

Welcoming new faces: our foreign exchange students

Joining the MV family this school year are Vicky Agromayer from Spain and Minnie Chalitbhan from Thailand. (photo by Shawnae Hoeger)



by Shawnae Hoeger

I would guess many of you were nervous for your first day of school, probably afraid of the upperclassmen, afraid of walking into the wrong classroom, or ending up late to a class because your locker combo won't click.

Well, for two young female students, coming into a brand new school with a new language could be one of the scariest things they will ever encounter. Maquoketa Valley is accommodating two foreign exchange students, Minnie Chalitbhan, a junior and Victoria Agromayer, a senior. Linda and Chuck Deutmeyer (Elijah's parents) are hosting Minnie and Vicky as they follow through the school year.

Both of these students are from different countries studying in the U.S.. They communicated that they really like the U.S. Let's keep reading and find out a little more about them.

Where are you from?

Minnie: Thailand

Vicky: Madrid, Spain

Why did you chose to become a foreign exchange student?

Minnie: "I wanted to find new experiences and new possibilities."

Vicky: "I love English and the U.S.. I wanted to meet new people. My mom is French and I have Mexican cousins, so I love the different cultures."

Why did you choose the U.S.?

Minnie: "I love the culture."

Vicky: "I want to meet new people."

What is your favorite part about the U.S.?

Minnie: She enjoyed going to New York.

Vicky: She enjoys how different it is, and how friendly the people are.

What activities do you hope to be involved in?

Minnie: Basketball and Play

Vicky: Musical, Dance Team, Speech, Play, and other sports

What classes do you have at MV?

Minnie: World History, P.E., Physical Science, Geometry, Drawing, English II, and U.S. History.

Vicky: Drafting, Calculus, Applied English, U.S. History, Drawing, Choir, Physics.

What is your favorite class so far?

Minnie: U.S. History

Vicky: Choir

New school year

brings about change

by Mikaela Reth

As most of you probably have noticed, Maquoketa Valley has implemented some changes within the district and individual schools.

For one, the calendar is based on hours now instead of days. Mr. Tuetken said that this change gives us more flexibility with early outs and late starts. It also means that all of our early outs will be at 1:05 instead of switching between 1:05 and 2:05. Lastly, this allots for more time put towards the calendar. In other words, there is a lesser chance of having to make up every day that we miss during Iowa's not-so-famous winters.

Another reformation is within the staff. Some of you may have been wondering why a couple of the W.I.N. groups changed around this year. The cause of this is what is called AIW (Authentic Intelligence Work). Teachers were put on teams of four or five and they meet to discuss ways to make lessons more in depth.

A third change that will be occurring over the next three years is some updates to each of the three centers within the school district to better meet student needs. Currently, the school is meeting with an architect firm based out of Cedar Rapids for these revisions.

As those of you in one of Mr. Huegel's classes know, the school has added a cart of Chromebooks for student use. In each of the elementaries, a new computer lab was installed.

A final development is coming very soon. The senior class can look forward to getting new lockers put in place this September.



A physical change around the school is the addition of a counter along the concession stand.

Sports Connection

Football team prepares to build on district championship season



Returning letter winners on the football team include, front row: Rob Bockenstedt, Riley Kloser, Steve Huber, Ryan Parmely, Alec McDowell and Zach Salow; back row: Chris Hoeger, Matthew Lansing, Derek Salow, Kody Orcutt, Curtis Nefzger and Trevor Koopmann.

by Shaylyn Trenkamp
“Hey Wildcats!”
“Hey what?”

It’s football season, that’s what, and it sounds like we have a great season ahead of us! Coaching for his fourth season and with a career record of 26-7, we have Wes Wilson as head coach again this year.

Last year, the team took pride in being DISTRICT CHAMPIONS and finished their amazing season with the record of 11-1. Although we lost many great players through graduation, we have 12

returning starters (Ryan Parmely, Steve Huber, Trevor Koopmann, Matt Lansing, Curtis Nefzger, Kody Orcutt, Zach Salow, Rob Bockenstedt and Alec McDowell) and three other returning letterwinners (Derek Salow, Riley Kloser, and Chris Hoeger).

