



# POLAR PAWS PRESS

Hortonville Middle School/Fox West Academy School Newspaper

January 2019

## 2018 Dewey's Food Drive



Thank you to all who brought in donations!

HMS collected 1521 items.



Holland Lohrenz, Emma Belau, and Rowan Rhines



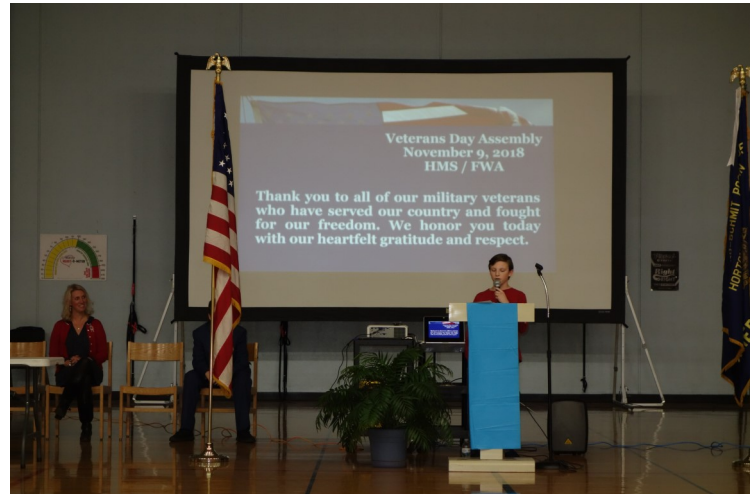
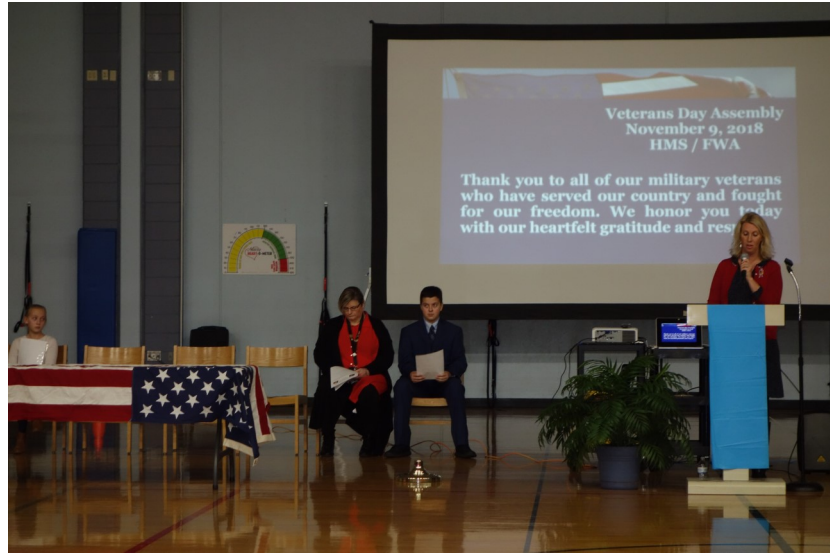
Grace Shaw and Sam Manteufel



### In This Issue

- Interviews with new staff members
- Sports
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- And More!

# VETERAN'S DAY PROGRAM



Thank you Mrs. Diem for the photos.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSIC



## Choir

*By: Claire Helmila*



I would first like to give a big shout out to everyone who participated in the Winter Choral concert. Everyone did a GREAT job! And especially our amazing choir teachers... Mrs. Gensburg- Sawall (5<sup>th</sup> grade) and Mrs. Leddy (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade)! I loved watching everyone perform while I was with my grade level choir in the audience.

If you don't know, choir is the other option instead of band. In choir we get to sing, learn how to read music, learn the different pitches, and much more. We just finished up with our winter concert for all grades. I loved seeing how we went from not knowing some of these songs at all, to doing a whole concert with them! Both concerts had lots of catchy songs and beautiful sounding choirs. In case you're wondering, here are the groups that performed in order at the winter concert:

Show choir- a group that wears costumes while singing and dancing (see Show Choir article).

