

Wildcat Echo

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A publication by the students of Maquoketa Valley High School

Three speech groups earn All-State honors

by Paige Winter

The large group speech season has come to an end but it has ended on a happy note! Three of our large group speech events have been nominated for All-State! Students earned honor by being nominated by at least two of the three judges at state contest. Due to COVID-19 there will be no actual All-State speech event, but this is still a huge honor for all the students who have been nominated.

Groups nominated include the One-Act Play: Our Place, Reader's Theater: Fire Exit, and Radio Broadcasting: GLXY.

Though there is no competition this year, make sure to congratulate these Wildcats on this awesome achievement!

The individual event speech season is in full gear. Districts will be Saturday, Feb. 27.



Members of One-Act are Molly Anderegg, Matthew Brehm, Noah DeVore, Allison Dunn, Madeline Gellersen, Andrew Hildebrand, Kendra Hillers, Logan Johnson, Carter Klaren, Ella Mensen, Zach Mineart, Leah Ries, McKenna Thompson, and Brock Trenkamp. (not listed in order pictured)



Above: The Readers Theatre members are Avery Krapfl, Preston Roling, Carlie Lewin, Krista Ries, Paige Panosh, Andrew Kloser, Paige Winter and Nolan Ries.



Left: The Radio Broadcasting members are Nick Gibbs, Matthew Brehm, Keziah Ambundo and Adrienne Freiburger.

FFA Week to be celebrated

by Tara Goedken

Next week is National FFA Week. Throughout the week there will be different activities from dress up day to ag facts. FFA members will participate in decorating the ag hallway early on in the week.

Monday will be free donut day for students and staff. On Tuesday, several FFA members will attend the FFA Sub-districts at Ed-Co. Throughout the week there will be a guessing contest where students will guess how many corn and soybeans are in a jar and the closest student will win a prize at the end of the week.

There will be no assembly this year due to COVID-19.

Dress Up Days

All students can participate in the dress up days; you don't have to be in FFA!

Monday: Wear FFA Apparel or Blue/Gold

Tuesday: Red vs Green

Wednesday: Dress like a farmer

Thursday: Dress like a animal/plant

Friday: Flannel Friday

School counselor Mrs. McDermott: *Saving Grace*

by Layla Crippen

High school can be some of the most pivotal years in our lives as students. Through these years, we try to find ourselves and figure out our way in this world. We take classes that prepare us for college, we play sports, and we make new friends. However, a lot of students feel pressured to be “perfect” which can lead to being overwhelmed with the heavy workload we get. Some students can begin to feel alone or as if they cannot talk to anyone about these feelings of being lost in this world. If you feel as if you have no escape from the pressure and no one to talk to, where do you go? Well, students at MV have one of the best guidance counselors out there, Mrs. McDermott.

Mrs. McDermott has been a guidance counselor for 23 years, which seems hard to believe with her energy and bright personality. Her welcoming persona and smile is never off her face while she is talking to students, which is her favorite activity to do. She never fails to be selfless and pushes her worries aside to put your needs first. She enjoys listening to problems and coming up with solutions that fit the situation. MV knows they are very lucky to have her as an asset.

Mrs. McDermott knew from that experience in high school and into college that she wanted to be a guidance counselor. She went to college for a teaching degree and taught for a year. After that year, she went right into school counseling, where she found her true calling.

Mrs. McDermott has students come to her for an array of different concerns. It can be for social needs, emotional needs, academic help, college career help, and lots of other things. She remains very versatile and ready to help in any way she can. She loves helping students through anything in their way of success because she always wants us to reach our goals. Mrs. McDermott disclosed her thoughts on what it feels like to help students through hard times, “I love it because it just breaks my heart knowing that there’s somebody else that they don’t have. I just hate to see them go through it alone. I’m glad they can find somebody.”

Mrs. McDermott gives her heart and soul to us as students every day. It can be difficult for anyone dealing with problems every day. Mrs. McDermott expressed the toll of her job: “Yeah, I love



my kids (students) at school. They’re like a part of my life and I think about them all the time. I just want the best and I pray for the best for them.” Mrs. McDermott cares very deeply for everyone around her, which is easy to notice when she is talking to students.

Yet, with every job, there are parts of the job that can cause regret. Mrs. McDermott informed students of her possible regrets, “No, I have no regrets, but I will say that you put a lot of time and energy into the job. I just cannot leave everything at work. So, emotionally and mentally, I’m thinking about [my students] or you’re emailing or calling and talking to parents. It’s not a nine to five job.. That’s how I feel anyway.”

