall Forté members go to Madison Elementary to practice and prepare for state. After state, they start practicing at the high school in the gym or the lunch room for spring show. For spring show the girls get to dance together in new routines, as well as their separate routines.

Forté is about dancing, but that's not all that it is about. The girls get to learn life skills, along with their dancing skills. Paige Meyer, a sophomore Forté member said, "I learned to take responsibility and build team skills. We are like one big family and you learn many skills along the way. Being on this team has also helped me in school because if I ever need help with anything, one of the other girls is always willing to help me."

Tryouts are just the beginning of Forté, and can often times be intimidating to new girls that want to try out. "I think the preparation

before was hard and intense because that's what I spent my free time doing. The day of tryouts I was freaking out because the routine was really hard and all the anxiety leading up to that point, but in the end it was all good," said Erica Nossaman, a new Forté member. "Sometimes hard work seems like it's too much at the time, but in the end it's all worth it," said VanderBeek.



The Forte girls express their excitement during the Forte tryouts.
(photo shared by Macy Nossaman)

Contenders compete for spot in community talent show

by Ezzy Ramirez

Through this week at the Opera House in Pella, the talent show has had performers shining like the stars. It will be a puzzle trying to find the best talent because amazing things will be performed.

On April 24-26 auditions for the talent show were held. For all three days the auditions started at 7:00 P.M. and ended at around 8:00 P.M. From the Pella Middle School there were student performers, one was just an accompanist.

One of those students, Brynn VanderBeek, danced for her audition. It was a lyrical dance to the song "Your Song" by Ellie Golding. Brynn was very surprised when she got into the finals which were on May 10. VanderBeek said, "I was very happy because honestly, I did not think I would make it through. I also saw how I was going against people who were really good." behind the scene while she was waiting,

she was getting really nervous to be going out there and perform in front of a lot of people. VanderBeek has been in dance since she was 3 and now she is 14. "I had to ask my dance teacher for some advice about my solo because I had some doubts and I wanted to bring it up a little."

Other students who also auditioned were Lauren Miller, Mallory Lanser, and Alexis VanHaaften. All of those students are in choir. They all sang different types of music which made them unique performers. It also made them stand out in their own way.

VanHaaften sang the song, "Greatest Love of All" by Whitney Houston. VanHaaften said, "It's my inspiration and it's a powerful message to all of the young girls out there to be themselves. It also sends out the message to stand up for yourself."

Most of the performers had

fun auditioning for the talent show. It was a little nerve wracking waiting for the results to come back. Brynn VanderBeek was the only student at Pella Middle School who made it to the final ten. The winners of the talent show were Ridge McGinley with first place, Bellara Huang with second place. Even though they all didn't make it, it was a great experience to share with each other.

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.

8th graders take aim

by Kelly Murphy

Eighth grade students have been participating in archery the Pella Middle School physical education class since March 25.

Archery started a long time ago in the past. It was originally created for hunting and then was used for competition. Archery first started as a safer practice of hunting for cavemen. It then became an important factor later in warfare. In the 1500's England became the first country to hold archery competition. Archery was first included as an Olympic sport in the 1900 games. Currently over 200 hundred other schools are also participating in this unit in the state of Iowa.

Amy Belding, physical education teacher said, "I am always concerned for their safety." Belding also stated, "I love to see the kids get shocked by themselves. They gain so much belief in themselves. They are open to trying new things. Students

do not need to know anything before." Belding also said, "I chose to teach this because it is a great outdoor activity. There were students that had interest in the unit and great things about muscle control and accuracy and respect can be learned and practiced for a lifetime. This can help you later in life because it can get people outside." Belding also said, "It does not take as long as other physical activities. The bows are adjustable so you do not have to be as strong. There's a range of drawpulls for the bows."

Grace Larson, 8th grade student, said, "I am excited for this unit. I am a little bit nervous, but I know that it will be fun." Larson also said she believed this was a unit that we need to learn. She said that it was a unit we needed to learn because it will help us gain confidence in ourselves, others, and it will help us trust others in the process.

Archery gained its popularity due to books and movies like The Hunger Games.

The system students use is the NASP, which stands for National Archery in the Schools Program. Students will be using Genesis bows. These bows have helped with success in the past. Pella Middle School is able to offer this unit because they got a grant to share with the high school. Without this grant the school would not have been able to even offer archery.



Students take aim at the target.

(photo by Kelly Murphy)

Special Olympians strive for medals

by Maddie Canfield

On March 29, two students from Pella Middle School and seven students at Jefferson will compete in the Special Olympics in Ames in hopes to capture the gold.

The Special Olympics is a special opportunity for kids with disabilities. It is a non-profit organization that serves Iowans with special disabilities. The Special Olympics gives kids with disabilities a chance to compete, have fun, and take pride in what they do. Frankie Grooters and Ethan Bandstra will represent our school at the event. They will both be riding their bikes. Ethan and Frankie have been practicing for this big day. They train in the school hallways with

pink signs that outline their track about three times a week.

The kids at Jefferson prepare during our tenth period class. There are five students from Pella Middle School that go down to Jefferson every Friday during tenth period to help the students get ready for the Special Olympics. The students that are helping are Lily Roozeboom, Adam Davis, Camryn Norton, Ethan Vance, and Erica Bossard.

Davis said, "My favorite part about helping the kids is bonding with them and helping them learn new things."

When they are at Jefferson they help them train. They have helped them

throw the javelin, scooter around cones, and throw balls a certain distance. The students from the middle school get to interact with the kids and get to know them as well.

Kellie Dykema said, "I am looking forward to watching Ethan compete with his peers and I can't wait to cheer him on."

There are about 11,000 Iowans with disabilities who are participants in the Special Olympics. The Special Olympics mission is to give kids with disabilities opportunities to develop physical fitness, display courage, and experience joy.

