

Building for the Future

Hinton Blackhawk



Volume 12, Number 5
Hinton Community School
Hinton, Iowa 51024
January 2006

National Honor Society Induction Banquet

By Mr. Daniel L. Hudek

The Hilltop Chapter of the National Honor Society held their annual banquet and induction ceremony on November 29, 2005. The ceremony is one of solemnity, recognizing students who meet the high standards of the organization. Induction into the society is based upon four criteria: service, leadership, character, and scholarship.

The induction ceremony was preceded by banquet where one hundred and ten people were served. The evening concluded with a presentation from Dr. Carolyn Rants, Dean of Students at Western Iowa Tech. It was a very special night; students were recognized for their outstanding accomplishments.

The Hilltop Chapter of the National Honor Society is made up of the following members: Becky Book, Tara Christensen, Sara Dehner, Jessica DeRocher, Meghan Derochie, Tregg Fay, Alison Finch, Delainye Hardersen, Megan Hawthorne, Logan Hines, Ehi Oamen, Jessica Oregon, Jennifer Popken, Amy Ruhde, Kaylee Small, Heather Smith, Adam Teut, Jamie Vander Kooi, Hans Vander Plaats, and Travis VanHolland.

The Society welcomed a special group of new inductees that included the following students: Sara Baldwin, Devin Biroci, Katie Coffin, Cheree Coffman, Stephanie Dittmer,

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Alyssa Grigsby, Ryan Held, Kerri Klemmensen, Jessica Ream, Brecca Schindel, Jeremy Schindler, Jana Sitzman, Joel Vondrak, and Rebekah Youtzy.

Students Celebrate Healthy Snacks

By Mrs. Mary Daniels, D-6 Counselor

The Elementary Student Council hosted this year's celebration of Red Ribbon Week with the theme of "Celebrate Healthy Living." The focus of the week was on making healthy choices, including what we eat. On Wednesday after school, several of the Student Council members stayed to wash and prepare red grape cups and in the afternoon of Thursday, Oct. 27, members of the Council served the healthy snack to all of the students and adults in the elementary program. Other activities included a poster contest, a Wear Red Day, and sharing of red ribbons and red bracelets. Red Ribbon Week is a nation-wide annual celebration of Drug-Free living, and is held in remembrance of Kikki Camarena, a federal undercover drug agent who was killed while on assignment to expose a powerful drug operation in Mexico.

Holiday Season

By Mr. Al Steen

We hope each and every one of you has a Happy Holiday Season! Hopefully your holiday season is filled with joy and happiness.

At the time of this writing, we have experienced both of our Christmas Concerts. The talent displayed by our students is always incredible. Be sure to express your gratitude to our students and music instructors for the time and effort they have put forth for our concerts. Going to the Christmas Concerts is always a highlight during the Holiday Season. The students are all dressed up, festive songs are sung, and the gym is packed with parents, grandparents, and friends. Your attendance at these performances is greatly appreciated.

We are very fortunate to have family and community members attending all of our activities. Hinton Community School truly is a "family." With your support we continue to be a "family" and strive to be **A Community Dedicated To Developing Responsible Life Long Learners Prepared For Future Challenges.**

Tag – It Isn’t Just For Recess

By Mrs. Becky Steen

The annual Night of the Notables was held on Tuesday Nov. 22. Thirty TAG students from grades 4-8 presented their research on a notable person of their choice. There were some repeat notables, along with many newcomers, in this year’s presentations.

Nine students chose notable Americans from politics or history. This group of inspirational people included; Harriet Tubman by Courtney Siebold, Abraham Lincoln by Shannon Miller, Neil Armstrong by Tyler Yates, Elizabeth Blackwell by Carlee Riediger, Franklin Roosevelt by Sierra Stuerman, Laura Ingalls Wilder by Riley Hicklin, Hillary Rodman Clinton by Madison Udell and George W. Bush by Nathan Youtzy. Anne Kallsen chose to present her own grandfather, John Albers, who invented a wind generator. Two students chose a notable person from outside the United States. Nathan Johnson presented J.K. Rowling, the author of the Harry Potter books and Katie Bass chose Wangari Maathai, who won a Nobel Prize for her fight for African woman and the African environment.

Every year, there are students who choose to research a sports legend. This year, seven students presented a notable person from the sports world. They included; Tom Osborne by Ben Vonheeder, Michael Jordan by Grady Farrer, Walter Payton by Austin Anfinson, Jerry Rice by Stephen Youtzy, Mia Hamm by Mackenzie Small, Fran Tarkenton by Tyler Stuerman and Jack Nicklaus by Steve Koithan.

