Issue 12 • Volume 33
December 13, 2004

Wildcat Echo

A publication by the students of Maquoketa Valley High School

Drill Team Is Amazing at State Competition

by Miranda Knake

For 14 girls, the past five months have been a busy, but exciting time. This year, the Maquoketa Valley Drill Team decided to make a trip to the State Drill Team Competition to compete. This is the first time the MV drill team has ever gone to State. The Iowa State Drill Team Competition is one of the largest competitions in the United States, with judges coming from all over the country, eager to see what Iowa's dancers have to offer. Some of the different categories include prop routines, hip hop routines, jazz routines, and pom routines. The drill team decided it would be best to choreograph a pom routine for their first trip to State.

So, what actually happened at State for the Maquoketa Valley Drill Team? The week before State the girls had practice every night except Wednesday. Thursday night they performed in front of their first real audience, which included Mr. Kuehl. Friday night they performed for an even bigger audience of their families and superintendent, Mr. Lane. Meeting at 6:30 A.M. at the school this Saturday, 14 girls, one coach, and one faithful driver left in two vehicles for State. After a few bathroom breaks the team was in Des Moines and checking out the performances of several other teams at Vets Auditorium. The girls spent most of the afternoon getting dressed, putting up hair, putting on make-up, and warming up for their time to perform. The girls were in the Class six pom category and performed around 6:00 p.m. for a huge audience. All the girls agreed it was the best they'd ever done on that dance. Of course after that, the real waiting began. When the awards ceremony finally arrived you could feel the excitement and see the nervous but smiling faces of each boy and girl on the floor. To even get a trophy teams have to first get a Division one rating from the judges. Your Maquoketa Valley drill team did just that. Trophies were then given out for first through fifth place. The drill team received fifth place out of eleven other teams their first time competiting at State!

Now, maybe I'm biased because I'm actually a member of this team, but I truly believe the school should be extremely proud. The girls represented our school in a new way and returned home with something to show for their hard work...a trophy, an academic award, a Division one rating, and huge smiles. State would not have been possible if we didn't have such a closely knit team of fourteen girls and one coach. We've all had our stressers and we had to learn to roll with the punches and we are a better team for it. So Cats, get ready for some awesome Drill Team performances. We've got a lot coming your way!

Members of the drill team rehearse one of their routines. (photo by Kathie Palmersheim)

What's Up With the National Honor Society?

Members of the National Honor Society visited the Good Neighbor Home in Manchester as a service project prior to Thanksgiving break.

by Maggie Seibert

With Basketball, Drill Team, and Speech, many people are being fairly busy with plenty of activities. One of the groups that have been working hard is the National Honor Society. Let's take a look and see what they've been up to lately.

I met up with Nathan Burger to ask him some questions about what they've been doing and what going to happen next. The National Honor Society recently delivered Thanksgiving "goodie" baskets to the Manchester Good Neighbor Home. They filled plastic cups with candy and popcorn, and set them out on the resident's placements while they were there. They also got involved in their excercise activity and helped people get to the Thanksgiving Church Service. This was a hit--Great Job!

Any plans for the future? Of course! The NHS is planning on delivering goodie baskets to Dyersville and Edgewood also for different holidays. They also want to get the NHS Induction ceremony moved up to an earlier date, so new members can be involved in their service projects.

The last question I asked Nathan was how is being in NHS a good experience. His reply was: "It's a good experience because we have to think of our own ideas and follow through with them. We all work together very well."