



Thursday, December 6, 2012

The Growler

McQuerry holds Halloween parties

By Cole Courtway

Halloween parties were held at McQuerry Elementary on October 31 in the classrooms beginning at 1:45 p.m. Parties were partly organized by room parents and were different in each classroom.

Melissa Hall's second grade class participated in stations. One station was the mummy wrapping station where students energetically wrapped each other in toilet paper to make mummy costumes. Another was the snack station where students received fruit

and candy. Last, there was a crafting station where students used plastic gloves and put candy corn in the fingers, then filled it with popcorn to make skeleton hands.

Hall said, "Since the Halloween party is the first party of the year, it is more exciting, and the kids are very energized."

Hall said that the stations definitely helped to manage the students' behavior. She also said, "We have a great group of parents who set up the party and run the stations."



Aiden Sutherland, second-grader, makes a skeleton hand with candy corn during the Halloween parties.

Fifth-Graders attend Kansas City Symphony

By Shania Janes

Fifth-graders took a field trip to the Kauffman Center in Kansas City to see "Adventures in Storytelling" performed on October 17 by the Kansas City Symphony, and they also visited the Liberty Memorial.

Harry Hamblin, new OUE music teacher and 2002 OHS graduate, thought this was a huge opportunity for the fifth-graders, and he wanted to take advantage of the offer. He fit the theme of the show into his music classroom, so the students better understood the show because of the knowledge they learned beforehand.

"The kids got so much out of this field trip. They learned more about different genres of music and how music was created. They even took back some history about the Kauffman Center and the Liberty Memorial. My absolute favorite part of the trip was seeing the kids' faces when they heard the music," said Hamblin.

The field trip was also Alex Wood's and Shayne Lewis's first time at the Kauffman Center. The students said that they enjoyed the experience.

"This was my first time ever seeing a symphony, and my favorite part was the Harry Potter song at the end. I had so much fun," said Wood.

"Harry Potter was my favorite part. Also, I learned a lot about the piano and organ," said Lewis.

Grant Guevel Student Teaches at OHS

By Michelle Morris

Grant Guevel is a student teacher at OHS under the direction of Lynette (Johnson) Williams, history teacher.

Guevel is 22 years old and attends the University of Central Missouri. He was born in Tennessee, but grew up in Lee's Summit.

Guevel's major is in secondary social studies education with a minor in psychology.

"I have always wanted to be a teacher, and I would like to stay in Odessa. It is a great

school district," said Guevel.

Guevel credits two teachers at Lee's Summit North for his career choice: Rhonda Ireland and Kyle Anderson. He said that they both encouraged him and were there for him even in college.

"They both realized my potential in social studies and developed my love for the subject," he said.

In five years, Guevel hopes to still be living in Missouri, teaching high school, and coaching multiple sports.



Grant Guevel, University of Central Missouri student, is completing his student teaching at OHS under the direction of Lynette (Johnson) Williams, history teacher.

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McQuerry Teachers hold Pumpkin Decorating Contest



McQuerry teachers and staff participated in a pumpkin decorating contest to show their Halloween spirit. Carrie Moore, first grade teacher, won first place; Matt Klamm, P.E. teacher, won second place; Laura Kelley, first grade teacher, won third place.

By Makayla Lang

McQuerry teachers and staff participated in a pumpkin decorating contest to show their Halloween spirit. Laura Kelley, first grade teacher, organized the event.

Carrie Moore, first grade teacher, won first place with her bulldog pumpkin. Matt Klamm, P.E. teacher, won second place with his Santa Claus pumpkin. Kelley won third place with her Pete the Cat pumpkin.

The decorated or carved pumpkins were set out in the hallway for the students to see, and then students voted for their favorites. Students

learned about pumpkin life cycles as well.

Kelley wanted to organize an activity similar to the Fall Festival because she saw and heard many of the students and their families talking about how much they enjoyed seeing the pumpkins.

"Doing this pumpkin decorating contest helped the teachers and kids get in the Halloween spirit. It was neat to see the variety of pumpkins and the creativity of the teachers and staff members. This was the first year of doing the pumpkin decorating contest, and we will do it again next year," said Kelley.

Marianna Jackson completes Student Teaching at OHS

By Heather Kopp

Marianne Jackson, student teacher, is working with Deborah Cox, OHS business teacher. Jackson was born in St. Charles, Missouri and was raised in New Melle, Missouri. Jackson started her love for marketing, math and business classes early on in high school.

