



# The Mustang Herald



Included  
in this  
Issue



Sports



I-Step/SADD



What Am I?

## I-Step & SADD Q&A

By: William George

One of Mr. Neal VanErsvelde's duties here at East Marshall Middle School is to be the advisor for ISTEP and SADD.

But what are those organizations?

We asked Mr. VanErsvelde questions and these were his responses.

Q: What is the goal of ISTEP/SADD?

A: To provide safe alternative activities for schools.

Q: What do the letters for ISTEP and SADD stand for?

A: Iowa Students for Tobacco Education and Prevention and Students Against Destructive Decisions

Q: What was the reason for SADD and why has it been started?"

A: The reason for SADD is to provide safe alternative activities for students. It's supposed to be student-led and be driven by their voice, so they can not do more negative activities like smoking or alcohol.

Q: How does the small amount of meetings affect ISTEP and SADD?

A: It doesn't do it justice, but we need to fit more in. So yeah, we need to find more time ...

Q: Are any upcoming events being planned with you and the SADD leaders that you're allowed to speak about? :Are there any Christmas activities planned?"

A: No, but they are planning a dance in *April*. We are also going to plan an activity for 6th grade, and we might include 5th grade on that for a kind of joint activity.

Earlier this fall some of the group members attended a ISTEP summit conference held in Des Moines. There they participated in group conversations and discussions with other ISTEP members from schools across Iowa. Mr. VanErsvelde felt the group had a good experience working with the other middle school students and as a whole, enjoyed the day.

# SCHOOL LIFE

## Christmas Break begins December 23

By: **Dakota Cecak**

Christmas break starts on December 23, 2023 and ends on January 3, 2024. This covers about 12 days, with Christmas and New Years being spent out of school. Winter break seems short, but it's three weeks. There are no sports games or practices during this period (We aren't sure about practices). The twenty-second is an early out and celebration day with many fun activities planned for students to enjoy. Have a great vacation!

## Student Share Thoughts on Christmas

By: **Abigail Hendricks and Quinn Burns**

With Christmas just a few days away, our news staff decided to ask some of the students at East Marshall Middle School some of their thoughts about Christmas. Here are their responses:

### Reagan Halverson (Sixth Grade):

- Reagan wants a horse for Christmas
- Reagan's favorite Christmas movie is The Grinch
- Reagan would rather meet the Grinch rather than Scrooge
- Reagan's favorite Christmas dish is mashed potatoes
- Reagan's favorite thing about Christmas is her Christmas tree

### Dane Anderson (Seventh Grade):

- Dane wants basketball shoes for Christmas
- Dane's favorite Christmas movie is Christmas Chronicles
- Dane would rather meet the Grinch than Scrooge
- Dane's favorite Christmas dish is ham
- Dane's favorite thing about Christmas is praising Jesus

### Hayden Braye (Eighth Grade):

- Hayden wants shoes for Christmas
- Hayden's favorite Christmas movie is Christmas Vacation
- Hayden would rather meet the Grinch than Scrooge
- Hayden's favorite Christmas dish is hot chocolate
- Hayden's favorite thing about Christmas is her birthday



Are any of these things a favorite of yours too? Let us and others know what your favorites are and we might include them in the January issue of the Mustang Herald. Or let us know what your New Year's resolutions are. Contact Abby or Quinn with your comments.

# SCHOOL LIFE

## Meet the Teacher: Ms. Lawrence

By Jolly Htoo Ka Paw



The new science teacher is Miss Lawrence originally from Solon, Iowa. The college she attended was Iowa State University from 2014-2019. What Miss Lawrence likes to teach is M.S science Her first job was being a 5th grade ELA/SS teacher. She got drawn to East Marshall by the small town feel, supportive colleagues and a nice community. What she likes about teaching the most is helping out her students.

## Art Classes Thank Veterans with Cards

By: Jolly Htoo Ka Paw

On November 10 when Mr. Friend came to school he wondered what the classes were gonna do for art. The 11th being veterans day, so he asked Mrs Tarbell if they could make cards for the veterans and it was approved.

So they made hand written and hand drawn cards for the veterans. The inside read "Thank you for your Service"; the students name and grade then East Marshall Middle School."

