



# BLUE & WHITE

A Weekly Production from the MHS Journalism Class  
P.O. Box 580-Montezuma, IA 50171- www.montezuma.k12.ia.us

## The Blue and White Staff



Back(LTR): Logan Price, Vance Bushong, Jake Shaver, Kian McKeag, Kennedy Phillips, Tessa Snook, Ciara Hirsch, Jolene Lechtenberg  
Middle(LTR): Caroline Jennings, Emma Jennings, Hailey Anderson, Olivia Jones, Heaven Lorenz  
Front(LTR): Cassidy Watts, Anna Mallory, MacKenzie Talbert, Alyssa Carl, Tailor Snook, Lauren Slings



Students performing *The Music Man* on Friday, November 14.



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## A teacher's view on conferences

by Caroline Jennings  
When people think of parent/teacher conferences, they usually think of it from a student's perspective; the students have to come in for an hour or so and walk around the high school talking to teachers, miserable and exhausted, but what about the teachers? The teachers have to stay for an extra four hours after the school day has ended and the children have gone home on both a Tuesday and a Thursday of the same week in October, and then do the same thing again in March. Not only that, but they also have to get the grades submitted and round up assignments to show parents. While this might not seem like much, it can really take a toll on some people. When asked about his opinion on the parent/teacher conferences, Lucas Nikkel, an English teacher at Montezuma for two years now, is certain that "the hardest part (of the conferences) is the twelve-hour day."

Most teachers feel that parent-teacher conferences are important in today's society, Andy Thomas, a new history teacher this year, admitting, "I think it's one of the few times in the year that we have face-to-face interactions with the parents of students that we are educating." Others agree that the conferences are extraordinarily beneficial for both students and parents, although Roxanne Goudy, an English teacher for sixteen years, believes that conferences should be eliminated for children in the secondary level of school due to today's technology. She goes on to say that teachers should be involved with students and parents all throughout the year, not just one or two nights. She also says, "I think they are not as necessary with today's technology because we have access to most parents." While Goudy believes that emailing parents is much easier and more

beneficial, Luke Rohe disagrees. Another first-time teacher and one of the two new Science teachers, Rohe vocalizes that it is good to keep parents informed, and it is better to do it face-to-face at conferences than via email. Most of the high school teachers also have another firm belief: conferences should be scheduled like the elementary kids' are. For those who do not know, elementary conferences are scheduled at specific times for each individual student and usually last longer. As nice and organized as this would be, they know that it would be virtually impossible given the high number of children attending Montezuma High School. Either way, parent/teacher conferences are finally through... for now. Teachers can get a break from the hectic pandemonium that is conferences for the time being, although they will pop back up again in March of 2015.

## The Music Man: A retrospective feature

by Jacob Shaver  
This year for our biannual musical, as all of you know, was *The Music Man*. What many of you may not know is a lot of the history behind this Broadway play that has inspired two movies. Now the original play aired on December 19, 1957 and it had 1,357 performances with the original cast of Robert Preston, who later played Harold Hill again in the movie, David Burns, Barbara Cook, Pert Kelton, and other well-known Broadway actors of the era. The first movie was created in 1962 with a lot of the original Broadway cast. Robert Preston wasn't originally who the studio wanted as Harold Hill though. Frank Sinatra was originally cast to play the slick, smooth talking salesman but he declined and said that nobody could

do it as well as Robert Preston could so they cast Preston as Harold. Disney created the second movie later. This version featured Matthew Broderick, or "Ferris Bueler" as most of you would know him, was cast as Harold Hill. The film was revamped and shown to a younger audience. The show was said to be a rethinking of the 1962 film, updated to be reflect some early twenty-first century sensibilities. Though the movie still is about a con man coming to a small town trying to dupe them with unexpected results. Morton Da Costa directed the original cast for the film, and since the premiere performance on Broadway and film there have been two different revivals on the big stage. The first revival was shown in 1980 with Dick Van Dyke as Harold Hill

and had Meg Bussert as Marian Paroo. The show was quite short lived though and only lasted 21 performances with 8 previews. The rest of the show's cast was Iggie Wolfington, Carol Arthur, Marcia Brushingham, and others. The next stint on Broadway was a lot more successful than the 1980 revival. This show was on Broadway for 699 shows. In 2000 the play featured Craig Bierko, Rebecca Luker, Clyde Alves, and many others. The woman to direct this more successful revival was Susan Stroman who also choreographed the production. The show has a long and rich history and the cast of the Montezuma Theatre version would like to thank all who made this year's musical such a success and thank all who came to see it.