The sixth grade students are planning to enter their research papers and displays in the History Day Competition in the spring of 2006. To qualify for the competition, they had to stay within this year’s theme, “Taking a Stand in History.” Emily Culver and Katie Clausen chose Deborah Sampson, who disguised herself as a man to fight in the Revolutionary War. Karen Grigsby presented Galileo Galilei, who took a

stand against the Catholic Church’s teaching that the earth was the center of the universe. Allen Hamil and Nolan Crees chose Winston Churchill, who took a stand against Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany. Cole Barbee and Nolan Field presented Christopher Columbus who took a stand against the belief that the earth was flat.

Seventh and eighth grade students were given a choice to perform a scientific experiment rather than research a notable person. Five students choose to conduct an experiment. Austin Schwaderer and Eric Graak asked the question, “Which microwave popcorn leaves the fewest uncooked kernels?” Alexis Becker and Emily Kallsen asked, “How are sinkholes formed?” Amanda Schindler asked the often-heard question, “How many licks does it take to get to the center of a Tootsie Pop?” Once the students asked their questions, they performed research, formed a hypothesis, created an experiment that would test their hypothesis, collected data, and finally drew a conclusion as to whether their hypothesis was correct.

In addition to conducting research and writing a report, all of the students were required to design an activity and bring a food that had a connection to their notable person. The library was filled to capacity with great foods to sample and many challenging activities. The TAG students would like to thank their parents and the many visitors who helped make this Night of the Notables a huge success.

Financial Aid Night January 12 Seniors and Senior Parents

By Mr. Dan Hudek

7-12 Guidance

A Financial Aid Night will be held at Hinton Community School on January 12 at 7:00 PM, the school library will be the setting; this will provide parents and students with an opportunity to receive information concerning the completion of the federal/state financial aid forms. It is important that graduating seniors and their parents attend. The evening will provide a “hands on” opportunity to complete the financial aid forms. In addition, parents will be able to look at scholarship possibilities for their student. Do not miss it!

Candy! Candy! Candy!

By Mrs. Katie Galvin & Mrs. Ann Mosher

A favorite holiday movie, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, was made into a play for the third graders. They performed the play for several classes and for their families on December 6. The children were in charge of all their props and costumes. They put on quite a show! Many of the students were able to memorize all the lines, too!



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Pillbugs, Millipedes, and Guppies, Oh My!

By Mrs. Diane Culver

First graders learned all about terrariums, aquariums, and habitats during the months of October and November.

This year the elementary is using special science kits from the Area Education Agency. Teachers attended special training during the summer months to prepare for the units. The first grade unit was all about organisms.

We studied plants and animals and the students created two different habitats: woodland and aquariums. The aquariums had guppies and snails and the woodland terrariums had plants, pill bugs, and millipedes. We observed the habitats for a month and did special projects.



Middle School Science

By Mr. Steve Diediker

The middle school science students are well into their subject matter for the 2005-2006 school year. Each class has a set of standards and benchmarks to meet during the year.

The sixth grade's focus for the year deals with topics in Earth science. The students explored oceanography to start the school year. They are currently in the study of Earth's geography. During this unit, the students studied earthquakes, volcanoes, mountain building, and weathering and erosion forces. The students will conclude the year studying meteorology and astronomy.

The seventh grade spends their year studying life science. They have studied the moneran, protist, and fun-

gus kingdom the first semester. The second semester will find them paying special attention to the plant and animal kingdoms. Once the different kingdoms have been studied, the students will take part in a three-week dissection lab where they can see first hand the systems they expect each organism to use in its life. The year will be concluded by studying the ecology of Earth and how all organisms play a part in our environment.

The eighth grade's study has centered on physical science. The first semester has seen the students studying physics. Students have investigated factors involved in motion of solids, liquids, and gases. They have studied how machines make work easier and are currently doing labs finding the mechanical advantages of simple machines. The second semester will be spent in chemistry. Students will learn how the periodic table is set up and how different atoms create all the substances in our lives.

The middle school science students have an exciting year of discovery ahead of them.





Focus on Faculty

By Ms. Sue Martens

In this month's Focus on Faculty column, we would like to focus on Señora Arlene Hermsen and the Spanish Program.

Señora Hermsen has been teaching at Hinton Community School for the past 18 years. Before coming to Hinton, she taught Spanish, Business, and JH Math at Hurley, SD and Computer Science in Anthon. She received her BA degree in from Yankton College in SD. Señora Hermsen and her husband, Robbin, have one son who is a college student at Buena Vista University. In her spare time, you might find Señora Hermsen reading a good book, walking, or doing crafts.

