

## Back on the stage: MV drama presents 'The Velveteen Rabbit'

by Paige Winter

It's been a while since Maquoketa Valley has seen a show performed on our auditorium stage. That is all going to change next weekend when MV students are set to perform *The Velveteen Rabbit* as the Maquoketa Valley Fall Play. This year due to COVID, the spring play and the fall musical have been swapped.

*The Velveteen Rabbit* is the story of a boy who falls in love with his toy rabbit that he receives for Christmas. It's a story of growing up and moving on, but also highlights how difficult these things can sometimes be.

Mrs. DeVore, one of the directors, said that this show is special because of the normalcy it provided for students this year. Last spring the play was performed virtually. She said about this fall's performance, "Though this is not 100% normal, in my mind this feels more intimate than last year." The cast for this show is smaller than normal, and students have been rehearsing in masks.

She also commented, "I'm really glad that the seniors this year were able to have one last play on the stage, but it's also just a beautiful story in general and it makes me think of the movie *Toy Story* and the importance that we place on toys when we're young."

Paige Panosh, who plays the Skin Horse, one of the leads of the show, said it was special to her to have something "semi-normal" in her life due to everything that has changed because of COVID-19. This year is also special for Paige since she is a senior and it will be her last show, "It makes me really sad that it's all gonna end, but I wouldn't have it any other way. Everything is perfect the way that it has been."

Paige also added that people should come and out and see this play. "It really brings back the imagination that we all should maintain, not just for us as actors but for them as audience members."

Mrs. DeVore said something similar by saying people should come out and



Cast members rehearse a scene from *The Velveteen Rabbit*, a story that will play on audience members' emotions. (photo by Jen Teymer)

support the show because it's a mix of humor and heartwarming moments that will appeal to everyone.

The show is November 6th and 7th at 7pm next weekend, and tickets are

going fast! Make sure to pick up a ticket in the office and come out to support these hard-working students. Tickets are \$5 apiece. Seating is limited, and masks are required.

## Choir concert performed virtually



It's just a sign of the times: The fall choir concert looked a bit different this year. The students, under the direction of Mr. Ford, performed "The Pasture," "Set Me As a Seal," and "The Awakening" at St. John's church. It was presented virtually, with students wearing masks and socially distancing. Vocal jazz rehearsals started this week, with Mrs. Mueller at the helm.

# Sacred Places We Now Share



by Paige Panosh

Whether it's on the court, on the field, or in the spotlight, everyone at Maquoketa Valley High School has a sacred place, a safe place where they are surrounded by supportive family and friends. These safe havens, in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, have taken a turn for the scary. New mask mandates and distancing rules steal the light of normalcy from activities we call home.

The auditorium, in all of its black and gold glory, has been a sacred home to thousands of students over dozens of years; however, recent regulation changes continue to increase the number of students who perform here. Many students, over the past four years, have found their second home in the rehearsals, set works, and performances on that stage. The students know every scuff, paint splatter, and prop that found its way onto the stage. For three years, the senior students in the speech and drama programs have known the auditorium to be a place for speech, musicals, plays, school meetings, and the occasional study halls.

Madeline Gellersen, a Maquoketa Valley senior, remembers what it was like to grace that sacred space. "To me, the auditorium is more than just a wooden floor for a stage and cement bricks for walls. It is all of the memories that were made on stage from the musicals and plays that I have been in, to the one's former Maquoketa Valley students have been in. It is a place where no matter how crazy or silly

the character that you are portraying on stage is, you can be yourself with no judgment....We have always labeled the auditorium as a safe space where those who participate in musicals and plays have a special connection with the stage."

In the wake of the newly implemented pandemic guidelines, many of these connections have been severed. As of the beginning of the school year, the students in play have not been the only ones to perform in the auditorium. New guidelines to distance students have forced both the band and choir classes to leave their homes and reside in the auditorium. This once sacred place has thus, in the eyes of many, become invaded.