So the students did a good job on making the cards- about 10-12 of them in total from each grade. Nearly 36-40 veterans that got cards from the students. After school Mr. Friend went over to the veterans home and at the switchboard there was a veteran standing at the switchboard as Mr. Friend gave out the cards. The veteran said "Oh what a nice idea, thank you so much for doing this for us and everything" to Mr. Friend. That day they did something special and the students had fun.



The photo at left is a card drawn by Gavin Kudelka. Photos taken by Chuck Friend



## Upcoming Dates

- Friday, December 22  
End of 2nd Quarter
- Friday Dismissal-2:20 Holiday Break
- Tuesday, January 2  
No School, teacher Professional Development
- Wednesday, January 3 -No School  
Teacher Professional Development,
- Thursday, January 4  
School Resumes
- Thursday, January 4  
MS Boys Basketball practice begins
- Friday, January 11  
MS Girls Wrestling @ Benton CSD, 4:15
- Monday, January 15  
No School, Martin Luther King Day
- Thursday, January 18  
MS Boys Basketball vs. BCLUW, 4:15
- Friday, January 19  
MS Boys Basketball vs. GMG, 4:15
- Friday, January 19  
MS Girls Wrestling @ Mount Vernon
- Monday, January 22 - MS Boys  
Basketball @ Grundy Center, 4:15
- Tuesday, January 23 -MS Girls  
Wrestling @ Vinton-Shellsburg
- Thursday, January 25 - MS Boys  
Basketball vs. South Hardin, 4:15
- Monday, January 29 - MS Girls  
Wrestling @ South Tama, 4:15
- Tuesday, January 30 - MS Boys  
Basketball @ State Center, 4:15
- Thursday, February 1 - MS Boys  
Basketball @ AGWSR,

Parker Nissen and Abigail Hendricks names were spelled wrong in the November issue, we are sorry for the error!

# SPORTS NEWS

## Boys Wrestling Enjoys Season By: Aaden Boerm

The East Marshall Middle School Wrestling season is well underway, and the Mustangs are doing quite well - especially the eighth grade members who talked with me recently. Their coach is Zach Underhill, AKA "THE BEST COACH" - is what the eighth graders told me.

Landon Miller could beat the best wrestler on the team making him the best wrestler. In the HEAVIEST WEIGHT CLASS IS...Cael Drury!! And in the LIGHTEST WEIGHT CLASS IS...Dayton Slifer. There are 5 eighth and 9 seventh graders on the team.

Landon Miller has wrestled for 5 years, and his favorite part about the sport is getting to body slam kids by he doesn't get in trouble and at press time his record is 10-1. Kayden Roads has wrestled for 3 years and his favorite part is getting to throw people, and being in a match or post match at press time he is 6-3.

Kolton Good is in his 2nd season and his favorite part is "little giggle moves". And we don't know what he means by that, but at press time his record is 9-3, so he must be doing something right. This is Nick Bowie's first year out and his favorite part is to get to hurt people, and at press time his record is 7-2.

All of the eighth grade wrestlers I spoke with said it is not a back and forth battle. They are so glad that Boys and Girls Wrestling are now separate sports because it felt uncomfortable to have to wrestle another gender.

The worst part of wrestling is cutting weight, according to those I talked to. But they said that it makes your body good and strong, and provides mental discipline and makes you athletic.



**Photos by: Chuck Friend**



# SPORTS NEWS

## Girls Basketball Review

By: Brooklyn Ridout and Hayliee Versteegh

The East Marshall Eighth grade girls basketball have won 2 games in their 2023 year, but according to them they've improved since last year. One of the reporters asked some of the girls what their opinions were on this year's season. Addy Denham, with 8 years of experience says "I think the things we've done best with is hustling. I think in our future games we're going to ball out."

Lynde Liston, with 6 years of experience said, "I think we've done best with scoring. I think in our future games, I will have **MEGA** scoring and **MEGA** dunking". The 8th grade girls basketball teams positions are: Addy Denham: Point guard; Taylor Larson: Small Forward; Taylor Halverson: Power forward; Sophia Adkins: Shooting Guard; Amiya Kluck: Shooting Guard; Hayden Braye: Center; Charlee Gallentine: Power Forward; Lynde Liston: Center; and Abby Wilson: Small Forward

Gianna Boswell and Miyah Grabenbauer are the only seventh-graders who get pulled up to play with the eighth grade team. Coaches for the team are Julie and Dawn Allison.