Staff and students participate in badminton

Near the end of April, students and staff completed in a badminton tournaments. The prize was bragging rights. Students and staff got into the spirit of the games.



(photos by Harley Atchison)



(photo by Codi Holdeman)

Track girls have windy season

by Kelly Murphy

Track and field gives people the opportunity to compete in activities that strengthen the mind and body. Athletes can compete in running events or they can be in field events.

When people think of track and field, they think of individual events. Others would argue though that track is mostly a team sport. Also, track involves a team to win. When someone compete in track, they get points based on how they place compared to other teams. Each place gets a certain number of points. First place gets five points, second place gets three points, and third gets two.

The Pella Middle School girls' track team was scheduled to have seven track meets. They had three track meets cancelled during the season. The girls however had their second track meet and they performed very well at their meet.

Mrs. Versteeg, one of the girls track coaches, said, "The girls have been handling practices very well and

that they have been prepared for the cold weather. Also that the high jump girls have had some weird experiences at the meets. At the Newton meet the mat almost blew out to the middle of the actual track." Versteeg also said there have been no problems and that the team has been working hard.

Kara Wichhart, track runner, said, "I have been running track for two years. My favorite part is running with my relay teams." Wichhart also said that it's different having seventh graders there instead of the eighth graders.

Annika Pingel, track runner, said, "I have been running track since first grade." Pingel also said that it's different from last year because she had more experience. Pingel also said that practices were a little different with the seventh graders but that they were pretty much the same. Pingel said, "It's different being the leaders now to the seventh graders." Pingel also said she is ready for high school track because

she is ready for bigger competition.

The girls have been practicing in extremely odd weather. One day they practiced in warm seventies weather and the next day they were practicing in twenty-five mph winds.

This year the athletes have been put to the test with the weather. They have had to go through warm weather spots, but they also have gone through windy weather patterns. The reason the wind has been such a problem for the teams is that it makes it hard for the girls to practice. The wind needs to slow down because these girls are having problems running in it. When the wind is 10 mph, it is four times more fatiguing than 5 mph winds. It will slow a runner down by 6 seconds from what they normally run.

The year for the Lady Dutch track team overall has had an odd start. They will keep competing though and giving their all. The home meet was on April 28 and they gave it their best.



Annika Pingel and Emily Vos run in the 100 meter dash.



Jackie Weiser runs in the 4x800 relay.



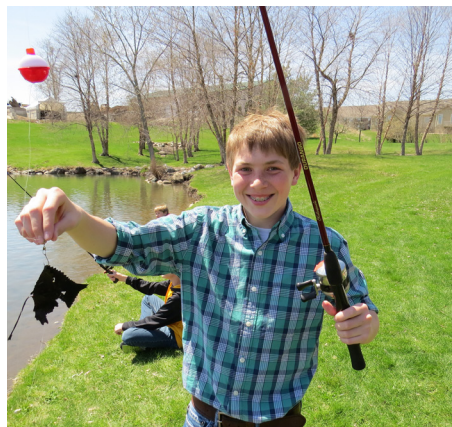
Maddie Canfield runs in 4x800 relay.
(photos by Emma Anderson)

Seventh grade students go on fishing trip

Each year Mrs. Belding arranges a fishing trip for 7th grade P.E. students.



Ellie Carney caught a fish at the seventh grade fishing trip.



Cole Bisbee catches a leaf during seventh grade fishing trip.



Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Versteeg, and Mr. Anderson adjust fishing poles.

Eighth graders move to freshman baseball

by Reece Schnell

The freshmen baseball team and coach Jesse Jablonski shocked all baseball fans by moving up underclassmen to fill in needed spots. There was a low number in freshmen athletes on the baseball team, four underclassmen were asked to step up and fill in the spots. There were tryouts for anyone under 9th grade that was up to the challenge.

Since there were only four spots, anyone who tried out had to prove they were good enough to play on the freshmen team. At the tryouts Jablonski said, "I think these boys will be mature enough players to help out the freshman team".

The boys were examined by coaches. The players had to show their throwing, catching, experience with the game. After the tryouts the four players were chosen, the four players that were chosen were Kaden Miedema, Avery VanZee, Landon VanderLeest, and Soren Stelter. These four players impressed the coaches the most, fairly earning their spot on the team.

VanderLeest said, "I am excited to be in a different atmosphere this year and playing with older kids. I feel almost no pressure, playing with players from the freshmen team, even though they are older than I am." The eighth graders will hopefully make as

much of a difference as they plan and it should be a great year.



Kaden Miedema Avery VanZee, and Soren Stelter participate in freshman baseball this season. Landon VanderLeest is not pictured.

(photo by Kelly Murphy)

Boys wrap up track season

by Grant DeMeulnare

The track season came to an end at the conference meet in Oskaloosa on May 13, 2014. There were a total of 50 athletes who came out this year, between 7th and 8th grade students. They were scheduled to have meets held in Pella, Oskaloosa, Knoxville, South Tama, Newton, and Grinnell.

For many athletes, it was their first year of track and they were still getting the hang of it. A veteran 8th grade runner, Soren Stelter, said, "I enjoy track for the competition and I get to hang out with my friends."

Many of the track meets this

year were either canceled or postponed due to bad weather conditions. A lot of the athletes were not happy about this. "It's kind of sad that a few of the meets have been canceled already," Stelter said. They were able to have four of the seven meets that were scheduled for this season. They were held in Pella, Grinnell, Newton and Oskaloosa.

Although many of the meets were canceled the Dutch had a very successful season. At the conference meet, the eighth grade team got 4th out of seven teams, and the 7th grade team got 2nd out of seven teams.



Jake Heerema prepares to throw discus.