5<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grade choirs (depending on which show it is).

Cub choir- a non-auditioning choir that meets during ELT and performs one or two songs.

6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade choirs (depending on which show it is).

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade duet!

The next and final performance is the spring concert on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019.... I hope you can make it! I hope we can make this concert as good as the last one!



# MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSIC

## Show Choir

By: Claire Helmila



You have probably heard Show Choir over the announcements a million times, but do you really know what it is?

Show choir is a group that meets before school on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00 to 7:45. In order to get in, you need to audition first. Auditions are held toward the beginning of the year.... so if you would like to get in, next year stay tuned in for audition info. And in case you're wondering, band kids, you can join too! If you get in, everyone meets in Mrs. Leddy's room (Mrs. Leddy is the wonderful Show Choir teacher) and gets to pick out the years songs everyone will be singing. After that, then it's time to rehearse for the next upcoming performances and for some kid's favorite part, costume fitting.

Two big differences between Show Choir and regular choir are that you get a costume, and you get to DANCE while you sing in some songs. If anyone is wondering about when the Show Choir performances were and will be, here are a few of them:

December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Winter choir concert (both shows)

December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 the New London Senior Center

April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Spring choir concert (both shows)

May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Blue Harbor

So, if any of this sounds fun to you, give Show Choir a try, I bet you'll love it!



# Band

~Gwyneth Ramshak~

Hello! I'm Gwyneth Ramshak, coming live from this page in front of your eyes! I am a band student. Jazz band, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade bands all had a concert on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>. I would like to give a shout out to the 5<sup>th</sup> graders because last year it was overwhelming to learn all the songs, keys, tempo and yada. You get the point.

Now, I hope that you do shout or clap or whatever you want for those 5<sup>th</sup> graders, but you can't forget about the rest of us! That would be just plain rude. So, let's shout to the rest of us! We also work our butts off just to make the songs really sound pleasant. And I couldn't forget about our band teachers, because they work just as hard, possibly even HARDER than the rest of us! I now shout out to Mrs. Leist, Mr. Manley, and our wonderful volunteer, Mrs. Cole! If you were to be in the room when we first get the music and play for the first time it sounds HORENDOUS!

## Important Dates:

Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Concert

March 7<sup>th</sup>

Spring Concert

May 9<sup>th</sup>

Band-O-Rama



# The Kindness Retreat

By Brooklyn Coenen

The fifth grade went on a field trip to learn about kindness. We first ran around shaking hands and saying our names. Then we played a game where you had to be sailors and work together to complete an action. We also played a game where we had trains of people who would pick up more people by dancing with them. After a while we ate some pizza. After that they sang a song about a squirrel. Then we split into groups and talked about types of bullying. We put our ideas on a board and discussed them. At the end we put something you did well, something you need to work on, and something someone did nice to you. A lot of people enjoyed it, and I hope you did too.



## Kindness



# SPORTS

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball.

By Coach Blum

Coach Andrea Arnett and Coach Patty Blum would like to thank all the 8<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball players for an awesome season. You are all a great group of hard working girls.

The Red Team finished the season with a record of 7 wins and 2 losses. The two matches that they lost were super close and were some of the best volleyball we have seen from this age group. Great matches all around.

The White Team finished the season with 6 wins and 3 losses this season. But here again, the matches that were lost were very close and very competitive.

Both teams should be very proud of their growth throughout the season. Coach Arnett and Coach Blum are very proud of all of you. We wish you all the best throughout the school year.



Pictures by Ms. Deb Diem.



# Fall 2018 Scholastic Book Fair



There will be a Winter 2019 Book Fair February 15-21. It will be available during the school day and also during conferences!





# New Middle School Staff

## Mrs. Luft – Principal

By Brooklyn Coenen

Q: When did you decide you wanted to be a principal?

A: I had people suggest the job before, but it didn't appeal to me until I had taught as a teacher for nine years.

Q: What about being a teacher interests you?