We also asked some of the team members what their most embarrassing moment this year was. Here are their responses. Addy Denham: "Fouling out or getting attacked by a girl." Lynde Liston: "When I started to go the wrong way down the court." Abby Wilson: "Fouling out." Sophia Adkins: "When I had to guard the biggest girls at South Hardin or when someone tripped me and everyone went 'OHHH'"

## SECOND SEASON OF WINTER SPORTS SET TO BEGIN

The second season of winter sports for the middle school begins on Jan. 4. when boys basketball practice begins. Their first game is Jan. 18 against BCLUW @ Gilman. Then, girls wrestling with South Tama is underway. Their first meet is Jan. 11 @ Benton Community. Both events begin at 4:15 P.M.



# OPINIONS/FEATURES

## Is Three Minutes Enough Passing Time?

By: Mustang Herald Editorial Board

In any school situation from the middle school to the high school level, the subject of how much time should be allowed between classes for passing from point A to point B is often discussed.

Here at East Marshall Middle School, we think that three minutes passing is not enough for anybody to get from one place to another, especially if a person needs to go to the bathroom and get a drink. This is especially true for the sixth graders as they have to go to the upstairs bathrooms.

Because of the layout of the building people in science or math rooms and the gym have quite a distance to travel due to the crowded hallways and only three minutes to pass.

It seems to us that it would make sense to increase passing time to six minutes. This would make it easier for people to get where they are supposed to go without having the teachers have to count students tardy.

Comments for the staff can be dropped off in Room 217.

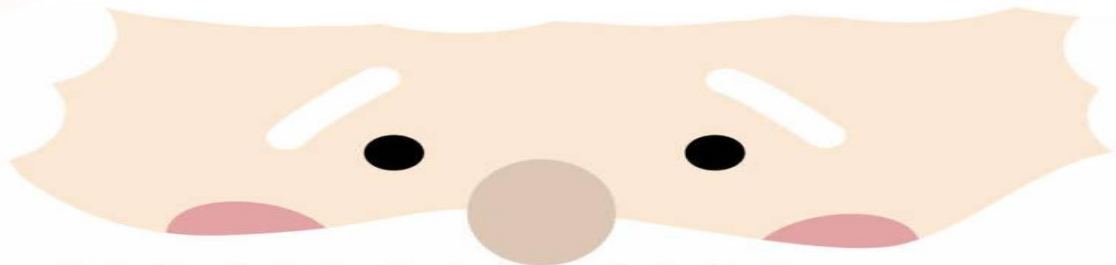
## The Herald Comics

By:  
Leslie  
Avila-  
Leon



# News/Features

## Christmas Word Search



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

Christmas  
 Snow  
 Snowflake  
 Present  
 Ornament  
 Gift  
 Tree  
 Star  
 Lights  
 Reindeer



“Christmas Morning”

A free-hand drawing by the Mustang Herald’s Co-Editor Natalie Haines

“Christmas will always be as long as we stand heart to heart and hand in hand.” - Dr. Suess

# What was it?

It was... locker number 74 on the second floor across from room 214 next to the up staircase right below the Class of 1984 sign. Congratulations to whoever got it!



# Mustang Herald Staff

Members of the 2023-24 staff include:

- Staff Advisor: Chuck Friend
- Co-Editors: Rowan Cibula and Natalie Haines
- Assistant Editor: William George
- Design Editor: Dakota Cecak
- News Editor: Abigail Hendricks
- Sports Editor: Aaden Boerm
- Reporters/Writers: Quinn Burns; Jolly Htoo Ka Paw; Brooklyn Ridout and Hayliee Versteegh
- Comics: Leslie Avila-Leon
- Photographer: William George

This photo was taken at East Marshall Middle School. What is it? That is for you to find out, go to Mr. Friend's room (217) and leave a note with what you think that this image is. What the object is will be said with the release of the next paper in January, along with the next photo.

# What am I?