Nathaniel Robinson runs in 4x 800 meter relay.



Reid McGinley competes in long jump.



Gavin Tierney runs in shuttle hurdle relay.

(photos by Kelly Murphy)

Students teach in classrooms

by Colton Edwards

This year one may have noticed a few student teachers attending one's class and taking the place of one of one's normal teachers. The student teachers are Mr. Kotz, Mr. Knoot, and Ms. Ludwikowski.

Mr. Kotz taught English, literature, and publications for Mrs. Knight's classes. Mr. Knoot taught social studies for Mr. Korver. Ms. Ludwikowski, 7th grade literature. Newton Yee, a student of Mr. Knoot, said he likes student teachers because they have new ideas to share with the class that can make you think more about the topic. He also said they help him learn by teaching what they know and not just the normal teachers teaching plan, and also try to make the topic as interesting as possible.



Kotz and Ludwikowski celebrate last day with a special cake.

(photo by Jodi Knight)

Students participate in ITA program

by Lexi DeJong

This year, forty one people participated in the ITA program at Pella Middle School, each having different reasons for doing so.

ITA is an organization created by the Iowa Association of School Librarians. Each year, teens can nominate books for this list. These books must be published for young adults in the last three years, must be from fifteen different authors, and they must appeal to both genders. After the nominations are over, the committee and volunteer readers read

the nominated books and determine the fifteen books one year ahead of time.

This year, forty-one people participated in the ITA program at Pella Middle School. They kept track of how many books each person read by running a report on what books which people have read. They then take a sticker representing that book and put it on your own personal popcorn on the window in the library. The people who read two or more were invited to the ITA party that took place on Friday, March 28th.

Carrie Blommers said, "I enjoy the ITA program. I think that it is beneficial to kids to enjoy reading." Blommers also said, when asked what made a good ITA book to her, "I think that a good ITA book is a book that the kids want to tell each other about."

Elizabeth Lovell, who was asked the same question said, "I think it depends on the person. It needs to have action and keep the person interested." So go check out a book today.



Ava Rowe, Aleona Pronina, Mikayla Schnell, JordanMarie DeArmond, Lexi DeJong, Elise Beukelman, Tyler Vander Molen, and Thomas Gauley dive into good ITA books.

Students create children's books

by Destiny Brown

The eighth grade class worked on children's books, and on April 8th they went and read to the children at Madison and Lincoln Elementary Schools.

The eighth grade class worked hard through the month of March to create children's books. LuAnn DeHaan, eighth grade English teacher, said, "An avenue for students to write for a real audience, and be able to talk to 'little people'. To have a real life experience, and to act like an author."

The journey that brought them to reading or presenting day was what some may say a hassle. On the first day, students figured out who was in their group.

The first step to start forming the children's books was to start brainstorming ideas. Some groups chose to write A to Z books while others chose to write witty ones.

Jacey Pringle, eighth grade student, said, "My group chose to write a lesson for the younger kids. We want them to get something out of our book."

Once the brainstorming was closing up the writing came. Groups chose either one person to write the story with others' help, or to write as a group. When the stories were finished the groups checked it with

their teacher. If the students missed a number of mistakes they would be deducted points from the final grade.

When the proofreading finished, the proofs were made. The groups settled on which direction they wanted their books, either horizontal or vertical. Once the choice turned into a reality, groups began to sectionalize their stories. At least every other page filled with text. With the fake book, the students selected what type of pictures they wanted to create and they put a quick sketch on the page.

Each group also learned about copyright, publishing, and ISBN numbers. The students learned where to put these items and how to use them correctly. When they learned where to establish these correctly, it was time to start the final draft.

On the final draft students couldn't afford to mess up. Each group member kept track of each part he or she needed to be sure of what was happening in the group. Pringle said, "My group started with setting up our text first then moving into illustrations."

When groups emerged into creating their pictures most group picked one artist. The artist worked hard to put tons of effort into the illustrations. All pictures used vibrant

colors to explain their story. From every detail the book needed to feel finished before turning it in for a final grade.

As soon as the group checked over the final book there was one thing to do, turn it in for a final grade. When the groups turned in their final projects they reflected on their group and the process they spent together. When the reading day came about all the groups felt their hard work pay off to see smiles across the younger students.



Soren Stelter, Ava Rowe, and Caleb Gaylor read their story to a Lincoln class. (photo by Brooke De Nooy)

Four win writing contest

by Brownwyn Metcalf

This winter, four students in the Pella Middle School went to regionals for creative writing and poetry. The students who won were Elizabeth Lovell and Jake Grundey, 8th grade students, Hanna Blom and Gavin Klein, 7th grade students. Grundey won for creative writing on his Earth piece. Lovell won for her poem, "Secrets Untold". Blom won for her creative writing Where the Healing Begins. Klein won for his "That One Thing That Shall Not Be Named".

Two students in each grade were chosen to move on; one creative writing piece and one poem. Both the creative writing and poem was won by 7th and 8th graders in the Pella Middle School. The students had waited for weeks to receive the news on who

had won. This year the director of the contest was much more flexible; often pushing back the due date more than the past year's director. These four students read their stories aloud at Pella Christian Grade School on April 7.

When Grundey was asked if he sees himself with a journalism career he said, "No I don't, because I don't enjoy writing about other people. I enjoy creative writing."

Lovell although has a different opinion. Lovell said, "Maybe as a side career, but I do plan to go to college for engineering and writing."

All four students went to state, but Pella Middle School only had two winners. Hanna Blom won second place for writing, and Gavin Klein won third place for poetry overall for state.



Hanna Blom reads her story on the radio.