Now, as the coronavirus plagues the planet, many teachers and faculty have been affected by the new rules and regulations. Mrs. McDermott is one of those many unfortunate faculty members who have been affected. However, Mrs. McDermott sees the brighter side in these troubling times. She finds ways around social distancing, like Google Meet sessions or surveys. As always, she is very glad that she still gets to help students but really misses the face-to-face interactions. “You can’t read facial expressions (through masks) and I’m big about reading facial expressions. It is a lot more difficult (talking to students) but you try to find a way to communicate.”

Mrs. McDermott always puts students’ comfort levels first. If you don’t feel

comfortable talking to her, she will understand and will never push you. She wants students to talk to who they are comfortable with. She explained, “If that means you have a better rapport with the math teacher, then more power to that student. I don’t believe in forcing people to talk. I think it needs to be natural and comfortable, and if they can find a trusted adult somewhere else, then that’s great.”

Mrs. McDermott brings out the best in people, while helping them with problems. Through hardships, she can be your most trusted advisor and you can trust that she will give you tremendous advice to point you in the right direction. She always shows care and compassion, even when you cannot. She has helped many students through the years and will strive to help more. Mrs. McDermott gives students some of her own advice, “Never give up. That’s a big motto of mine. Something might stink for that day but there’s somebody there that can help. Maybe it’s just to listen, to come up with ideas to help problem solve, or to debate the next step you take. My advice is to never give up.”

High school will trick you into thinking you are alone in this world. Yet, people like Mrs. McDermott fight tooth and nail every day to show students that no one is alone. Sometimes we, as students, need a saving grace to push us in the right direction. Mrs. McDermott is MV’s very own saving grace, and she will continue to help students strive for excellence for many years to come.

Sports Connection

Boys thrive in OT

Girls continue their winning streak



Owen Mensen puts up an outside shot in the match up against East Buchanan.

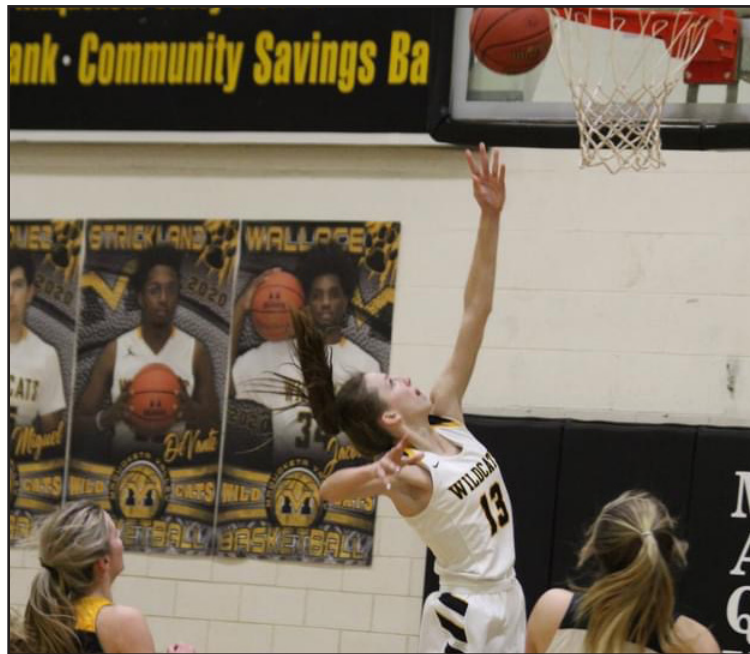
by Chantel Crowley

On Monday, the Wildcats played against East Buchanan in the first round of post-season play and kept the fans on the edge of their seats. The neck and neck game went into overtime with a 28-28 score at the end of regulation after a dynamic steal and basket by A.J. Ambundo.

With mere seconds left on the clock, Andrew Holtz put up two. Then with less than a second left, Ambundo was fouled and made his two freethrows to end the game 33-30.

Scorers included Andrew Holtz (13), Ambundo (7), Owen Mensen (6), Avery Holtz (4), and Jacorrey Wallace (3). For rebounds, Ambundo had nine, Wallace had five, Andrew Holtz and Lucas Orcutt had three each, Avery Holtz and Owen Mensen had two each, and Michael Bojorquez and Mitch Heims had one each. Avery Holtz and Andrew Holtz had three steals each, Wallace had two, and Ambundo had one.