A: That I can touch more kids lives than when she was a teacher.

Q: Did you teach before becoming a principal?

A: I taught for eleven years before becoming a principal.

Q: Did you have any other jobs before becoming a teacher?

A: I babysat, worked as a waitress, worked at Shopko, and worked in a post office.

Q: Where did you grow up?

A: I grew up in Florence Wisconsin.

Q: Do you have any children? If so, how old are they?

A: Yes. I have a daughter who is 16 and in her Junior year.

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: Watching my daughter play athletics, spending time with family, reading, and working out.

Q: Do you have any hidden talents?

A: I like to sing.

Q: What kind of things do during the day?

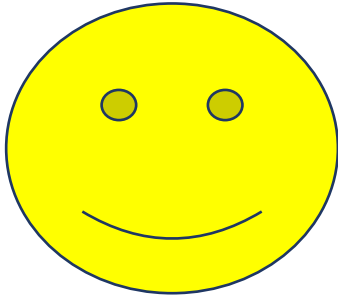
A: I spend time in classrooms, help kids with problems, have meetings with parent and teachers, and do an ELT group.

Q: Is there anything you want your readers to know?

A: I want them to feel like they can trust at least one adult at HMS.



Mrs. Luft



# HEY

BY: CLAIRE HELMILA



**HEY THERE! DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE IS A GROUP DEVOTED TO HELPING OTHERS MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY? WELL THERE IS, AND THAT GROUP IS CALLED HEY!**

**HEY (HEALTH EMPOWERED YOUTH) IS A FUN, REWARDING, AND EDUCATING GROUP THAT MEETS AT ELT ON SELECT DAYS. THE GROUP IS LED BY OUR HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER, MR. FLETCHER. HEY DOES LOTS OF FUN ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR, LIKE WHEN THEY WENT ON A DAY- LONG FIELD TRIP TO THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF THE FOX CITIES ON OCTOBER 16<sup>TH</sup> FOR PEER SHARE DAY. THEY LEARNED A LOT ABOUT INTERESTING THINGS LIKE HOW TO HELP PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESSES, THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF VAPING, AND LOTS OF OTHER THINGS ABOUT WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP YOURSELF AND OTHERS.**

**SO FAR, THEY'VE PLANNED ONE WEEK THAT YOU MIGHT REMEMBER, CALLED OPEN MINDSET WEEK. IN THAT WEEK THEY HAD THE ACTIVITIES:**

**MONDAY- "FALL FORWARD" VIDEO BY *Denzel Washington***

**TUESDAY- "BACKWARDS BICYCLE" VIDEO BY *Smarter Every Day* AND MINDSET EVALUATION**

**WEDNESDAY- WE ANSWERED HOW SOME PEOPLE IN PROVIDED SCENARIOS COULD HAVE MORE OF AN OPEN MINDSET. THEN WE THREW THE SHEETS OF PAPER IN A GARBAGE CAN SO WE COULD DRAW A NAME AND THE PERSON'S NAME THAT DRAWN WOULD GET A PRIZE.**

**THURSDAY- "THE AMAZING RACE" WHERE WE HAD TO WORK TOGETHER AS A TEAM TO FIND ALL THE CLUES TO GET TO THE END!**

**FRIDAY- NO SCHOOL!**

**RIGHT NOW, THE HEY GROUP IS WORKING ON THE NEXT FUN WEEK TO COME. SO I HOPE WHEN YOU SEE A STUDENT IN A TIE DYE SHIRT WITH HEY WRITTEN ON IT, YOU SAY **HEY** TO THEM!**



# Acting Opportunities



By: Claire Helmíla

*Do you like to sing or act? Do you like to reenact your favorite movie? Well, then you most likely like to act or would do pretty well at it! If you are thinking about becoming a part of the acting world, you should know where exactly to go to pursue your acting dream. You are in luck, because I know two good theatre programs that are both at St. Francis Xavier High School in Appleton (You do need to audition for all of them). I'm sure you'll like it!*