Student eyes aren't the only ones who have seen and felt the shift from sacred space to scary place. Yes, teachers too have their sacred places. That is why, in her 16th year of directing activities in the auditorium, Mrs. DeVore has felt the auditorium's shift. She knows exactly what the auditorium means to her and how it's changing. "It's home. It has always been home. It was that way when I got involved as a junior in high school....Theatre just kept calling and then it became home....I love the smells, the sounds, I love the camaradery that comes with the theatre or the auditorium....It's a scary place, in a way, just because it is closed in and we're talking 350 seats, and when we're thinking about CDC guidelines and what they have said in terms of COVID, it just makes me nervous, obviously, but hopeful that we can

still do something, in some way, and still try to give everyone a safe space so they can enjoy what we're doing."

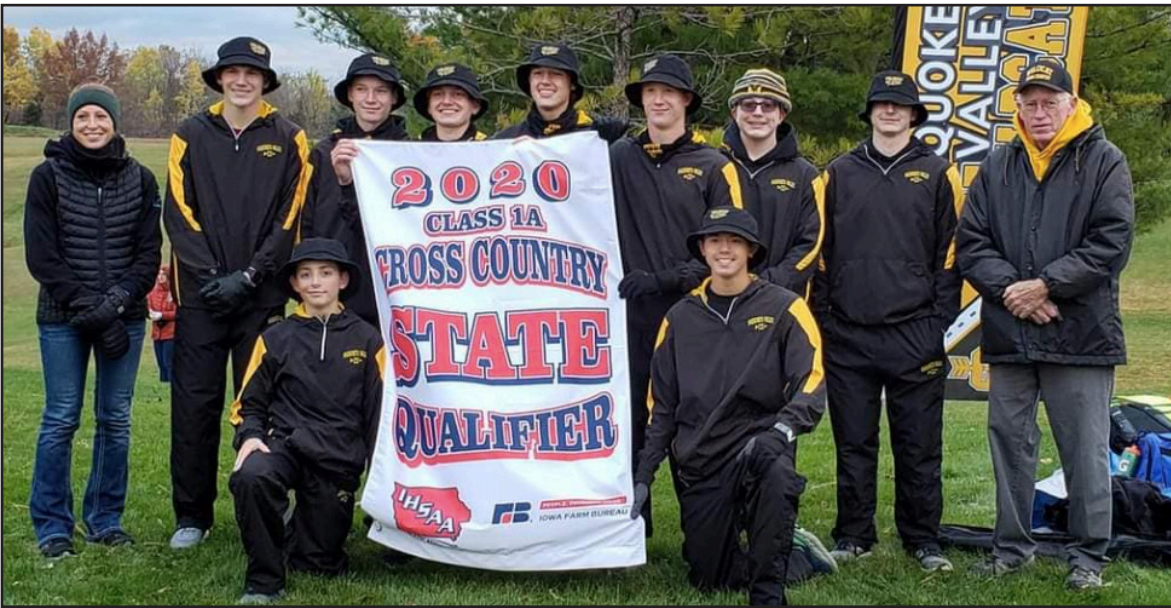
The auditorium itself has undergone many physical changes over the years. In 2018, the closets and shelves in the far corner where all of the drama department's props, wardrobe and set pieces were stored were replaced with the spacious backroom that can be seen today, and the band room gained a storage room. With that new backroom also came the installation of a new sound board. Even with these changes and a fresh coat of paint, the auditorium in previous years had retained its magic. But now, as Madeline has shared, "....that special magic that used to be there is starting to fade from having more classes inside of the auditorium."

Band instruments pressed upstage, tiered stands spread across the seats, unknown scuffs, and strangers' fingerprints now reside in the auditorium. Calculators and choir papers get left behind in the germ-infested seats. It's almost as though the newfound disarray is trying to out-crazy our already chaotic, COVID-stricken lives.

In light of CDC guidelines, this home to few became home to many, and in doing so changed its normal, safe feeling. One can only hope that one day it can return to that once sacred place and all of the rooms that we called home for so long can feel that way again for students to come.