Jelinske's message impacts students

by Ava Rowe

For many students bullying is part of growing up. This is an increasing issue in the United States. Students all over the United States, of all ages, are victims of bullying. An average of 3.2 million student are bullied each year. On average around 100,000 bullying cases result in teen suicide.

Jim Jelinske is a motivational speaker who speaks all over the United States and shares his personal story about numerous topics. Jelinske was first discovered by the Student Council at the 2013 Fall Iowa Junior High Student Council Conference in Waterloo, Iowa. Moved by his words, Student Council invited Jelinske to come speak to the Pella Middle School student body on February 23 to share his experiences and story about bullying.

Student Council member, Bailee Meyer said, "We were all very moved by his presentation and production that we thought it would be good for people at our school to hear his speech and listen to effects that bullying causes."

Counselor, Anne Pentico, agreed with Meyer, "I believe that his message was very relevant to what happens in school, what students see on a regular basis."

Many students and teachers were touched by Jelinske's personal story about the effects of bullying. His story included personal details about a

boy named Brian, one of the 3.2 million victims of bullying. Everyday Brian was bullied. Sadly, Brian was killed when running away from the bullies during recess. Jelinske later revealed that he was the school counselor that sent Brian outside the day of his death.

Not only sharing his story Jelinske shared several intervention techniques to address bullying. Jelinski's serious story also included a combination of humor which left students and staff members laughing and even dancing.

Jelinske's power message impacted the Pella Middle School. The impact was not all positive. Jelinski's common phrase, "We don't do that here" was intended to help and stop bullying. Instead this phrase was used to mock Jelinske's phrase.

"In my opinion his message did both. I think it helped a lot because, for the mature students it made them think about how they treated others. It also hurt our school because many students were using his speech in an inappropriate way. They began saying things like We don't do that here, when that phrase was not needed or it was an inappropriate mocking way," said Meyer.

Stopping bullying everywhere is not easy. It occurs everyday. Soon we hope to lower the amount of people bullying around the world starting at the Pella Middle School.

Life skills taught in Sheets's, Dykema's classes

by Ethan Vance

During their seventh hour study halls, the students of Kellie Dykema's and Kelsie Sheet's classrooms actively work on their life skills around the school. Life skills include three different activities, which are recycling on Tuesdays, cooking class every other Wednesday, and stocking the pop machines on Fridays. Each activity helps the student individually with different aspects of themselves. These activities have been going on even before the arrival of Sheets and Dykema.

Other staff members included in these activities are Joseph Atwell, Kelsey Boot, Aleisha Elscott, Gina VanderWal. Students included in the activities are Noah Linde, Ethan Bandstra, Johnny Dembski, and Frankie Grooters.

Sheets said, "By doing these tasks each week we are able to see the progress that is made between their working skills and their relationships with others." Sheets also mentioned, "Pros to these activities are that they develop work skills and it helps them with following through with expectations. One con though, we can be disruptive in the hallways."

Grooters said, "My favorite activity is the pop machines because I like to drink pop."

Some people might have even seen these students and teachers in the hallway. Sheets is even looking for volunteers in her classroom. She has had students come down to her room before and help with the activities during their study halls. Sheets says these volunteers are a big help. These activities will most likely continue into next year.



Student council members Travis Aldrich, Austin Adrian, Isaac Zeimetz, Natalie Henry, Erica Nossaman, Emily Kriegel, Elizabeth Lovell, Mrs. Blommers, and Mrs. Brandt sweep the highway ditches of trash and litter.

Gaining Ground 11

Seventh graders act their way onto stage

by Isaac Zeimetz

Seventh grade students in Catie Brand's, English class, despite scheduling conflicts, put on wonderful shows for different groups of live audiences.

On January 17th, seventh graders in Brand's began composing their seventh grade plays and performed them about four months later. Jodi Knight's seventh grade English and literature class also constructed plays, but they didn't perform these plays for an audience. They instead filmed their plays during the first week of April.

During rehearsal times and performing times, many scheduling conflicts had to be avoided such as the Neil Smith field trip, G.T. field trip, fishing trip, and Good Friday. These conflicts caused a few plays to be switched around and a few missed days of practice. Even though there were many obstacles and conflicts, the show went on.

Seventh graders had two weeks of rehearsal prior to their performances. During this time, seventh graders hauled in costumes, props, and the acting spirit to the stage. One of the most interesting props brought by a student was a medieval stock which was constructed by Elizabeth Sales and her father for the Case of the Missing Cat.

However, seventh graders didn't only perform plays. They donned their improvisation skills and played improv games during any free time. The most common game was Martha's *Picture*, a game in which improvers create a picture based on a topic.

Finally, Brand stated that the main point of seventh grade plays is to give students the opportunity to see if theatre is something they enjoy, and if not they can still take away the speech aspect.



Students discover their inner actors and actresses.

(photo by Isaac Zeimetz)



7th grade girls entertain the class with their play.

(photo by Isaac Zeimetz)

Students make parodies in literature

by Codi Holdeman

Students in Amanda Bonjour's 8th grade literature class made parodies to proceed their poetry unit at the end of April. Students made these by picking a group and a song then they wrote a parody to it.

Some examples of parodies were "I Ate The Fries" instead of "I Saw The Sign" by Kinzie Van Wyk, Erica Nossaman, and Noah Chaplin; "I'm

Poor" instead of "I'm Yours" by Bailee Meyer and Makenna Goemaat. Meyer stated that the best part of doing these parodies is seeing people work together and watching the parodies.

Some believe that doing parodies will teach a life lesson. Bonjour and Meyer both think that it teaches students to think outside the box and be creative. Meyer, a student,

said, "The seventh graders should know to be creative, and you will have to be weird."

The overall winner of the parodies was "Cats Are Lame" by Avery Vanzee, Dakota Ortiz, and Shawn Sytsma. Thier parody was to "Remember The Name" by Fort Minor.