The Spanish program at Hinton begins in 7th and 8th grades with a four and one-half week exploratory classes. In high school, students have the option of taking a series of year-long classes – Spanish I,II,III, and IV. Most colleges require students to have two-to four years of a foreign language to graduate and our courses help them to meet that requirement. Besides learning to read, write, and speak Spanish, the students learn about some of the culture and customs of the Spanish speaking countries. Favorite activities include the making of piñatas and the celebration of Day of the Dead and Cinco de Mayo with Mexican food.

Señora Hermsen has developed a great Spanish program and is a real asset to our school.

A Toy Story

By Mrs. Deb Jordt

The box office success, Toy Story, provides the framework for the creative writing projects of sixth grade students for the month of December.

Students have selected a favorite childhood toy to use as the centerpiece for this project. They are researching the origin of their particular toy. Using a power outline, which is a strategy used to organize information, they are writing about how they acquired their toy and why it is so important to them.

Lastly, they are to interview an individual, older than their parents, about their favorite toy and changes they have seen in children's toys over the years. Students will present their research and stories in a Reader Theater format the week before Christmas.

This type of project is of high interest to the students and allows for a cross section of skills to be taught and reinforced at the same time. Research skills, the writing process, editing, and communication skills are the targets for instruction. Seeing the variety of toys that hold value to the students along with hearing the stories behind them, provides insight into the individual student and what makes them unique.

One student shared, "I can't believe all the different kinds of toys kids have brought."

If you happen to know a Hinton sixth grader student ask them about their "Toy Story."



Future Careers

By Mr. Mike Moeller

As students look forward to future careers one area that is often overlooked is a career in the trades and the service sector. Often these jobs are unfairly characterized as being low paying and undesirable. This is not always the case. The demand for trained tradesmen is growing. The salaries of these technicians are often very competitive if not higher than those of people graduating from 4-year institutes.

Newsweek magazine had an article this year that predicted the jobs that would be in the most demand in the coming years. A vast majority of the top ten jobs required an associate's degree. Some of these jobs included; HVAC Technicians, Electricians, Automotive Mechanics, Health Care Providers, Computer Repair, Communications Technicians and Construction. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the fastest growing job sector in the United States is the service sector. As more outsourcing of jobs occurs, fewer opportunities are available in many fields. The service sector is one area that does not seem to be affected as much by out sourcing. It is awful tough to outsource your plumbing repairs to India. An excellent place to get these skills is at a community college. More and more people are starting to attend 2-year institutes to pick up these valuable skills. The American Association of Community College Trustee reports that there are more people attending community colleges with bachelor degrees than there are people with 2-year degrees attending 4-year colleges. Many graduates with Liberal Arts degrees are attending 2-year institutes in order to gain marketable skills

We often heard it said that college is not for everyone, which is probably true. It is also probably true that a Community College is not for everyone. However, students should take a good look at all options available to them before making a decision.



Flag Ceremony at the Hinton School

Pearl Harbor day was extra-special this year at Hinton School. The Hinton Casper Post #477 American Legion, Legion Auxiliary, and Junior Auxiliary donated over 40 flags to Hinton School for the classrooms and gym.

On December 7, the students and staff of the school gathered in the gym for the retirement of the flags from the classrooms. The old flags were given to the American Legion for proper disposal. New flags were then distributed to the school for each classroom to display.

The ceremony consisted of the Color Guard, the playing of the National Anthem by the high school band, a flag folding, "America" sung by the high school chorus, and an address by Katie Hawthorne, who represents the Junior Auxiliary. Don Martensen, Legion Commander spoke about the significance of the American Flag.

The ceremony ended with the students receiving a patriotic ruler from the Legion Auxiliary.

Public News Release

Free early childhood screening for children ages 2, 3, and 4 years (24-59 months) will be held Tuesday, January 17, 2006. Screening will take place in Hinton at United Methodist Church, 201 Grand Street.

The annual screening is sponsored Western Hills Area Education Agency's Early Childhood Department and the Schools. An appointment is necessary. Call toll-free and leave a message. Your call will be returned as soon as possible -1-800-352-9040 Ext. 6650.

The screening process takes approximately one hour per child. During this time, a team of specialists will screen hearing and vision. A parent questionnaire will be reviewed to determine if speech/language, motor, and other developmental skills are age appropriate. Parents will be informed of the results when the testing is complete.

This is an excellent opportunity, at no cost to the parent, to have important areas screened early. Screenings prevent small problems from becoming major problems.

PLEASE CALL SOON!