# On to State! XC runners finish second at state qualifying meet



Front: Toby Grimm and Cy Huber; back row: coach Dever, Michael Schaul, Landin Frasher, Mitch Heims, Brock Trenkamp, Nolan Ries, Brock Trenkamp, George Livingston, Caleb Livingston and Coach Meehan.

by Chantel Crowley

The season approaches the end as the state qualifying meet was held at the Guttenburg Golf Course. The boys placed second overall which earned them a spot at the state meet. Cy Huber placed first with a time of 17:35.3, and Nolan Ries right behind him in third with a time of 17:44.7, and Michael Schaul in fifth with a time of 18:15.6. Mitch Heims finished 17th with a time of 19:12.4, Brock Trenkamp in 19th with a time of 19:25.9, Landin Frasher in 20th with a time of 19:36.9, and Toby Grimm in 31st with a time of 20:26.3.

Emma Doyl led the girls in 28th with a time of 24:01.0, then Allison Hogan in 54th with a time of 27:44.2, and Jordan Hogan in 59th with a time of 29:00.9.

The cross country team had a great season. The boys will run at State on Saturday at 4:00 in Fort Dodge.

## Get to know the athletes

**Brock Trenkamp**

**What is a great motivating song for you?** Halloween theme by John Carpenter

**What are some of the best words of encouragement you hear from your fans when you're running?** It's not really words of encouragement but whenever I get told what place I am it helps because I can keep counting the rest of the race and it keeps my mind busy

**What time do you need to run on Saturday to know you've done your best?** I am hoping to break into the 18 minutes, but in terms of doing your best it's less about the time and more about the effort. If I feel like I never want to run again at the end of that race, I will know I have

done my best.

**What do you add to the cross country team?** I think I am a good leader for the newer runners, because I'm running similar times to them but I've been doing it longer so I can give a few tips here and there.

**Aside from qualifying for the state meet, what has been a favorite memory from this season?** Probably Landin, Toby and I just running together, and a lot of times trying to beat each other during practice or a meet. Also, the feeling of going to every meet dressed exactly the same and stepping off the bus is very cool too.

**Nolan Ries**

**What is a great motivating song for you?** The song during Round 14 from the first Rocky Movie

**What are some of the best words of encouragement you hear from your fans when you're running?** Coach Meehan yelling at me "You look strong" "Push it" "You're doing great!"

**What time do you need to run on Saturday to know you've done your best?** I would need to run a 16:55 or better

**What do you add to the cross country team?** I play a co-leadership role along with being the first or second runner on the team

**Aside from qualifying for the state meet, what has been a favorite memory from this season?** Winning the Conference Championship

**Michael Schaul**

**What is a great motivating song for**

**you?** "Radioactive" by Imagine Dragons

**What are some of the best words of encouragement you hear from your fans when you're running?** I hear a lot of people cheering for me but one voice that stands out is Coach Meehan's.

**What time do you need to run on Saturday to know you've done your best?** I need to run faster than a 17:39 so I can say that I didn't peak sophomore year.

**What do you add to the cross country team?** I add leadership to the team.

**Aside from qualifying for the state meet, what has been a favorite memory from this season?** My favorite memory from this season was getting top 5 individually at Districts.

**Toby Grimm**

**Do you have a cross country nickname?**

If so, what is it? Juan Carlos

**What is a great motivating song for you?** "Trace McSorley"

**What are some of the best words of encouragement you hear from your fans when you're running?** "That kid is probably very nice but pass him anyway." Mrs. Temple.

**What time do you need to run on Saturday to know you've done your best?** Sub 20

**What do you add to the cross country team?** Humor

**Aside from qualifying for the state meet, what has been a favorite memory from this season?** B Dubs with the team.

*Advisor's note: All varsity runners were sent the request for information to be featured here. Best wishes to all!*

# what's up?

## If you could commit any crime and get away with it, what would you do?

by Paige Winter

Mr. Cassutt: steal all the 3 Musketeers from wherever 3 Musketeers are made

Noah DeVore: I would go to California and walk a bear on the beach

Leah Ries: I would speed really fast and never get pulled over

Mr. Dunlap: steal a million dollars from a rich guy

Isacc Zirtzman: drift the streets of Tokyo

Zach Digman: rob a bank

Mr. Edwards: embezzle money

Dylan Sands: print money

Brooke Hogan: steal cows

Brianna Fischer and Macy Thompson: rig the 2020 election together

Jaxon Kramer: rob a bank for 10 million dollars and invest it all in stocks

Dylan Schmuecker: What is my perfect crime? I break into Tiffany's at midnight.