That win sent them to the next round last night where the Wildcats took on hosts Dunkerton and defeated them 49-47 after three overtimes.



Kylie Chesnut goes in for the layup against Starmont Tuesday night.

Below: Erin Knipper puts up some second half freethrows. (photos by Lesa Parmely)



Mitch Heims attempts a three-point shot against the Bucs Monday night.

by Tara Goedken

The Wildcats started their post-season Tuesday in Delhi against Starmont. They advance with a 68-18 win over the Starmont Stars.

Ella Imler came out hot with hitting three-points to give the Wildcats a 20-7 first quarter score and 55-12 halftime score and never gave the Stars a chance to get back into the game.

The 21-0 Wildcats will play again tonight in Delhi against MFL-Mar-Mac.



what's up?

Breakfast, Lunch, or Dinner?

by Paige Winter

Tony Offerman: Lunch

Ethan Doyle: Dinner

Holli Hogan: Dinner

Mrs. Besler: Breakfast for Dinner

Nolan Ries: For food breakfast, but for time dinner

Mr. DeVore: breakfast for dinner

Michael Schaul: breakfast

Macy Thompson: snack time

Trista Elgin: Dinner

Mrs. Downs: Dinner

Mrs. Hunt: Lunch

Molly Anderegg: Breakfast

Kendra Hillers: Dinner

Kylie Chesnut: Dinner

Fine Artist of the Week

Name: Amanda Mohr

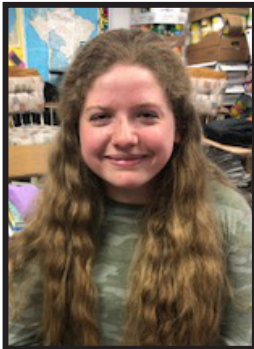
What event are you in for speech? I am in reviewing.

What do you enjoy most about individual speech? I enjoy being able to present a piece that brings out emotions in the audience or informs them about a topic, especially in reviewing where I can tell the audience about a book that I love.

What have you learned through this event? I am continually learning how to push myself and how to bring the different emotions and personalities of the characters in the book to life.

What other event would you like to try and why? I would like to try a prose event because I love to bring out emotions in the script and connect with the audience.

How will speech help you in the future? Speech will help me improve my speaking skills, especially with memorization, and my ability to be comfortable giving speeches in front of groups of people.



STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Paige Winter



You have been an instrumental member of the Echo staff, especially in the last year. You embrace the stories that require interviews, and you cover a variety of topics. What do you enjoy most about writing for the student newspaper? I always enjoy how it let's me walk around and talk to a lot of people. I like to interview people and it also helps me stay up to date on what's going on at school. I like being able to write about everything so that all of the activities at school get a spotlight. I also usually do what's up and I like it when I come up with a good question and people really get into it and start having debates and conversations. That's usually the goal when I'm coming up with a question.

What have you learned by your participation? When I was a freshman and I first started writing for the Echo I was always so nervous to talk to people and ask them questions, but now that's my favorite part, it's helped me be able to have conversations and talk to people I don't know as well. Everyone is always really nice about it too which helps. It makes me wonder what I was so scared of freshman year.

Why does having a student newspaper matter? Having a newspaper matters to help shine a spotlight on all of the activities at school. I like how the Echo includes sports, fine arts, drama, dance team, music, and fun stuff like what's up and best buds. It's important that all different groups get recognition.

Athletes of the Week

Name: Lance McShane

What position do you play? I play guard
What do you enjoy most about playing basketball? I enjoy getting to play with my teammates that I have been playing with since 4th grade.

What's a great warm-up song?

"Are you Ready?" by ACDC

What's been a favorite basketball memory? Beating Ed-co on the last game of our season this year.

Who's your basketball role model?

Larry Bird



Name: Liz McDowell

What position do you play? Post

What do you enjoy most about playing basketball? The best part is being with the team since we are all so close, and it is so fun to be around each other.

What's the best warm-up song?

"Scooby Doo Pa Pa" - Dj Kass

What's been a favorite basketball memory? There is a lot of fun memories but one of the best would be the hotel at Spirit Lake last time we went in 2019.

Who's your basketball role model? The three seniors are my role models. Apart from being some of my close friends, the three of them work super hard and are very talented. They have gone through so much adversity in life but they never let it get in their way.



Name: Kennedy Rausch

What position do you play? I am a wing, so a 2 or a 3.