Six of these returning starters are also statistical leaders: Ryan Parmely- 2544 yds rushing -24 TD’s, 161 yds receiving – 2TD’s, 139 Tackles, 1 INT; Trevor Koopmann – 194 yds rushing – 4 TD’s, 61 Tackles; Steve Huber – 88 yds rushing – 1 TD, 83 Tackles; Zach Salow – 97 yds receiving – 49 Tackles – 4 INT; Curtis Nefzger – 40

tackles; Matt Lansing – 37 tackles; Kody Orcutt- 23 tackles.

This year, the team’s strengths include experience of defense and skill positions and leadership, which are great assets on the field and off. Just as well, the team knows their weakness is finding depth on the offensive and defensive lines, so we can all expect progress from these hard-working athletes this year.

Here’s to a great season, Wildcats!

Injuries will force Cats to reveal developing talent

by Heather Sabers

With the season ending with a tough loss to Ed-Co in district play last year, this year’s team is eager to get out on the court. The team graduated a lot of talent including a few back row players. With two more back row players out with ACL injuries, the team is making some adjustments. Some younger girls have been stepping up and filling some pretty big shoes.

Second year head coach Hannah

Grow says, “I foresee our team being very strong as a team and working together throughout the year to constantly improve.” Every athlete is willing to try new things in order to get our game where it needs to be.

Despite injuries keeping out seniors Ashley Holtz and Tiffany Hoeger, returning talent includes some quality returning letter winners: Morgan Manternach, Annie Fjelstul, Heather Sabers, Megan Mensen and Macy Andereg.

Coach Grow is assisted by Coach Dutra.

We have a lot of fun while still working hard and getting better than we were the day before. Personally, I can say I am very excited to play with every girl on this team, and I think it will be a very successful and positive year for us. We open up our season on Tuesday, August 26 at Jesup. Come support the Wildcats!

Cross country preview: An interview with Coach Rudd

by Megan Hogan

How many years have you been the head coach? This will be my fifth year.

Who are your assistant coaches? Pat Meehan

Who are your returning letter-winners?

Greg Guetzko, Sr.; Koda Kreutner, Jr.; Bryant Meyer-Kemp, soph; Nicole Winter, Soph; Tamala Askeland, Jr.; Laisee Shakespeare, Jr.; BrieAnna Nielson, Jr.; Cassie Burkle, Jr.

New members are Brycen Askeland - Fr., Eric Deutmeyer - Fr., Brenden Hogan - Fr., Sean Hucker - Fr.

New members are Katie Sternhagen - Soph, Rejji Smith - Fr.

What would you say are the main strengths of this year's team? Because we have a small team we are very close and work together well, encouraging each other and learning from each other. Greg Guetzko, who has been on the team since middle school, is now a senior and is showing great leadership skills in our preseason. The team listens and respects him. We have also grown our team this year, with both boys and girls having the full seven for a varsity team. This year we are also joined by Pat Meehan, who started the Cross Country program at Maquoketa Valley, and has taken teams to the State meet. He is a wealth of information, skills, and coaching success, and we are happy to have him!

What areas are you most concerned about? Being a small team is also one of our concerns. We cannot afford any injuries as we need all runners to make our team competitive.

Which opponents in your conference do you expect to be the strongest? North Linn

What goals is the team setting for this season? For each individual runner to improve his or her time throughout the season, and to avoid injuries.

What kinds of things will have to happen in order for the team to achieve those goals? We started training earlier this year with optional summer practice, to increase our miles. We will vary our practices between distance, interval, and speed days. We will work on dynamic and static stretching and exercises to prevent common injuries like shin splints and knee strain. We will also be setting personal and team goals before each meet.

The team opens it season at the MFL/Mar-Mac meet on Sept. 4.