Students send off athletes in style

On May 22, Ethan Bandstra and Frankie Gritters were supported by many peers as they headed out the door to their Special Olympic events.



8th grade girls wave signs of encouragement.



Bandstra sits at table as well-wishers autograph signs.



Students form a human tunnel for athletes to pass under.

12 Around the Grounds

8th graders enjoy night in “Hollywood”

by Rebecca Dux

Eighth graders experienced a night out in “Hollywood” on April 26th at the Pella Middle School. Parents and volunteers helped set-up for this night to make it special for their kids and friends.

Jamie Chapman, a member of the parent set-up committee for the party, said, “I am excited to see the kids’ reactions to the set-up. I know how much kids love using their cell

phones, so we set-up many places where they can take pictures and enjoy themselves.”

Bailee Meyer, an eighth grader, said, “I can’t wait for the eighth grade party. I picked the theme Hollywood because I wanted my party experience to be glamorous.”

The set up was planned to take four to six hours or more to complete the set up for the party. The set up

included a cardboard city, tulle hanging from the ceiling in the lunch room, lights hanging from the ceiling, and mini chandeliers hanging over each table.

The eighth graders experienced many fun games at the eighth grade party. Some of the games there were lazer tag, money blower, jousting, and poker.



8th grade party Hollywood theme sign. (photo by Grant DeMeulenaere)



8th graders wait on the red carpet. (photo by Isaac Zeimetz)



8th graders have fun playing poker. (photo by Isaac Zeimetz)

7th graders experience culture fair

7th graders study cultures all year in preparation for the culture fair that took place on May 15th.



Brittney Ropes shows excitement about her culture fair project.



Fair projects are ready to share.



Davin Van Haaften stands by his culture fair table.

(photos by Lily Roozeboom)

Publications staff gallery photos



(photo by Emma Anderson)

The 4th quarter publications staff has created a gallery of their creative work. Throughout the paper you will see photos taken by the staff.



(photo by Grant DeMeulenaere)



(photo by Ezzy Ramirez)



(photo by Lexi DeJong)

Students create yearbook

by Elizabeth Lovell

“My favorite part of yearbook was collaborating with others and learning a new skill,” said Harley Atchison, one of fifteen students in the third quarter yearbook class. These students take pictures, write captions, and plan layouts for every page that goes into the yearbook in just nine weeks.

The first step in making a yearbook is learning how to operate the cameras. The students went on a scavenger hunt with the cameras, and some of those photos were included in the yearbook. They also learned how to write captions. The students were put into groups to discuss writing techniques, what to put in the yearbook, and rules to put into their very own constitution. All the students put their ideas together and signed this constitution and rules to follow.

The only thing the students started out with was a cover design. Each student was assigned 1-4 pages depending on where in the book their pages were. They were also given photo assignments taking pictures of different groups or activities. Each picture was planned with study halls, lunches, or other free classes. The pages were designed on Lifetouch Online Yearbooks, so students were able to work on them on their laptops. Most of the time, the pages were worked on in Susan Lyons’ room with the larger computers. Each page was assigned group pictures. The students in charge of those pages would choose a focused, clear picture from one that the person with the photo assignment had, and it would be put on their page with a caption. Students could also put clip art and other photos on their pages to personalize them.

After everyone had their pages mostly done, the next thing to do was print them out so they could be edited. Jodi Knight, publications teacher, said, “It takes a lot of hours and a lot of people. The teachers help edit, the students help edit.” Atchison agreed, saying, “The worst part was when we were fine-tuning and we had to work out all the kinks, when in reality, nobody would’ve really noticed. But I’m glad we did, because it looked way better afterwards.”

Even with all the snow days during the quarter, the deadline for the yearbook was not moved, and it was turned in shortly before spring break began. As well as making the yearbook, the students had to write an article for the fourth quarter newspaper. As a final comment, Atchison said, “Take yearbook! It’s fun!”

Polar Plunge changes lives

by Brooke De Nooy

Dozens are plunging into water for Landon Shaw, a five month old baby with a rare type of cancer, in Tarkio, Missouri. A Facebook page was made to support Shaw and his family. Now that page has people from all over taking the Plunge to help them.

Many are nominating others to do the Plunge as well. Nominees are to jump into a cold body of water and nominate up to three people if they would like after the have completed the Plunge. People from all across the

country are doing the Polar Plunge to help Shaw. The Facebook page now has 56,223 members and allows people to post their Plunges and donate.

Many students at Pella Middle School have done the Plunge. “I was nominated and enjoyed the plunge even though it was really cold!” said Selena Quangvan.

Many think that this is a great reason to do the Polar Plunge and help others even if they haven’t done the Plunge. “I would do the Plunge be-

cause I think that it is helping save this boy, and it would be a good thing to do,” said student, Grace Larson.

Organizers of the Plunge for Landon fundraiser said they have lost count of how many people have posted videos or photos of themselves doing the Plunge. This fundraiser has made more than \$30,000 to help Shaw. It might be safe to say that many are making a change with the Polar Plunge.

4th Quarter Newspaper Staff

This newspaper has been brought to you by students participating in 4th quarter publications:

Back row left to right: Grant DeMeulenare, Colton Edwards, Lexi DeJong, Cloe Kelling, Harley Atchison, Brooke De Nooy, Codi Holdeman, Isaac Zeimet, Esmeralda Ramirez

Front row left to right: Lily Roozeboom, Emma Anderson, Rebecca Dux, Kelly Murphy

(photo by Jodi Knight)



14 Around the Grounds

Meet the Teacher

05-27-14
The Middle Ground
Page Editor
Cloe Kelling

by Kaeleigh DeWaard



(photo by Cloe Kelling)

LuAnn DeHann is one of the Pella Middle School's 8th grade English teachers. She has been working here for over 25 years because it is what she loves to do. She goes to school with a smile on her face every day and loves helping and challenging students throughout the day.