*Christmas Stars- Christmas Stars is a huge Christmas production where once you make it in, you are in for as many years as you want. There are 4 different choirs, Cherubs (K-2<sup>nd</sup>), Children (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>), Youth (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>), and Adults (9<sup>th</sup> and up). If you get in, practices start in mid-September and are every Sunday until the Sunday after Thanksgiving. That day is called Super Sunday, when you stay from about 1:00-9:00 or 4:00-9:00 (depending on what group you are in) to rehearse the show. After that, you have dress rehearsals on Monday and Tuesday nights, and then you have community night performances on Wednesday and Thursday. Finally, you have performances Friday, Saturday evening, Saturday night, and Sunday. You have the same thing again the next week, but you are off on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, but have a performance on Thursday night. Sunday is closing night, and then, you are done! I know it is a very big commitment, but it's very fun and everyone becomes one big family there! For more information, visit [christmas-stars.org](http://christmas-stars.org).*

*Xavier Theatre Academy- XTA is a program during the summer for kids who love to act! Auditions are in February, and you have the option to audition for the Jr. play (for 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade), the Kids play (1<sup>st</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade), and/or both. If you get in, depending on how your audition was, you will be given a part for the musical you're in. Practices are for about 3 weeks, Jr. starting in early June, with a few practices in April and May and Kids starting in early July (No practices on weekends). After those 3 weeks, it's show time! There are 5 Jr. shows and 4 Kids performances. It is a really fun way to learn more about acting and get to know other kids! For more information, visit [xaviercatholicsschools.org](http://xaviercatholicsschools.org).*

# Forensics



By: Claire Helmila

Do you like to act or do theatre? Or are you terribly afraid of going onstage? Well, forensics may be the group for you! Forensics is a group in which you can boost your public speaking skills OR just do what you love to do if you like to act. First you get to choose what category you want to do your piece to be under and if you want to do it in a group; the categories consist of:

Poetry

Storytelling

Solo acting

News casting (2 or more people)

And more!!!

Then, you have to pick your piece that is under the category that you chose. Then, it's time to start practicing your piece! Meetings are Monday- Thursday from 3:15 to 4:15 and Fridays are optional at the same time. At practices, you perform and practice your piece for the coaches and then they give you some constructive criticism about what you did good and what you could do better on. After about a month and a half, then it is time to start the competitions!

At competitions, you get to give two presentations of your speech/ story and you also get to see other people's speeches. Then, you wait in the school's cafeteria to wait for your feedback papers from the judges and you get blue or red ribbons depending on what grade you got. The grades vary from A+ as the best to B- as the worst.

This year the forensics team did very well, and everyone got blue ribbons for each of the three meets! And after words we had a party to celebrate all the good work we had done. We even got to try out each other's presentations to get ideas for next year!



So, maybe YOU will be the next person on the team to get a blue ribbon next year? I hope you will, because its very fun and rewarding and it really helps you get over one of the most common fears... stage fright.



# FUN PAGE!

BY: CLAIRE HELMILA



**How to make colorful snow:**

Things you will need:

- Food coloring
- 1 Spray bottle
- Snow!
- Water

Fill spray bottle with water until almost full.  
 Add whatever color food coloring you want the snow to be in the bottle. (Don't be afraid to mix colors!)  
 Spray on snow and make colorful designs!

Why was the elf crying?  
 Answer: Because he stubbed his mistletoe! 😊

What kind of music do elves listen to while working?  
 Answer: "Wrap" music! 😊

What song do parents like to listen to on Christmas Eve?  
 Answer: Silent Night!

## Winter Word Search

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

chilly  
 fireplace  
 frost  
 hibernate  
 hot chocolate  
 migrate

penguin  
 polar bear  
 snowflake  
 snowman  
 white  
 winter

## Winter S Words

SFCRA  
 SACSNS  
 SVEHOL  
 ESASTK  
 SEDL  
 SIGLEH BSLEL  
 NSOFEAWLK  
 SONNWMA  
 SORONMTWS

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