



February 5, 2015

THE GROWLER

Odessa High School, Odessa, Missouri



Robert Brinkley, superintendent, talks to Allan Twilligear's third hour meteorology class about how school cancellations are decided.

When weather outside is frightful, superintendent makes call on snow

By Cassadee Griffith & Breanna Ray

Students' alarm clocks rang early in the morning. They had a negative wind chill, but the roads were clear. Would there be school?

Making an inclement weather cancellation is not a decision that the superintendent takes lightly as the decision impacts all student, parents and many others.

Robert Brinkley, Odessa R-7 superintendent, spoke on January 22 to Allan Twilligear's meteorology class about how school cancellations are decided. Brinkley said that the safety of the students and staff is always on his mind.

"I worry not only about the busses, but about the teachers, staff and students who drive as well," said Brinkley.

School cancellation decisions begin with studying the weather forecast, but many other factors play into the decision because forecasts don't always materialize

as expected. The Pleasant Hill Weather Station and other area superintendents are also utilized as information sources. There is no specific formula or policy to determine inclement weather days as this is left up to the superintendent's discretion.

If the cancellation decision is not made the night before, school personnel drive the roads in the early morning hours to check road conditions. Brinkley drives south to west; Peter Rorvig, assistant superintendent, drives south to east; and Bobby Sowerwine, Apple Bus Company Terminal Manager, drives north.

Brinkley noted the school district prefers to make the decision the night before but sometimes that is not possible. If making the call in the morning, they try to announce the decision by 6 a.m.

"At times, it can be one of the most difficult decisions that can be made," said Superintendent Brinkley.

The Odessa R-7 Cold Weather Policy is to look at the combination

of temperature and wind chill. "We can deal with cold weather and slushy roads, but not together," said Brinkley.

"On a day that we have school and there is snow on the ground, maintenance comes in at 4 a.m. or sometimes even in the middle of the night. They have to get lots and sidewalks clean before school. Sometimes they even go back during the school day to do it again. So many things go on behind the scenes," said Rorvig.

"When it is really cold, the busses pick up students directly at their house instead of common bus stops because it is too cold for the kids to wait outside," said Angela Boutross, junior.

The district calendar sets aside days for inclement weather make-up days. Days can be taken off of break time or added to the end of the school year as directed by that year's calendar. The calendar is developed by a committee and voted on by teachers before being adopted.

Odessa Art Department raises money for new computers

By Christina Hull

OHS Art Department has a lofty fundraising goal ahead of them, with a \$25,000 goal and only \$100 donated so far. The money will go to replace the seven-year-old computers and get new systems for the Graphic Design class.

"We also need to replace the poster printer, Gigantor. He's a cranky old man," said Andrea Birdsong, Art teacher.

The Art Department is also participating in a contest through Van's Shoes where students design Van's Shoes and send them in to be judged. The winning school receives \$50,000 for their Art Department. The Art Department will also soon begin a Custom Ink fundraiser. The Odessa community page, Odessa MO community group, on Facebook will soon be updated with the fundraising information.

"We really need these computers," said Graphic Design student, Sean Herrington, a senior at Odessa High School. The current software works well, but the updated computers would be more compatible with graphic design.

According to Birdsong, the new materials will double production time allowing students to complete more projects a year giving them more experience for future jobs or college opportunities.

"It's like the difference between Prismacolor and Crayola. Crayola will get the job done, but Prismacolor will do it better every time," said Birdsong regarding art supplies.

Those who wish to donate to this cause can go online to www.gofundme.com/GraphicDesign911 or contact Andrea Birdsong at OHS.



Peter Rorvig, assistant superintendent, talks to students about school cancellations.

Editorial: Resolutions for students

As 2015 begins and all of those New Year's resolutions are made, The Growler staff would like to offer you a few of our ideas for New Year's resolutions.

The first resolution is to realize grades actually do matter.

Yes, things we do in school do not appear to have an impact on our future; but the reality is that the stuff we do will have a significant impact on our future. The grades you get in high school can determine if you get accepted into college or the military.

This year, try to turn in all of our assignments.

Take all extra credit opportunities. Teachers don't offer those for their benefit. They spend hours making the extra credit papers to help your grade.

Study before your tests. Once again, teachers don't make study guides for their own benefit. They do this to

help you do better on your test and to help you improve your grade.