DeHaan has made an impact on many students, not just through her words but through her projects.

DeHaan has very fun assignments like read and respond. It gives us freedom in what to write." Cameron Norton, student, says.

Students enjoy Mrs. DeHaan and how she acts towards people in and outside of class.

Norton said, "She is a great and fun teacher in and outside of class!"

DeHaan has been a teacher at Pella Middle School for 26 years and she started her career in 1988 and has been at Pella her entire teaching years. She has wanted to be a teacher every since she was in kindergarten and her dream has come true.

"When I was younger I used to make my sister do worksheets that I

had made for her," DeHaan said.

DeHaan loves working with students and seeing the smiles on their faces everyday when she comes to work.

DeHaan said, "I love watching students become successful. I love the writings that the students do...I enjoy watching someone, who thinks he/she can't write, become proficient and proud of his/her work. I love laughing with the kids and soaking up their energy and zest for life."

DeHaan has used the lessons that she has learned in her past and her family's past to use it with her students which makes it so much more heart warming and makes the experience so much more understanding.

DeHaan said, "I believe that every young person has a gift and it's my mission to help each of them discover what that might be. My dad lived through the Great Depression and World War II. He always impressed on me the importance of education. He always said that an education is something that can never be taken away from you no matter what else you might lose. I try in some small way to pass on that thought to my students."

Her teaching experience has not made just an impact on herself but on the people around her including other teachers. She is always communicating face to face with students and teachers which not a lot of people do anymore. She has made an impact on many people's lives but not just as a teacher.

DeHaan is close friends with

the project lead the way teacher Susan Lyons. Lyons is constantly visiting DeHaan's room to chat and talk about their plans later. Also DeHaan is always having fun with Mrs. Lyons' daughters when school is over. She is a role model to them and her students.

DeHaan continuously puts her students before anything else so she can make them happy and have fun in her class. She puts a lot of her time and effort into making things great so that students will look forward to her class and come into her class with a smile on their face.

DeHaan said, "My favorite memory of being a teacher is every time I see a former student and am able to talk to him/her about the life he/she has chosen, that becomes my favorite memory. And less seriously--kids teaching me to do the macarena, kids setting up a Twitter account for me, having kids of kids in class and telling stories of their parents, the autobiographies and children's books, students being shocked that I didn't have a cell phone as a kid---or a computer--and so many many more."

DeHaan cares about every single person who comes into her classroom and does her best to meet everyone's interests. She is a great teacher who knows how to go at things to make her 8th grade students and her working partners happy. She has been a teacher for 26 years and it is what she is loves to do.

Meet the Academic

by Lily Roozeboom

Carter Briggs, a seventh grade student in G&T, enjoys engaging in classrooms and sports. Briggs has been through W.I.N.G.S. and G.A.T.E.S., early years of gifted education, and is now participating in G&T. He has recently participated in the Knowledge Bowl through G&T.

Briggs and his team members placed 6th overall. Briggs is very good at solving math problems and sees himself doing

something financial when he is older.

Briggs said, "I think that math is easy and very interesting to learn, my favorite part about math is working with numbers."

Briggs is involved in activities outside of school. He participates in football, swimming, track, band, choir, and tennis. He enjoys frisbee golfing, biking, and hanging out with friends when not in school.



(photo by Lily Roozeboom)

Meet the Athlete

by Selena Quangvan

Lily Roozeboom is an eighth grader. She plays tennis and is a cross country runner. She started playing tennis in the summer of 4th grade and running for cross country in 7th grade.

Roozeboom said, "I tried tennis as a kid and enjoyed it. I wanted to try cross country in Middle School and kept doing it after that."

Roozeboom enjoys most about tennis is playing the game. In cross country, she enjoys how the coaches are laid back, fun practices, and how

there are a lot of people. Roozeboom plays singles and tennis tournaments in the summer.

Destiny Brown, eighth grade student, said, "Lily is a hard worker and she really values the game of tennis."

Erica Halstead, eighth grade student, said, "Lily has good sportsmanship and is fun to be around in practice."

Roozeboom is planning to continue participating in tennis and cross country in high school.



(photo by Selena Quangvan)

Meet the Musician

by Angelina McCoy



(photo by Codi Holdeman)

Brooke DeNooy is a musician at the Pella Middle school. She has been a musician since 6th grade and plans to continue being a musician through high school. DeNooy was motivated to be a musician when she was a young girl. She has been singing since she was a young age. DeNooy was also motivated by her sister.

Brooke DeNooy, musician,

said " My sister was in band so I decided to try it."

The two things she enjoys most about being a musician is that it gives her freedom of expression. It can also help cheer people up and put them in a better mood. DeNooy recommends being a musician to other students.

DeNooy said, " Even if you don't like music a lot it is still something you should try. It is a way to make new friends, you end up associating with people you typically don't hang around with. Also when you do choir or band it helps you relieve stress."

One thing that Brooke would like to change about the Pella Middle School music program would be the band lessons. She feels that they should be optional.

Brooke is a soprano and enjoys it, although she would rather be an alto. She feels that she can sing better low than high. Brooke enjoys doing show

choir. She likes meeting all the new people, and she likes that you get an opportunity to work more with the 7th graders. She also enjoys girls choir, but she feels it is very inconvenient that you don't have a choice and that it should be optional.

Brooke likes to listen to many different types of music genres depending on her mood. She listens to Christian music when she needs some lifting up. She listens to slower songs if she is sad. She likes to listen to whatever is on the radio. Brooke is also in many other extra curricular activities. She does sports like track, volleyball and basketball. She enjoys these sports because she gets to make new friends and have fun. Brooke is not only a musician but she's an athlete who loves working as a team and who also proudly supports PMS.