Do I go for the vault? No, I go for the chandelier. It's priceless. As I'm taking it down, a woman catches me. She tells me to stop. It's her father's business. She's Tiffany. I say no. In the morning, the cops come and I escape in one of their uniforms. I tell her to meet me in Mexico, but I go to Canada. I don't trust her. Besides, I like the cold. Thirty years later, I get a postcard. I have a son and he's the chief of police. This is where the story gets interesting. I tell Tiffany to meet me in Paris by the Trocadero. She's been waiting for me all these years. I don't care. I don't show up. I go to Berlin. That's where I stashed the chandelier.

## Comedy Corner

—compiled by Paige Panosh

Know why skeletons are so calm?  
Because nothing gets under their skin.

What do you call a cleaning skeleton?  
The grim sweeper.

Why do demons and ghouls hang out together?  
Because demons are a ghouls' best friend!

Why did the headless horseman go into business?

He wanted to get ahead in life.

## Fine Artists of the Week

Name: Devin Smith

**What is your role in the spring play?** I am the Doctor

**What do you enjoy most about being a part of this show?** I enjoy being able to work with Mrs. DeVore and Mrs. Teymer. I also love working with my other classmates in making this play special.



**What will audience members enjoy most about the play?** I think that the audience members will enjoy and love how we really bring the play itself and the set to life.

**If you could star in any TV show, what would it be?** If I could star in any TV show it would probably be All American on Netflix because it involves sports and real events that are happening today.

## STUDENT OF THE WEEK

*Andrew Hildebrand*



**How do you see yourself as a role model to other students?** I see myself as a role model because I like to lead by example. I try to be respectful and kind to everyone and make people happy. hopefully by doing this those people will have a better day.

**Who are some of your role models?** Ryan Reynolds, Gabriel Iglesias, and Jack Black.

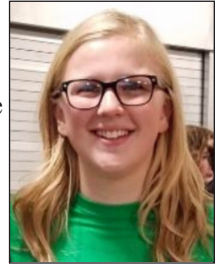
**What are your plans after graduation?** Go to college, become an engineer, race cars.

*Andrew was nominated by Mr. Edwards for being an all-around awesome student.*

## Hall Smarts

by Cadence Freiburger

Because Saturday's Halloween, I decided to ask some of MV's students some trivia questions about the holiday.



How many pounds of candy corn are produced every year?

Domarius Strickland: 43 million

Adrienne Freiburger: 2.8 million

Emma Beitz: 2000

Answer: 35 million

How much did Americans spend on Halloween in 2019?

Domarius: \$2 million

Adrienne: \$8 billion

Emma: \$50,000

Answer: \$2.6 billion

What was candy corn originally called?

Domarius: Corn of Candy

Adrienne: Orange triangles

Emma: Corn Candies

Answer: Chicken Feed

What did Scottish women hang to see their future husbands on Halloween?

Domarius: Lights

Adrienne: Dried flowers

Emma: Fake Bats

Answer: White sheets over a fire

## Cutie

by Kaitlin Nolan



This cutie is a freshman who plans to be involved in dance, softball, and track. She has bluish-green eyes. Her favorite class is Spanish I, and her hobby is softball.



## Meet the Freshmen



### Morgan, Brianna, Parker & Toby

Name: Toby Grimm

Siblings: Trevor

Activities you plan to be in: cross country, baseball, and others

Favorite subject: Ag Structure

Career aspirations: College, job, and family

Hobbies: Sports

Something cool about you: I can juggle

Name: Brianna Hines

Siblings: Brittany

Activities you plan to be in: I don't know

Favorite subject: A science class or Spanish

Career aspirations: Animator

Hobbies: Drawing and singing

Something cool about you: I have an almost 1 year old cockatiel named Tokyo

Name: Morgan Krumviede

Siblings: None

Activities you plan to be in: Camp Fire, group speech, and choir

Favorite subject: Math

Career aspirations: Pediatric Nurse

Hobbies: Singing and crafts

Something cool about you: I have a lot of cousins

Name: Parker Ries

Siblings: 3

Activities you plan to be in: Golf and FFA

Favorite subject: Ag

Career aspirations: Agronomist

Hobbies: Boating and showing cattle

Something cool about you: I drive an 89' Caprice

# MV TEL-ALL

compiled by Paige Panosh

Nearly **72%** of students have consumed alcohol (that is, more than just a few sips) by the **end of high school**,

and more than **37%** have done so by **eighth grade**.