Letter winners returning to the cross country team include, front row: Koda Kreutner and Greg Guetzko; back row: BrieAnna Nielson, Nichole Winter, Tamala Askeland, Cassie Burkle and Laisee Shakespeare.



The seven returning letter winners on the volleyball team are, front row: Morgan Manternach, Annie Fjelstul and Heather Sabers; back row: Ashley Holtz, Megan Mensen, Macy Anderegg and Tiffany Hoeger.

what's up?

What was your favorite movie this summer?

by **Destiny Claybourne**

Cassie Schwandt- Into the Storm
Amanda Fortman- X-men Days of Future Past
Rebekah Hill- The Fault in Our Stars
Kendra Ries- Heaven in For Real
Kiesha Stelken- The Fault in Our stars
Missy Schwandt- Step up: All in
Molly Miles- X-Men Day of Future Past
Chance Frank- Criminal Minds
Megan Beaman- Tamy
Eric Heims- Transformers: Days of Extinction
Tiffany Hoeger-The Fault in Our Stars
Kelsey Gearhart- Step in: All in

Angie's Angle

Saying "Goodbye" to the old and "Hello" to the new

by **Angie Wilson**



This time of year is full of change. Change is a word that we humans don't really like. Not all of us but most of us don't like change. I am one of those people, especially right now. As I am writing this column I am watching my brother pack his belongings in the car. He is packing up clothes, not for just a few days but for months. As I am writing, my sister is organizing her belongings as well. As I am writing, the change is starting to happen. I have been avoiding this change and trying to ignore the fact that Drew and Emily are leaving to start the new chapter in their life.

Most of the change in my life I wasn't given a chance to say goodbye. Now I am forced. I am forced to say goodbye to Drew's sarcastic remarks that were given every single day. The laughter we shared around the dinner table. Those late night girl talks with Emily. I am forced to say goodbye to two of my best friends. As this process continues I am learning that goodbyes are good. It's time for them to move on and learn and discover themselves. I know now that those forced goodbyes are now all memories. Now I have forced myself let go and say "hello."

Macy's Message

by **Macy Anderegg**

It's crazy how fast time flies once you get into high school. Starting my Junior year here at Maquoketa Valley, I have learned lots of things about how to be more involved.



I strongly encourage all Freshmen to bite the bullet and try new things in high school. These four years will definitely fly past so make sure you spend them the way you desire. You can start by auditioning for the school musical that is always at the start of the year along with volleyball, cross country and football.

If you do not wish to be involved in these activities, then I strongly encourage you to support them. Go to a few games and cheer them on for all of their hard work!

Also, speech auditions will be coming up soon at the beginning of September so always give that a thought! These activities are not only fun, but the people who are involved in them also become your family. Go Cats!

A senior voice: Back to School Advice

by **Mikaela Reth**

Do get involved in sports and musical.
Don't pick on the freshmen...or anyone else.
Do plan to come support your classmates' events.
Do stay organized.
Don't disrespect anyone.
Do make new friends.
Do follow the rules.
Do stay involved in class.
Don't be afraid to try new things.
Don't procrastinate anything.

Do's and Don'ts of The Start of the School Year

by **Shaylyn Trenkamp**



So we've had a full week plus some days now, and we're beginning to get into the swing of things. Here's some rocking tips to get you going this year.

Do get involved. Join everything you're interested in! High school is the perfect time for you to find your passions and interests, and also the things you DON'T want to do. If you don't try, you'll never know.

Don't be shy. Put yourself out there and talk to new students or under/upperclassmen you don't know. And if you are a new student, don't be afraid to get to know new people. We don't bite (very often!) :)

Do get your spirit-pants on and get ready to show some Wildcat support! Volleyball, football, and musical are all great things to make room in your schedule to come and watch!

Do, not only cheer on, but also congratulate those involved in things. Like musical tryouts, congrats to all you brave people who came to auditions because you all totally crushed it.

Don't be a debbie-downer... be open to new changes at the school and try to stay positive about most of the different things this year. (After all we just started!)