Show choir looks to have great year

by Lydia Taylor

The name of the middle school show choir is PELLAdrenaline. Show choir involves dancing and singing in competition. Joe Tangen directs the group, and Sarah VanWaardhuizen is the choreographer.

This year, show choir has 86 kids participating. This is the biggest show choir group Tangen has ever had. The songs that PELLAdrenaline will sing this year are "Good Time" by Owl City and Carly Rae Jepsen, "Hallelujah" by Jeff Buckley, and "What Makes You Beautiful" by One Direction.

The show choir season includes six performances, including one competition hosted in Pella.

PELLAdrenaline will compete out of town twice, and the rest of the events are concerts. When Pella gets to host the competition, all of the other groups perform, hoping to win. When they are done dancing and singing, PELLAdrenaline and the high school's show choir group, AcaPella, perform while the judges decide who won.

Juliana Van Gorp said, "Once you learn all the moves to the dance, it's easy."

For competitions, the girls wear a purple, sparkly dress, dance shoes, and their hair is worn up. The boys wear a black shirt, black pants, black shoes, and a silver tie.

Show choir kids sometimes practice before or after school, depending on other activities. Some practices only involve either the 7th graders or 8th graders, while other practices include everyone. They also occasionally practice on Saturdays. The group meets in the Pella Middle School choir room, where they remove the chairs and start to practice.

"Show choir is awesome! You get to dance, learn new songs, and go to competitions. I encourage more people to do it next year. Show choir is fun and a good experience," Luigi Lopez said.

Pronina shares thoughts about Character Counts

by Aleona Pronina

Do you wanna hear a riddle? What is something that has been taught since kindergarten? What is something that is represented everywhere throughout the school, starting from the gym to the individual classrooms? What is like velcro, sticking to us no matter what happens? What is reflected by our actions like our reflections in the mirror? What is like water, refracting into the sky we call life? The answer is Character Counts or the Six Pillars of Character which are also known as responsibility, respect, trustworthiness, honesty, caring, and citizenship.

Character Counts includes the character traits that we must all try our hardest to have even when we feel the least like it. It is like show choir. I mean, a Saturday morning is when we feel the least like waking up at three to five in the morning. However, once we wake up from that difficult morning, the sky lightens and it is so beautiful outside. However, it is worth waking up so early. The whole day is filled with nonstop excitement, fun, random, singing, crazy dancing. Character Counts, in a way, is like that.

I mean, it might seem like diving into the ocean without a ski mask or like jumping over the rainbow without any feet. However, it can be done and any mountains that we need to climb will be worth the view at the top. We also must have these skills even when we feel that we do not need to. It is like taking a parka for a vacation in Florida. (Am I right, fellow band members?)

The Pillars of Character remind me of a line in a choir song called "I Dream a World." The line is, "I dream a world where man, no other man will scorn and love will bless the Earth. Where peace its path adorn and joy, like a pearl, attends the needs of all mankind."

The factions in "Divergent" and the houses in "Harry Potter" also remind me of the pillars. The Erudite are responsible, the Candor are honest, the Dauntless are trustworthy, the Abnegation are caring, the Amity are respectful, and the Divergent stand for citizenship. Ravenclaw is responsible, Hufflepuff is respectful and caring. It is amazing how many things are connected to Character Counts if we

think about it deeply!

Everyone has these qualities, but this year two students have been nominated as the eighth graders who have shown the most character. Their names are Kara Wichhart and Aaron Born. To find out more about how this award has affected these two eighth graders, I conducted an interview.

Question: How does it feel to have won the award?

Kara: "It is a good feeling and a very neat award to receive. I'm thankful I was able to get this award although it is hard to believe of all the people I am the one that received it. I am definitely not the only one that could have been chosen for this award, but am very honored to be able to accept it."

Aaron: "It feels really special to me because it's such a big award."

Question: How has this accomplishment affected you as a person?

Kara: "This award has affected me in different ways. It gave me a chance to try and become a better leader and learn more about things I can do to help others achieve their goals as well as mine. It also helped me to think that if you do good things for others without anybody watching, you will have a better attitude and think with a positive mind."

Aaron: "After I won it it has made me be more cautious about what I do and how I act."

Question: Is there anything else you would like to share with your classmates?

Kara: "Even though not everyone is awarded for doing good things, it feels great to do nice things for others and see the smile on their face afterwards. One of the best things to experience is seeing another person happy because of your actions, even if it was from the simplest thing. Just by saying "Hi, I like your shirt!" or "Nice shoes!" it can make a person's day much better, and it could maybe start a domino effect. Sooner or later everyone will have that good feeling in themselves from something another person said to them."

Aaron: "I am greatly honored to win this award and hopefully more people show a high level of Character Counts."

All of the answers were so thought out and sweet! I agree with all

of them. We need to be cautious of our actions, and we should do simple nice things for other people. It might seem like a grain of sand to us, but once putting all the grains of sand together, an entire beach can be formed! You might say that what you do to a person is as little as a piece of space junk, but to that person to whom you are performing the action, it might seem bigger than the whole entire Milky Way Galaxy!

Let's "pay it forward" and start "getting over ourselves and start giving ourselves!"



Kara Wichhart and Aaron Born won the Character Counts awards.

(photo by Emma Anderson)

What do you think about Character Counts?

Erica Halstead: I think character counts promotes good character throughout the school. It encourages students to have better qualities to prepare themselves in life later on.

Rebekah Fyfe: I think that Character Counts is a good way to promote good behavior early on in life. It is a good way to encourage young children, teens, and young adults to be good people.

