



Blue & White

A Weekly Production from the MHS Journalism Class

P.O. Box 580-Montezuma, IA 50171- www.montezuma-schools.org/BlueWhite.aspx

Back From The Break

What MHS students and staff did over Thanksgiving.

By Carrie Jennings
Montezuma School students returned from Thanksgiving break last week, and though everyone spent time celebrating the holiday with their family, none of their vacations were quite the same. Earlene Taylor, teacher at Montezuma High School, was unfortunately sick over Thanksgiving break. However, she was happy to spend time with her dogs: Ava, Tori, and Ella. Haley Roorda, freshmen, participated in many

activities over break, but she believes that the best thing she got to do was eat a lot of good food. She also colored her hair over break, something she was quite excited to do. Monty Crain, senior, much like Taylor, also hung out with his dog, Recon, over break. All three, as well as countless others in Montezuma, said that they were most thankful for their friends and family and are all eager to celebrate Thanksgiving again next year.



RECON THE BULLDOG, pictured above, was senior Monty Crain's best bud over Thanksgiving break.

Photo courtesy of Monty Crain



AVI, TORI, AND ELLA, Ms. Earlene Taylor's three dogs, kept her company while she was sick over Thanksgiving break. Dogs were popular pals for many MHS students and staff.

Photo courtesy of Earlene Taylor

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The Blue & White is now online.

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Excellent Español: Why you should join the MHS Spanish Club

By Chase Talbert
Mrs. Carrie Stockman, or "Señora," as most of her students call her, has been teaching Spanish in Montezuma for nearly fourteen years. Ever since that first year, she has also been running the Montezuma Spanish Club. The Montezuma Spanish Club is comprised of mostly students, but faculty members of Montezuma High School and some family members of students also participate in the club's various events and activities. Members of the club do fundraisers and service work a majority of the time for their club activities. The number of members currently in the

Spanish Club is hard to determine, due to the seniors leaving, the freshmen coming up next year, and the club's next trip has yet to be determined. Regardless of the trip or trips that are chosen, they are sure to be incredible and educational experiences for the students, Señora, and anyone else involved in the endeavor. To become a part of the Spanish Club's future events a student only needs to talk to Mrs. Stockman and let her know they're interested, and she'll contact you when there are meetings or fundraising opportunities. What do these fundraising opportunities look like? A few notable events

the Spanish Club organizes are the Junior High formal dance, the Spanish Night for Kids, members picking up and sorting cans from various community businesses, and other miscellaneous service projects community members ask Mrs. Stockman to help them with. The Spanish Club provides Spanish students with outlets to show what they've learned, and no matter how much they raise or if they go on the trips at all, they still know their efforts are going towards something they can feel good about. The Spanish club's contribution to the community can also be seen by through the presentations they do for the Methodist Church, informing them about different Spanish cultures, and they also organize, create, and sell ads for the Blue & White activities calendar for the high school. Señora would also like to extend her thanks to the community, "All of my students and myself, present and past, truly appreciate all the support throughout the years, businesses have always been generous and families have always been supportive. Without the Spanish club and the fundraisers we do, most of these kids wouldn't get the chance to come on these amazing trips."



LA MAESTRA DE ESPAÑOL: Señora Stockman, pictured above, heads up the MHS Spanish club.

Photo credit: Chase Talbert

Editorial: My first semester with the Blue and White staff

By Brayden Stockman
It's coming up to the end of my first semester as a writer on the Blue and White staff, and it's been one of the best experiences of my freshman year. Whether it be writing stories or simply having fun with the other three members of the staff, I wouldn't trade it for any other class. I joined the newspaper staff this year as an apprentice to the rest of the staff, who will all be graduating after this year. They took me under their wing and taught me the ways of the newspaper staff, and we got right to work creating the paper. For the first couple of weeks I was given my stories by the rest of the staff, and I would write my interview questions during class. Then, I would interview the subject of the story and write it outside of or during class. This helped me understand what the newspaper was about near the beginning of the year. However, as the semester progressed I got the opportunity to choose more of the stories that I wrote, which meant that I got more freedom in the class. It really helped me settle in with the other staff members, so that I wasn't just a 'new kid'. Speaking of the staff, they are one of the best parts of being on the newspaper staff. Although it's

important to everybody that we all get our stories done, we also like to have fun. As we write questions or our stories, we casually talk or joke in a way that takes a lot of the stress of the class off. The staff has also been very helpful, as they have each been part of the journalism staff previously. They have helped me understand what kinds of questions to ask during interviews or how a newspaper story is different than other kinds of writing. While the main portion of the class, the writing aspect, has been incredibly fun, it has also been a learning experience. One week, our editor Vance Bushong was absent, so the teacher Liz VanGorp, fellow writer Caroline, and I had to create the newspaper page with-

out him for the first time this year. It helped me understand how to set up the template of the page, and will help me immensely in the future. While the class has mostly been extremely fun, there are certain points where it can get relatively stressful, as we have to finish our stories in about a week, sometimes more or less. It can be hard to set up interviews at a good time before the deadline, so it is occasionally hard to complete stories on time. However, this is a challenge that I welcome, as it helps me grow academically. All in all, I am extremely thankful to Ms. VanGorp for giving me this opportunity as a freshman and introducing me to a class that I will definitely take until I graduate.

The Blue and White Staff



Calendar of Events

Thursday
V Wrestling @ Centerville - 5:30 pm

Friday
JV/V Basketball Quad @ North Mahaska - 6:00 pm

Saturday
JV Boys BB Tournament: Here - 9:00 am
V Wrestling @ North Cedar - 10:00 am

Monday
JH BB vs Sully, B-Here G-Away: 4:15 pm
JH Wrestling @ Eddyville - 4:15 pm
Tuesday
JV BB vs BGM: Here - 6:00 pm

Tuesday
V BB @ HLV - 6:00 pm
V Wrestling @ BGM - 6:00 pm

Wednesday
No Activities

Thursday
7-12 Music Concert - 7:15 pm