

Wildcat Echo

A publication by the students of Maquoketa Valley High School

Vocal Jazz Groups Off To Kirkwood

by Maggie Seibert

Last Friday, both vocal jazz groups took a trip to sing and get critiqued at Kirkwood in Cedar Rapids.

The groups, Smooth Harmony and Jazz X-press, have been working very hard on fixing their music up and to spice it up a bit. Jazz X-press includes: Miranda Knake, Brando Hills, Megan Besler, Maggie Seibert, Eric Fonck, Audrey Salow, Adam Koopmann and Cody Recker. Smooth Harmony consists of: Adam Ries, Sarah Tindell, Mike Salow, Amy Salow, Laura Seibert, Brett Huber, Lalaina Rabary and Phillip Mueller.

The two groups left at about 7:30 early Friday morning and arrived at Kirkwood at about 8:30. For most of the day, they listened to other groups perform. It was interesting to see all the different styles of music being heard and how the groups make it sound so different. Soon after, Jazz X-press warmed up and hit the stage. After performing each group would get critiqued by a Kirkwood music staff member, and they were fortunate to have the staff critique them.

At around 12:30 they all ate in the cafeteria and soon after a special show in the auditorium was held with a singing group "380." These two men from the group sang a capella and R&B music. Everyone enjoyed them and it was also a great experience to hear them sing.

Soon the Smooth Harmony group warmed up and got ready to sing. They lit up the stage and did an awesome job. With some people leaving, and some people staying at Kirkwood longer, that night there was a performance for all the people who stayed. The people who decided to stay came home at around 10:30 that night.

Going to Kirkwood was a great experience for about every single vocal jazz member.

District Speech and On to State!



Students qualifying for the state meet include: front: Renee Pritchard, Brando Hills, Miranda Knake, Annie Ehls, Audrey Salow, Jackie Melchert, Jennifer Schooley; standing: Michelle Durey, Katie Reth, Ashley Heims, Megan Besler, Allison Offerman, Adam Graybill, Lalaina Rabary, Megan Sawyer, Aaron Dunham, Casi Orr, Curtis Wolf, Beth Klostermann, Felicia Harbach and Bill Durey.

by Jessica Krogmann

Last Saturday, the Individual speech team traveled to Oelwein for the District contest. The team received 26 I ratings and 11 II ratings!

Mrs. Bonebrake said she was pleased with the results. "It is a difficult contest and judges tend to be tough; so to get 26 on to State is quite a feat," she stated. "I think that all of the students gave it their best."

Mr. DeVore also said he felt good about Saturday's results. "I knew that we would have a good showing at districts based upon our performances at conference," he stated. "I will admit, however, that districts exceeded my expectations! Many of our students had put in a lot of practice time the previous four weeks. This allowed them to walk into the room and be confident. I feel having confidence carries over into your performance and gives your presentation that something special."

Receiving I ratings were: Allison Offerman-Spontaneous Speaking; Jennifer Schooley-Acting & Literary Program; Casi Orr-After Dinner Speaking; Curtis Wolf-

-Expository Address; Felicia Harbach-Spontaneous Speaking; Beth Klostermann-Storytelling; Lalaina Rabary-Spontaneous & Radio News; Katie Reth-Storytelling; Miranda Knake-Original Oratory & Expository Address; Audrey Salow--Poetry & Prose; Brando Hills--Prose; Bill Durey-Storytelling & Acting; Michelle Durey--Literary Program; Megan Sawyer--Acting; Megan Besler-Prose; Jackie Melchert-Poetry; Aaron Dunham-Improvisational Acting; Renee Pritchard--Reviewing; Annie Ehls-Literary Program; Ashley Heims-Public Address; and Adam Graybill-Improvisational Acting. Receiving II ratings were: Zack Jones-After Dinner Speaking & Radio News; Gwen Offerman-Expository Address; Allison Offerman-Review; Curtis Wolf-After Dinner Speaking; Adam Ries-Acting & Radio News; John Eiben-Poetry; Kelli Kregel-Original Oratory; Jessica Krogmann-Original Oratory; and Stefanie Brooks-Review.

Those students who received I ratings will advance to State Contest March 19 at North Fayette, West Union. Great job, TEAM!!!

Jazz Ensemble Does Well At NEIBA

by Allison Offerman

This Saturday the MV Jazz Ensemble placed fourth at the NEIBA contest. By winning fourth place, they also earned a wild card spot for the Iowa Jazz Championships, which they haven't attended since 2003. What the wild card means is if another wild card band places gets lower scores than MV at one last upcoming contest, then MV will be accepted into the championship in Des Moines. If accepted, the band will perform in Des Moines in April at the State competition with other worthy jazz bands from all over the state.