Juliana VanGorp: I like it. I think it is good to be respectful of everyone.

by Aleona Pronina

Eighth graders gear up for high school

by Harley Atchison

What two words make eighth graders shudder? No food? No. Wifi password? Wrong again. Need an answer? High School. The eighth graders started the transition to Pella High early in January and continued the process into early March.

How do we prep for such a large jump? The eighth graders used a program called “I Have a Plan Iowa”, a website designed to create pathways for students for when they want to figure out what they want to be. It’s also used for exploration, projects within schools, and most importantly, records a state-required four year plan for upcoming freshman to plan out their high school years. This was not as bad as it sounds. For Pella students, we got a packet with our login information. It also includes worksheets on different

college majors and careers. We filled it out, and then based on what we want to take and our test results, we choose our own class schedule.

The eighth graders started using I Have a Plan Iowa after we came back from winter break. We were introduced to the program, took a few diagnostic tests, and recorded our answers down in the packet. It went like this for a while, with some discussions about colleges and job opportunities. Then, before we officially started the registration process, we took a grand tour of the high school. It’s not as big as it looks. This was either supposed to affirm us in our choices or make us rethink what we want to take as high schoolers.

For all the seventh graders already stressing about high school,

I have two things for you. One, stop stressing! It’s not that bad. Two, be wise about your time. Make sure that the classes you take will allow you to do the extracurriculars you want to. High school may seem scary, but it’s just school.



Ethan Vance speaks with Anne Pentico about the high school transition.

(photo by Alexis DeJong)

Spring excites school members

by Harley Atchison

Spring started March 20 with a temperature of 56 degrees at maximum in Pella, Iowa. Though it might not last for long, it was a pleasant change for the students and staff of the school.

Emily Vos, an eighth grade student, said, “I’m excited because the weather is warmer and track starts.”

Karl Korver, eighth grade social studies teacher, said, “I can’t wait for the warmer weather. I want to

exercise and not feel contained.”

Not many people are sad to see the snow go away. Natalie Henry, also eighth grade student, said, “I like getting away from the snow and cold.”

Attitudes of the students are lifted as well. When asked about changes in the students’ attitudes and enthusiasm, Korver said, “There are a few, but it has been a little louder. The kids need to get out. They’re restless.”

These students have plans for the summer as well. Service projects are a popular topic. “I plan on going to a mission trip to Chicago. I’m also helping out at a camp for kids,” Vos said. Some are just going to have fun. “I plan on celebrating my birthday, going to camp, and traveling to Florida,” said Henry.

Spring will last until June 21, when summer takes its place.

Gallery Photos



(photo by Colton Edwards)



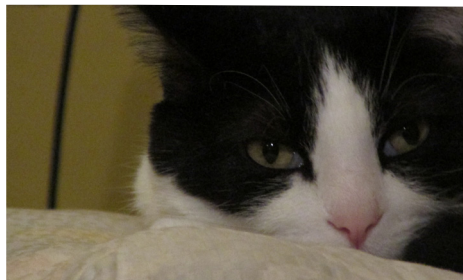
(photo by Rebecca Dux)



(photo by Kelly Murphy)



(photo by Harley Atchison)



(photo by Isaac Zeimetz)

*Fly Away**by Codi Holdeman*

Fly away
Just fly away
Fly away with me
Fly away
Come fly away
Set your spirit free

I know the chains have held you
Kept you in your place
But now the time has come to fly
See it in my face
No time to stand thinking
Take your chance right now
Come away with me tonight
I will show you how

I see the fear infect you
But you must slip your chain
For all that we can ever know
The chance may not come again
Put your trust in me now
Put your hand in mine
Fly away, just fly away
To a better place and time

Learn to trust in feelings
Learn to trust in me
Learn to think for yourself
And set your spirit free
Let your spirit soar away
Let your spirit, fly
Stay with me till break of day
I'll love you till I die

Gallery Photos

*(photo by Brooke De Nooy)**(photo by Lily Roozeboon)**Me with you**by Brooke De Nooy*

Forever in my heart
Always on my mind
In the hurting,
In the laughing,
But always in my heart.

Take me further than my feet could
ever go.
Show me the way,
The path,
And the light.
Lead me to you

Without you I fall apart
You're the one who guides my heart
I need nothing but you

When I fall I'll lean on you
Lead me away from temptation
And towards you

The lost are found in you
You will guide them and protect them
You will be their shelter and their
shield

Let me love like you,
Unconditionally,
Never ending,
And extravagantly,
Because your love never fails

Let me trust in you fully,
Without question

Make me the person you want me to
be
It is all for your glory
And I give you control

You are my hope and my anchor
I am broken but I'm running toward
you
And I will praise you in the storm
You are able and will never fail me
You are always by my side

When I can not see,
I put everything into you
You are my everything,
And I'll be waiting here for you

Life is a maybe,
Death is for sure,
Sin is the cause,
Christ is the cure

**BEGINNING,
MIDDLE, END***by JordanMarie DeArmond*

Give me a good beginning,
And a very well written middle.
Because I won't read the ending.

The end is the beginning
To a new way of life.
When you end a book, there is always
another
To keep your interest.

Life does not have to end
Because we say it does.
The year never ends,
it just starts brand new.

*Faith**by Brooke De Nooy*

Is believing in what you can not see
He is like the wind
You can not see it
But you can feel it

My faith is strong,
although I still make mistakes
You learn to move on
And learn from the mistakes you
have made,
He loves us
No matter what

You can have so much faith,
But if you don't love there is nothing
Faith gives us the strength to love
Even after being hurt to your
breaking point
It is then you realize how great His
love is

Be strong in your faith
It makes everything possible,
Because He can do all things

Gallery Photo

*(photo by Codi Holdeman)*