*This according to the NCDAS*

## Best Buds

Mr. Cassutt & Mrs. Jennifer Cassutt

by Amaya Hunt

**How did you two meet each other?**

Mr. Cassutt: We met in the first few days of our freshman year at Wartburg College in 1987.... So, a long time ago!

Mrs. Cassutt: Dan and I met at Wartburg College our freshman year... we lived in the same dorm and had a class together :)

**In your youth, what were some of your favorite things to do together? Has that changed nowadays?**

Mr. Cassutt: We liked to go dancing together. We also still enjoy going to the city, just as we did when we were younger (we used to live close to Chicago when we were first married). We also really enjoyed getting together with college friends whenever we could.

Mrs. Cassutt: When we were younger, we loved to go dancing! We lived close to Chicago and enjoyed going there to hang out, go out to eat, and go dancing. We don't go dancing much anymore like we used to, but we still love music festivals and concerts! We have also always loved traveling, and our destinations have changed over the years, depending on our kids' ages... from visiting family to waterparks to historical sites to bringing them to concerts. Now, we travel just to see our kids!

**Both of your careers revolve around education, but if you weren't teachers, what would you absolutely love to do with your life?**

Mr. Cassutt: I don't think I have any other skills to do another job! Teaching was what I wanted to do from an early age. I had several family members who taught and an influential history teacher in high school that inspired me to teach as well.

Mrs. Cassutt: I would love to do more traveling around the country, and the world! Besides that, I think it would be fun to have a coffee shop (or at least work at one) someday.

**If you could choose to travel anywhere in the world with each other, where would you go and why?**

Mr. Cassutt: I believe that we would travel throughout Europe; we also really enjoy hiking in national parks.

Mrs. Cassutt: There are a lot of places I'd love to travel! In the US, I'd go to more National Parks (we caught that bug last summer). Internationally, I'd like to go to Europe, Australia, and India someday!

**Mr. Cassutt has frequently mentioned that his family goes to many festivals and concerts. What has been your favorite one so far? If you could go to any**



**concert in the world, who would it be?**

Mr. Cassutt: My favorite shows are typically at Lollapalooza in Chicago; however, I have seen so many shows and listen to so many bands that no one has ever heard of, it's hard to pick the best show I've ever been to. But, if I have to choose, I would pick U2 in Iowa City in 1987 on the Joshua Tree tour and The Cure in Chicago at Lolla in 2013 (the Beastie Boys were also insane in 1994 in Chicago... I'm sorry, I know that's three). I can't handle the last question because I wouldn't be able to choose.

Mrs. Cassutt: I'd have to say my favorite festival would be Lollapalooza when both kids (and our future daughter-in-law) were with us! I'm not sure who I'd like to see the most right now... maybe Coldplay again? Or a throwback to Duran Duran :)

**After all the years spent together, what has been your favorite memory with the other?**

Mr. Cassutt: There have been so many, this question is quite difficult for me to answer. I could choose to say my wedding day, but it's oftentimes the little things that really stick in my memories, and they all involve my family. One memory that sticks out is hiking in Yosemite National park with my family- it's so beautiful out there and it was extra special to experience it with my family.

Mrs. Cassutt: My favorite memory? I love thinking about him with the kids when they were little (from playing ball to dolls to reading).... He is such a great father!

Every stage of life brings new memories; during this stage, I will remember our walks together, which is when we have time to talk about everything from our days :)

**And as always... in 5 years, where do you hope to be in life?**

Mr. Cassutt: In five years, I may be retired and hopefully traveling and spending time with my family.

Mrs. Cassutt: In five years, we will probably still be teaching and living in Manchester. It will be interesting to see where our kids end up, and hopefully we will be able to travel to see them as much as possible!