Math, marketing and business classes were the subjects Jackson excelled in and kept her interested. Jackson has been attending University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg for the past five years.

Jackson is earning a functional major in Business Education and plans to become a high school business teacher around the Kansas City area. Jackson also plans to earn her master's degree in Psychology

at UCM, as well as a doctoral degree down the road.

Jackson loves the area and the size of Odessa High School. She hopes to learn how to transition from being a student teacher to a business educator while completing her student teaching.

"Mrs. Cox is the best supervising teacher," Jackson said.

One tip that Jackson has received is from Julie Whitaker, OHS business teacher. Jackson noted that she likes how Whitaker has close relationships with students and relates to them. She admires the way Whitaker "forms bonds without crossing the line" with her students.

Jackson's goals for life include finishing her degrees later on, becoming a high school business teacher and getting married.



Marianne Jackson, student teacher, is working with Deborah Cox, OHS business teacher. Jackson attends University of Central Missouri.



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R-7 Sports

OHS Wrestlers participate in UCM Mules Freestyle Club

By Sarah Beard

OHS wrestling program took part in the UCM Mules Freestyle Club running from August to October 20, ending in the Fall Brawl at Staley High School.

The club was led by Justin Ensign, UCM head wrestling coach, and John Conner McDonald, assistant coach. The club had 23 wrestlers take part, with four of them competing at the Fall Brawl.

Luke Drennon, freshmen, ended in 5-0 with a first place finish. Dakota Miller, freshmen, ended 5-2 receiving fifth place. Levi Turley, junior, went 4-2, and Randy Stevenson, junior, went 1-2.

The club worked on pre-sea-

son training, stance work, and heavy-hands work. Kirk Gross, OHS head wrestling coach and health teacher, said that the club was very tough and challenging with intense and aggressive drills.

Dalton Koch, sophomore, participated in the club. Koch said that he liked how each coach would take time and effort to work with each wrestler individually to make all the wrestlers better. Koch also said being part of the club has given him more experience and made him an all-around better wrestler.

Gross said that the wrestlers got better, were more prepared, and saw good competition while gaining experience

in the club.

Gross said, "The best athletes are made in the off-season, and we plan on taking part in the UCM Wrestling Club next year."

This year's wrestling motto is being "committed." Gross said that he is excited to watch his wrestlers, and he is ready to go for a state title.

Captains for the season are Evan Young, senior; Levi Turley, junior; and Cole Stodghill, sophomore.

Gross also said, "The team has leadership, depth and experience, so I am looking forward to what the 2012-13 season has to offer this year."



UCM Mules Freestyle Club Members participated in Freestyle and Greco State at the fairgrounds in Sedalia: Front row: Gavin Gross, third in freestyle. Second Row: Michael Boyd, second in freestyle and first in Greco; Dakota Miller, first in freestyle and first in Greco; Brett Shull; Evan Young, second in freestyle; and Levi Turley, second in freestyle. Back row: Kirk Gross, OHS head wrestling coach; Dalton Koch, fifth in freestyle; Danny Schreiman, UCM coach; Lars Buttgerreit; and Don Schreiman, UCM coach.

Good luck



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OHS DECA Members hold Two State Offices

By Annie Walsh

Morgan Whitlock, Missouri DECA District 4 Vice President, and Rachelle Engen, Missouri DECA State Vice President of Advocacy, attended a state officer training conference on November 3-4 at the Lodge of Four Seasons at the Lake of the Ozarks.

Whitlock and Engen were trained on state officer responsibilities including being a liaison between chapters in District 4 and Missouri DECA and working together with other officers.

Candidates for state offices had to take a 50 question test, go through an interview process with three adults, and give a speech to be voted on by the voting delegates at the conference.

Whitlock said, "One of my greatest accomplishments in DECA has been being elected as a state officer." Another great achievement for Whitlock was also being ranked

first in all three categories of the competition in testing, interview and speech.

Whitlock looks forward to promoting DECA in high school, middle school, and throughout the community this year. Both Whitlock and Engen will be attending Internationals in California in April.

Through competitions and conferences, DECA teaches students to be prepared for the business network and helps teach them important skills needed to succeed in business by practicing good communication, leadership and public speaking.

Jessica Wade, OHS marketing teacher, is the DECA advisor.