Do try to get ahead or at least on top of your stuff right now. Getting behind at the beginning of the year makes it that much harder to catch up.

Don't forget to grab some Gatorade and support the football team by coming to the Gator bowl tonight! Happy football Friday!

The Cat Box

opinions, ideas and random thoughts from the staff of *The Wildcat Echo*



A meow to the cast of *The Wizard of Oz*. A meow to all the freshmen who auditioned. Let's welcome new director, Mr. Hanson!



A meow to the start of fall sports. It's a great time to be a Wildcat!



A furball to injuries.

A meow to the success of the first full week.



A meow to MV's growing enrollment at the high school. Welcome aboard!



A meow to FFA's busy and successful summer.



A good luck meow to the volleyball players as they start their season on Tuesday at Jesup.



A meow to the softball and baseball seasons. Congratulations all-conference players: Brianna Mensen, Maddie Digmann, Emilee Muller, Aaron Dzaboff, Ryan Parmely and Ben Dzaboff and Jacob Coyle.



A meow to the students who are running for student council. Way to keep democracy alive!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MV the week of AUGUST 25, 2014

MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2014

1. Practice for Middle School Cross Country Begins - After School
2. Meet the Student Council candidates during WIN.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2014

1. HS 9/JV/V Volleyball at Jesup - 6:00 PM (Bus Leaves @ 4:20 PM)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2014

1. EARLY DISMISSAL - 1:05 PM in Delhi / 1:15 PM in Earl. & Hopk. - Teacher Professional Day
2. No Practice for any Junior High Sports

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2014

1. Elementary Band Night - Middle School Commons - 6:30 PM
2. Band Parents' Meeting - Middle School Commons - 7:30 PM

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 2014

1. HS Football at Alburnett - 5:00 PM (JV Bus Leaves @ 3:15 PM / V Bus @ 4:15 PM)
2. Student Council elections in HS lobby

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

1. Dance Team "Dasher 5K Run/Walk" at Conrad Park in Earlville - Registration @ 8:00 AM

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2014

1. NO SCHOOL - Labor Day

Hall Smarts

by Emily LaGrant

Welcome

back, Wildcats! It looks like we've got another exciting and busy year ahead of us. For those of us that are new to the halls, you're in for one heck of a year. This



Hall Smarts is dedicated to you guys to see exactly how much you know so far. The contestants are: Kara Orcutt, Brenden Hogan, Bridgett Massman and Sean Hucker.

1) Who are the math teachers in the high school?

Kara: Mr. DeVore & Mrs. Lewin
Brenden: Mr. DeVore and I don't know
Bridgett: Mr. DeVore & Mrs. Lewin
Sean: No idea
A: Mr. DeVore & Mrs. Lewin

2) Who teaches government?

Kara: Mr. Cassutt
Brenden: I don't know
Bridgett: Mr. Cassutt
Sean: Mr. Cassutt
A: Mr. Cassutt

3) How many staircases are there in the high school?

Kara: 3
Brenden: 3
Bridgett: 4
Sean: at least 3
A: 3 (not including the one that connects the high school to the middle school by the fitness room)

4) How many rows of computers are in the library?

Kara: 2
Brenden: 5
Bridgett: No idea
Sean: 2
A: 4

5) What time does 1st hour end?

Kara: 8:47
Brenden: 8:45
Bridgett: 8:45
Sean: 8:42
A: 8:47

Kara was the victor this time with 4 points and Sean and Bridgett tied for 2nd and 3rd with 2 points each. Brenden came in 4th with just one point. Looks like some of our Wildcats need to pay a little more attention around school. Nice try, everyone!

The yellow brick roads leads to MV

This year's fall musical will be *The Wizard of Oz*, under the direction of Mr. Hanson, Mrs. Mueller and Mr. Hadley. Auditions were Monday and Tuesday. The show will open in November. Right: Megan McNamara and Hannah Clemens rehearse a scene for auditions. (photo by Riley Kay Sternhagen)



FFA members 'on the prowl' this summer

Submitted by Calvin Orcutt

The Wildcat FFA members were on the prowl in the summer of 2014.

