



Blue & White

A Weekly Production from the MHS Journalism Class

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

“Creativity is intelligence having fun.” -Albert Einstein

A feature on students’ art in Montezuma.

By Chase Talbert

For the last two decades, Mr. Brian Nolton has been leading Montezuma’s art program, which is funny considering this wasn’t something he thought he would enjoy at first. The entire reason he did decide to teach it, though, was because he loves art.

Thankfully, Mr. Nolton has only improved his skills at art since his high school days. Even though the idea didn’t appeal to him at first, but he knew he wanted to do something involving art the more he thought about it, though, the more he came to like the prospect of teaching a new generation of budding artists.

Mr. Nolton’s favorite part about teaching art is the moment when a student does something really good with their piece and comes to the realization that they can do this well, and they’re just so happy and proud of their work.

His favorite category of art is 3D, making clay sculptures, building the set pieces for the plays and

musicals, really anything that involves working with your hands and building.

The annual SICL conference art show is coming up pretty shortly, the location and date, however, have yet to be announced as of this publication. To participate in the art show, one only needs to make a piece of art, ask Mr. Nolton if they can submit their art, and after he clears your piece, you’re off. Your art is then judged by a random, qualified, judge, and he chooses one art piece from each category and grade. A few categories would be drawing, painting, digital media, etc. then one piece from each grade, 9-12, is chosen and the winners go on to the higher levels of competition.

Personally, Mr. Nolton enjoys the conference art show, because it’s a good opportunity for the students to put their art out there and get some recognition for all the effort they have put in. About four years ago the conference art show went from being solely in Belle Plaine to moving around the SICL

to different schools, and Mr. Nolton has enjoyed this, thinking it was a welcome change to the show.

The conference art show is an opportunity for students to show their art, which means that it could help jumpstart them to a future career in art. Winners of the conference art show or not, Mr. Nolton believes that some of his students could even have a professional career in art, if they chose to do so.

Art is a staple class in elementary and an elective in high school, and regardless if you choose to take it in high school, there is a reason Mr. Nolton believes in the importance of art in a child’s education and life.

“The arts bring out creativity, which you might not get in other courses, which are black and white. Art allows you to experiment more and problem solve, just in everyday life, that’s why it’s important to have art be a part of a child’s education. Creativity is a lifelong endeavor.”



ABOVE: Senior Stevie Reed’s colorful elephants have been a staple of Montezuma art for four years. This 3D piece is one of many Reed has made in her high school career.

BELOW: Sophomore Mariah Seaton shows off her pencil drawing of a dog behind a fence. Seaton made the piece during Mr. Nolton’s drawing class.

Photo credits: Chase Talbert



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The Blue & White is now online.

Go to www.montezuma-schools.org/BlueWhite.aspx to see our previous issues!

Should we have had snow days? Students think so

By Brayden Stockman

Recently at Montezuma Community Schools, there have been multiple late starts due to inclement weather, but no cancellations. Many students in the high school have been upset with this decision, as other schools in the surrounding area have cancelled school on the days that Montezuma has simply had late starts.

Because of this, thirty students were randomly picked from five classrooms in the high school, and answered a survey about whether they believed there should have been a snow day in the last two weeks, and their reason behind their decision.

Of the thirty students surveyed, 28 responded that they believed there should have been a snow day while two others believed that late starts were enough.

Many of the people concerned with the lack

of cancellations were younger students who had less experience with driving. One sophomore who asked not to be named stated, “If it is below -10° we shouldn’t have to risk driving. Freshmen and sophomores are inexperienced drivers and we could crash.”

Many older students also had concerns for other reason, mainly the harsh weather. Senior Kian McK-eag stated, “On Thursday last week, we had a lot of snow and ice, and freezing rain. We have many snow days to use before we have to make up, so we might as well use them and keep our students and staff safe.”

However, sophomore Clay Krousie had a different approach to the lack of cancellations, stating, “Unless it is physically impossible, we should have school. We aren’t a bunch of wussies, even though it would be nice

to take a lazy day. We just need to power through this school year and get it over and done with.”

Because of the students’ annoyance with the late starts, superintendent Dave Hoeger was asked about his decision for delays.

He stated, “I communicate with other area superintendents to gather as much weather data as possible and to see what decisions they are making. The reason we delay schools due to cold weather is to allow us to pick up students in the daylight who have to wait outside. Other students drive to school for early morning activities and when it is so cold we would rather them drive in the daylight so if there is an accident someone is not sitting in the dark is the bitter cold. A delay also gives schools a chance to get our busses warmed up before we pick up students.”

District Large Group Speech held at Montezuma

By Carrie Jennings

Saturday, January 20th marked the official beginning of the 2018 Speech and Drama season. Montezuma students began practicing their speech acts in November and December of last year, and all of their hard work has really paid off.

Out of 14 Monte speech groups, 8 are continuing on to the State level. State Large Group Speech and Drama will be held at Linn-Mar High School in Marion, Iowa on February 3rd.

All of the speech participants were especially eager this year as the Districts level competition on Saturday was held here at Montezuma High School.

This was especially exciting because the money raised from the competition will be enough to fuel the Fine Arts Boosters program for, potentially, years.

Many Montezuma speech participants enjoyed getting to perform their acts at their own school.

Mariah Seaton, sophomore, very much enjoyed that districts was at Montezuma this year. “I liked being able to perform on our own turf,” she says. Seaton performed in

Readers’ Theater, which is one of the groups that is going on to state. She has been participating in Speech and Drama for two years now, and last year she did Freshman Choral Reading, Prose, and Storytelling. She states that she plans on continuing her speech career in the future.

She says that she enjoys being able to meet new people, but she needs to continue to improve on talking to and in front of people.

Koby Shoemaker, junior, states that he also wants to improve on performing in front of people. At the same time, though, he states that “standing in front of a group of people is really exhilarating for me.”

This is Shoemaker’s third year participating in Speech. He has done Improv every year in the past, and this was his first year participating in Musical Theater.

“I’m better at doing a character now,” Shoemaker remarks on his improvements since freshman year, “and stepping outside [my] boundaries by not just doing Improv.”

Monte Speech students are now spending these next two weeks practicing, revising, and perfecting their acts and skills for State competition at Linn-Mar High School in Marion, Iowa on February 3rd. Be sure to go and cheer everyone on!

The Blue and White Staff



Calendar of Events

Thursday
JH Boys BB vs Osky Christian: Here - 4:15 pm

Friday
V BB vs North Mahaska: Here - 6:00 pm

Saturday
Conference Wrestling Meet: Here - 10:00 am

Monday
JH BB vs EBF - B: Here, G: Away: 4:15 pm

9th/JV Girls BB vs Grinnell: Here - 6:00 pm
JV/V Boys BB @ Baxter - 6:00 pm

Tuesday
JH Girls BB vs Baxter: Here - 4:15 pm

JH Boys BB @ Iowa Valley - 4:30 pm
JV/V BB Quad vs HLV: Here - 4:30 pm

Wednesday
No Activities

Thursday
JV/V BB Quad vs North Tama: Here - 4:30 pm