"It is a huge honor for these students to be chosen. There are only 16 state officers in Missouri. Odessa is the only school in Missouri that has more than one state officer this year," said Wade.

Spotlight returns to OMS

By Ramey Buxton

Fifteen students are participating in the OMS Spotlight program which is returning after begin absent in recent years. Wendy Bross, new music teacher at OMS, is rekindling the drama program.

The Spotlight team will be producing multiple skits that are spoofs of different fairy tales: *The Case of the Three Bears* and *Goldie Locks*, *Peddler Polly* and *the Story Stealer*, and *Jingle Bell Jukebox*. The skit, *Jingle Bell Jukebox* will be featured in this winter's OMS Honor Choir Christmas show.

Bross said, "Students who perform in a cast develop such a sense of kinship and support that it's almost like a family."

Bross noted that the community will also benefit from this program because the students are going to be able to work better with their coworkers in future years as a result of their experiences.

Rylan Buxton, seventh-grader, said, "This has really helped me to learn how to talk in front of an audience with confidence, and I think that I will be able to use that skill a lot more in the future."

Scott W. Heriford, DDS



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R-7 Sports & More

OHS forms Drill Team

By Elizabeth Comstock

OHS dance team, The Kickers, has transformed into the all new Drill Team. The Drill Team is coached by Lindsay Chambers, OHS Communication Arts teacher, and Julie Whitaker, OHS business teacher.

The Drill Team is not a competitive team this year but will be dancing to show school spirit and have fun.

"This is the largest group of dancers that I have seen in the last seven years," said Whitaker.

Thirty-two girls practice

every Tuesday and Thursday preparing for the first performance on November 30 at OHS. The coaches would like everyone to come out and see the changes.

"I am so proud of these young ladies. They have been working really hard," said Chambers.

Kelli Seitz and Raegan Polson will be choreographing the dances, and even some the Drill Team members will come up with moves. In addition to new choreography and new faces, the costumes will also undergo changes.



OHS Drill Team works on formations for their "Everybody Dance Now" routine.

OHS Performing Arts Department presents *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

By Cory Smith

OHS Performing Arts Department performed William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at 7 p.m. on November 15, 16 and 17 in the OHS auditorium.

A Midsummer Night's Dream is a comedy and a love story of four young people with an unusual twist: Oberon, King of the Fairies, accidentally caused four lovers to fall in love with the wrong person.

At the beginning, Hermia wanted to marry Lysander, but her father, Egeus, asked Theseus, the Duke of Athens, to force her to marry another man named Demetrius. Both Lysander and Demetrius wanted to marry Hermia, while Helena wished to marry Demetrius.

When Oberon overheard these conflicts, he tried to solve their problems by making them fall in love with each other, so everyone would be happy. When he accidentally mixed up the people, they fall in love with the wrong person, and Oberon and one of his fairies, the mischievous Puck, must fix what is wrong.

Sam Haley, sophomore, played one of the lead roles, Puck, a fairy. Haley said, "My favorite part of being in the play was going to the practices and being with the other actors in the play."

Sean Morris, sophomore, played Theseus, the Duke of Athens. Morris said that he enjoyed being in the play and is looking forward to next year's musical. "My favorite part of the play was Act 5 Scene 1 when we make fun of a play inside of a play."

Ten seniors participated in the play. Two were in the cast, and eight helped backstage and with other projects. Cast members were Adam Aderman, who played Lysander, and Danielle Mae Franklin, who played Helena.

Aderman said, "My favorite part was fighting with Demetrius, played by Tristin Kesemann, because he was much larger than I am. It was fun pushing him around. I also enjoyed performing Shakespeare because I love the language."

Franklin said, "I will miss the camaraderie among the cast. It is nice having people look up to me because I have been in the performing arts since fifth grade. We all became really close because of the play. We had common ground."

The following eight seniors were part of the crew: Meghan Bamvakais, Hair and Makeup Manager; Tia Barker, Assistant Director; Rachelle Engen, Assistant Director; Blake Hatfield, Poster and T-shirt Designer; Lesley Kleyh, Spot-

light Operator; Shannon Newton, Backstage Crew Member; Lexi Ryan, Costume Manager; and Krysten Stark, Backstage Crew Member.

Sarah Esser, OHS Drama and Public Speaking teacher and director of the play, was pleased with this year's performance. "We had a lot of new and young actors this year who have improved since we first started practicing." Esser's favorite part about directing was seeing the actors improve over time.



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