On June 5th, 12 members traveled to Ames to compete in Ag Mechanics, Food Science and Agronomy. The Ag Mechanics team earned a 6th place gold finish in the state. Team members were Andrew Palmersheim, Calvin Orcutt, Travis Knipper and Alex Ritcher. In the area of Food Science Emily Krapfl, Kristi Goedken, Angie Wilson and Amanda Fortman teamed up for a Silver rating. Agronomy team of Ryan Goedken, Mikie Mast and Kaleb Kruse also earned a silver.

Next up on the summer schedule was sending four members to the Washington Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. to advance their leadership skills and networking with members across the country for a week in June.

On June 10th at Kirkwood was the District Livestock contest where the Wildcats placed 2nd with Andrew Palmersheim named District Champion Individual. Other team members were Calvin Orcutt, Adam Funke, Alex Richter and Travis Knipper. In addition that day the State Floriculture and Horse contest were held both teamed received Silver ratings. The Floriculture team was Kristin Brehm, Emily Krapfl and Angie Wilson. The Horse team was Mindy Burkle, Gabriela Guetzko and Laisee Shakespeare.

While Mrs. Mausser attended the Iowa Association of Agricultural Educators in Ankeny on June 24th, the Maquoketa Valley Agriculture Education program received several honors from the Iowa Governor Council. The essay written by Emily O'Connell & Mindy Burkle for the Science Integration in the Classroom was named the state winner. Career Awareness and Community Development division essay written by Cassie Burkle and Matthew Lansing was named a state runnerup as was the SAE essay written by Chris Hoeger and Andrew Palmersheim.

As July moved in the onset of the American tradition of the Delaware County Fair settled in. On Monday the non-livestock exhibits were judged. In the photography division Emily Krapfl received a blue ribbon. In the Ag mechanics division purple ribbons were awarded to Travis Knipper, Curtis Nefzger, Blake Burkle, Jay White and Logan Kruse.

On Tuesday in the Goat show



Adam Funke, Alex Richter, Calvin Orcutt and Travis Knipper finished second at the Kirkwood livestock judging contest.

Andrew Palmersheim was named Reserve Champion Meat Goat as well Champion Senior Showman. Calvin Orcutt's goat received a blue in class. In the Agronomy division Ryan Goedken was named champion in the soybean and oat division and received blues in corn and hay.

Wednesday brought about the dairy show with exhibitors receiving plenty of blue ribbons. Dairy exhibitors included Cassie Burkle, Kurt Rolfes, Mindy Burkle, Kristi Goedken, Ryan Goedken, Kaleb Kruse, Logan Kruse and Madi Gibbs. Highlights from the day included:

*Madi Gibbs- Junior Champion Milking Shorthorn and Junior Champion Holstein and Reserve Supreme Junior Champion as well Outstanding Senior Dairy Exhibitor.

*Kaleb Kruse- Junior Champion Guernsey, Grand Champion Guernsey, Champion Guernsey Dairy Herd, Grand Champion Holstein, Supreme Champion and Senior Showmanship.

In the Cow/Calf Division Andrew Palmersheim exhibited the champion Mature pair and Tanner Hargrafen received a blue. In the Beef Pen of Three class Amanda Fortman received a blue.

On Thursday was the beef show. Maquoketa Valley FFA had another blue ribbon day for members Calvin Orcutt, Andrew Palmersheim, Trent Westhoff, Adam Funke, Jay White and Tanner Hargrafen. Andrew Palmersheim was named Champion Rate of Gain steer.

Friday at the fair had Andrew Palmersheim exhibiting his swine. He received champion middleweight barrow of the show.

After the finish of the fair the weekly Herdsmanship winners were

named, and Maquoketa Valley was selected as a winner for the efforts that the members put into the livestock exhibits and tack areas. Way to go, Wildcats.