What do you enjoy most about playing basketball? I enjoy playing with my teammates.

What's the best warm-up song? "Scooby Doo Pa pPa"

What's been a favorite basketball memory? All of us dancing to songs in the locker room.

Who's your basketball role model? Ella Imler



Hall Smarts

by Cadence Freiburger

Valentine's

Day was this past Sunday, so I thought it would be fun to test some of MV's high schoolers' knowledge on the holiday and other things related.

Libby DeMoss's, Carlie Lewin's, McKenna Thompson's, and Paige Aulwes's answers to the questions were:



1. Cupid had what name in Greek Mythology?

Libby DeMoss: Eros

Carlie Lewin: Eros

McKenna Thompson: Eros

Paige Aulwes: Any name

Answer: Eros

2. Before 'x' stood for kiss, what did it mean at the end of a letter?

Libby: Love

Carlie: Goodbye

McKenna: Love

Paige: A cross

Answer: The cross

3. From where was the oldest known Valentine's card sent?

Libby: Africa

Carlie: 1500s

McKenna: England

Paige: Germany

Answer: Prison

4. About how many roses are sent for Valentine's Day each year?

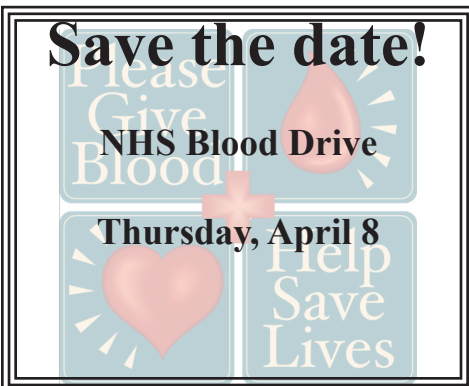
Libby: 1 Million

Carlie: 11 Million

McKenna: 1 Million

Paige: 10 Million

Answer: 50 Million



Quoted

by Matthew Brehm

We often make choices to fit our maps, but how often do we draw our own?

This week's quote is, **"The manner in which we map the world changes the world."** - John Green.



One night, while I was falling down the Youtube rabbit hole as I so often do, I found a Ted Talk by John Green in my recommendations. Relating it to his book, *Paper Towns*, John was introducing to the audience an interesting concept about maps. He used the example of Agloe, New York, which had once been only a paper town (a copyright trap), but which turned into a real place because people visited the location.

He says that how we map the world changes the world, and that this also applies to how we map our lives. "While maps don't show you where you *will* go, they show you where you *might* go."

One way I think about interpreting this quote is through the idea of perspective. How you look at the world changes what parts of it mean. I start to think about how we define our beliefs and our opinions. The way we base our beliefs is important because in the most bare sense, it shows how our line of reasoning works. In order to reach a certain conclusion, we had to have a specific map that would lead us to that viewpoint. Religion is an easy example, as a religious person tends to bounce the base of their opinions off of that religious influence.

It also makes me wonder about not only the past tense of this quote, but the future as well. A map as we know it usually includes many different paths and locations, most of which have been reached (in order to be mapped). But hardly any of those places have been reached by *everyone*. When John mentions the infinite number of ways that a life could lead, he touches on the idea of parallel universes: a theory that there are many different versions of our universe, each varying from ours in its events either slightly or vastly. Each choice you make can have a big impact on where you end up, whether it looks insignificant now or not.

Every decision you make either broadens your map or confines it; choose wisely.

MV TEL-ALL

compiled by Paige Panosh

"People ages 12 to 20 drink 4.1 percent of all alcohol consumed in the United States. Although youth drink less often than adults do, when they do drink, they drink more."

—NIH

Cutie



by Matthew Brehm

The cutie this week is a freshman who lives in Manchester. He is involved in basketball and football, and he loves to go hunting and fishing with his family. He has dirty blonde hair.

Last week's Cutie was Emma Gray.

Comedy Corner

—compiled by Paige Panosh

A guy dies and is sent to hell. Satan meets him, shows him doors to three rooms, and says he must choose one to spend eternity in. In the first room, people are standing in dirt up to their necks. The guy says, "No, let me see the next room." In the second room, people are standing in dirt up to their noses. Guy says no again. Finally Satan opens the third room. People are standing with dirt up to their knees, drinking coffee and eating pastries. The guy says, "I pick this room." Satan says Ok and starts to leave, and the guy wades in and starts pouring some coffee. On the way out Satan yells, "OK, coffee break's over. Everyone back on your heads!"