## A Student's View of Conferences

by Emma Jennings  
By the end of the quarter, student's rush to get grades up, papers turned in, and homework done. The reasoning for this is because of three simple words: Parent/Teacher Conferences. Conferences can be a stressful thing for some students, and for others it can be pretty simple. For the Hooven brothers, Tyler and JT Hooven, they are not that nervous for conferences. Both said that they feel prepared because they already know their grades and how they are doing. When asked about what goes through his head at conferences, JT remarks, "Hooray! I made it through another quarter. It would be great though if I didn't have to go because I don't need to hear what my teachers say about me." Tyler talked about how

he wishes he could change the fact that conferences are in the gym. Casey Peiffer, a freshman at Montezuma, is another student who doesn't feel as nervous about parent/teacher conferences. "I believe that they are essential for the parent, teacher, and student relation," Peiffer says during the interview. However, she is nervous about grades because her parents expect the best from her and want her to try her hardest in school. "It should be more for the student and teacher instead of the parent." Peiffer then explains how kids need to be raised to be independent, so they do not need their parent there with them at conferences. Some parents may not attend parent/teacher conferences. River Webb, a sophomore, tends to

go to conferences alone. The reason is because he feels that conferences are more important for the student not the parent. "After all your parents are not the ones going to school," Webb uttered. How do conferences benefit the students? Webb says that it benefits them because it allows students to know how they are doing in school, and it also allows even more communication between student and teacher. River wouldn't change anything about the way parent/teacher conferences are conducted. He thinks they are fine the way they are. Next time Monte has parent/teacher conferences, these four students will be prepared just like others will be to hear what's going on inside the teacher's classrooms.

## A Trip to the Windy City

by Kennedy Phillips  
It's a Montezuma Spanish 2 tradition that students and chaperones love so much they keep on coming back. The three day trip to the beautiful Windy City includes adventures such as stopping in Pilsen, visiting the Sears and Willis Tower, going to Shedd Aquarium, eating authentic foods from Mexico and Spain and so much more. Going to Chicago becomes an option once you make it through the first year of Spanish. More often than not, students continue to keep going back. Even some chaperones go more than once. Even though this is an educational trip, the students who go have free time where they are given an opportunity to experience and learn from the city. For some teenagers, travelling is new to them and this is a rare chance to leave Iowa.

Brittany Bender, a senior in Spanish, has been to Chicago four times in a row. When asked about going to the city she responded, "My favorite part is experiencing the city life with the students that go, while learning about different cultures." During this trip students learn and benefit in a number of ways. Bender now enjoys travelling across the country and even says it's her "favorite thing to do." She also believes she has benefitted from going to this city so many times. "It gives a new perspective on what city life is like, and how diverse things are." While in Chicago, all the first-timers (primarily Sophomores) are required to take notes at museums and restaurants. When they get back they test over the information they learned about in the city. Bender says, "the ones that were open to experiencing new things enjoyed it." What makes this trip

so much fun? Maybe it's learning about cultures or just "Getting a glimpse of city life while hanging out with classmates and Mrs. Stockman. Whether we're in the hotel or viewing the city, there is never a dull moment." Some of the seniors, like Brittany Bender, would go back to Chicago as a chaperone for this trip if they were given the chance. In her opinion, "I think this year was more fun than last year due to the bigger group that we had. I was also more aware of what was going on, so I was able to relax and enjoy it more." Being in Spanish is certainly an experience you won't get in any other class. Not only is the option to go to Chicago present, but you can also go to Spain or Costa Rica. Some students even raise enough money to do all three.

## Lunch Menus and Calendar of Events

Thursday, November 20	Friday, November 21	Monday, November 24	Tuesday, November 18	Wednesday, November 25	Thursday, November 26
Spaghetti/meat sauce or Tenderloin on bun	Pasta bake or Chicken Sandwich	Hot Dog or Hamburger on a bun	Ham or Chicken Nuggets	Turkey	No School
Bosco Stick	Bread Stick	Ranch Potato Wedges	Mashed Sweet Potatoes	Mashed Potatoes	Happy Thanksgiving!
Romaine Salad	Romaine Lettuce	Sliced Tomatoes	Dinner Roll	Gravy	
Carrots & Celery	Fire & Ice Salad	Watermelon	Butter	Dinner Roll	
Peaches	Banana	Mandarin Oranges	Green Beans	Cookie Bars	
Banana	Pineapple		Peaches		
Wrestling: JH Invitational at 4:15pm @ English Valley	6:00pm- JV / V Girls BB @ Albia	Wrestling JH Invitational @ Tri-County	Grapes	No activities	
	11/22/14- 9:00am BB @ Home		2:30pm-Early Dismissal		
			4:15pm- Wrestling JH		
			6:00pm- BB Varsity @ Home		