As the summer came to an end members found the Iowa State Fair "Amazingly Amusing." Results were as follows:

State Dairy Princess Contestants-Mindy Burkle and Amanda Hoefler

Performance Beef- Andrew Palmersheim- Purple

Cow/Calf- Andrew Palmersheim- Purple

Beef Herding- Blue

Photography-

Cassie Burkle- 1st place blue in SAE, 4th place blue in Still Life; Mindy Burkle- one red, one white; Gabriela Guetzko- red; Rachel Knipper- blue; Emily Krapfl- blue; Matthew Lansing- red; Emily O'Connell- blue; Laisee Shakespeare- 5 reds; Trent Westhoff- red; Angie Wilson- red; Drew Wilson- blue

Dairy Cattle-

Madi Gibbs- showmanship award, 3 blues, 1 purple and Junior Champion Milking Shorthorn, FFA Parade of Champions Qualifier

Kaleb Kruse- 4 purples, Junior Champion Ayrshire, Senior Champion Ayrshire, Reserve Intermediate Champion Holstein, Reserve Senior Holstein Showmanship, FFA Parade of Champions Qualifier

Ag Demonstration- Let's Make Butter- Kristi Goedken, Heath Gibbs, Travis Knipper, Trent Westhoff, Emily Krapfl and Amanda Fortman- Purple

The summer proved to be a successful and busy one for the Wildcat FFA proving that today's hard work equals tomorrow's success.



Clockwise, starting at top left: Travis Knipper displays his refurbished John Deere tractor. Ryan Goedken was named champion in the soybean and oat division and received blues in corn and hay at the Delaware County Fair. The dairy contestants, including Madi Gibbs, Kaleb Kruse, with Mrs. Mausser, Ryan Goedken and Kristi Goedken show off the hardware they won at the Delaware County Fair. Curtis Nezfger poses by his refurbished tractor.



The Ag Demonstration- Let's Make Butter- who participated in the State Fair was presented by Emily Krapfl, Amanda Fortman, Heath Gibbs, Trent Westhoff, Travis Knipper and Kristi Goedken.

Student Council elections are underway!

1. Meet the candidates and their parties Monday during WIN time.
2. Be sure to get registered to vote via a GoogleDoc that will be coming your way. Not registered? Can't vote.
3. Voting will take place in the lobby on Friday, Aug. 29.

Vote Neon Nation next Friday in the election and you won't be sorry!

With me, **Annie Fjelstul**, as student body president, we can make a change. **Brock Hillers** is my freshman rep., **Danica Fjelstul** is my sophomore rep.,

Erin Digmann is my junior rep., and **Morgan Manternach** is my senior rep. As student body president, I would propose to bring the salad bar back. Another thing I would like to put in place again would be Snowcoming, with activities during the school day and also a dance. I would also like to brighten up the junior and senior hallways by bringing in some black and gold. And as you probably all know, we lack school spirit. An idea that I have is to have more pep rallies, with the dance team or the student council organizing them and coming up with entertainment. I also think it would be a good idea to organize dress up themes for sporting events, and also have class competitions so the class that has the most people show up will get some sort of incentive.

These are just a few of my ideas, but I hope you vote for us next Friday! If you have any suggestions please feel free to approach any of us, and remember, your future is bright with **Neon Nation!**

The Powerful Party: Heather is there for you!

Hello everyone! I'm **Heather Sabers**, and I am excited to say that I will be running for Student Body President. I will be campaigning with **Ryan Parmely**, **Macy Anderegg**, **Clint Krapfl**, and **Brittany Sabers** as part of **The Powerful Party**. We will be effective and energetic about making a change! I have many plans that I would like to enforce in order to make Maquoketa Valley an even better place to be. Bringing back snowcoming and salad bar, organizing more service projects, improving school spirit, and promoting an open campus for seniors at MV is just a glimpse of the ideas I have in mind. Be sure to be checking the hallways next week for posters and signs with all of my ideas to revamp our school. Keep in mind, I am always willing to take suggestions from any student and put them into action. And one last thing, like a good neighbor, **Heather is there!**