A great way to get good grades is to actually come to school. If you don't come to school, you miss out on so much. You get behind and your grade begins to fall lower and lower.

Be friendlier towards others in general. Not just your classmates, but also the staff and administrators. Just saying hello to someone can make their day. Don't stay in your own little clique. Mingle around, make some new friends, hang out with some new people. The school would be so much better if we all had more respect for our classmates.

Another resolution is to just be more considerate of others, yourself and your school. Students need to take pride in our school. When we leave the school looking like a dumpster it shows we

don't have very much respect for what our administration provides for us.

Walk on the right side of the hallway. The hallway is like a road. You drive on the right side, if you cross over the center line, you wreck. If you walk on the left side of the hallway you will be run over by students trying to get to class.

One way to show consideration for yourself is to improve your overall hygiene. Good hygiene will impact your life. If you go into a job interview and your hygiene is lacking, the employer is less likely to hire you. Employers don't want someone who has poor hygiene to represent their company.

All of these resolutions may seem pointless now, but they will build character and help you to go farther in life.

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Chad Meyer, OHS FCA sponsor and business teacher, mixes pancake batter. FCA members served breakfast to the entire student body December 19 before Christmas break.



OHS DECA members attended a DECA Innovations and Entrepreneurship Conference in Washington, D.C. in November. Front Row: Jessica Wade, DECA advisor, Cassadee Griffith, Mckenzie Gawf, Jessica Callahan, Michelle Morris, Erica Fieth and Mason Bake. Back Row: Abby Harrison, Brooke Poulignot, Makenna Muenstermann, Maddie Estes, Kaydon Iman, Colby Dowell, Dawson Dowell, Kayla Reifel, Toby French, Savanna Middleton, Carson Smith and Kris Reifel, parent.

OHS DECA visits Washington DC

By Maddie Estes

Seventeen members of OHS DECA attended DECA Innovations and Entrepreneurship Conference in Washington, D.C., November 21 through 25.

Jessica Wade, DECA advisor and OHS marketing teacher, and senior members looked over all the conferences that DECA had to offer this year and decided to attend Washington D.C.

The 17 students who attended the conference were able to visit with DECA members from across the nation and attend a seminar with Jason Lucash, who appeared on season two of the television show, *Shark Tank*.

DECA members learned numerous business and selling techniques throughout the conference.

"We learned about how to make your own business and about aspects that go into Entrepreneurship. The most exciting part, though, was

learning about the historical vicinity of Washington, D.C.," said Makenna Muenstermann, OHS DECA president.

After the conference, the DECA students and adult sponsors stayed to explore D.C. They visited The Museum of American History, The Air and Space Museum, witnessed the changing of the guard at the Arlington National Cemetery, took a night tour of the monuments, toured the Capital, saw the White House, visited the Holocaust Museum, visited Mt. Vernon and watched *A Christmas Carol* at Ford's Theater.

"The students definitely learned how to get around in a big city," said Wade.

DECA members are now preparing for internationals in Orlando, Florida, which will be held April 24 through 29. State qualifiers will be attending internationals based on their performance at state which is coming up March 15 through 17 at Lake of the Ozarks, Lodge of Four Seasons.

Kindergartners pilot program

By **Abra Raybourn**

Students army crawl across the floor, bounce and roll balls, stretch, hula hoop and practice balance on a balance beam; however, as this might seem like chaos, they are actually working on body control in a program called Function Junction.

Function Junction, a “ready bodies motor lab” provided by McQuerry’s occupational and physical therapy staff, is a program which promotes body control, core strength, crossing the midline and balance.

Kindergartners in Sammi Burroughs’ class of 24 students attend on Mondays and Thursdays from 9:30 to 10 a.m.

“We are the pilot class. As we participate this year, we are collecting data and learning what benefits it has to see if we want to incorporate Function Junction into other classes,” said Burroughs.

Function Junction also teaches coordination, locomotion, balance and tactile skills through stretches, tracing lines, tossing a ball and other activities. Students begin with stretches to warm up then complete nine rotations that include balance beam, bear crawl,

box scotch, army crawl as well as other activities. Students spend one to two minutes per station until the time is up.

Burroughs said, “I have noticed an increased number of green days on days we have Function Junction. I have also noticed better posture and the ability to sit in a chair for longer periods on days we have Function Junction.”

Green day is based on a behavior program adapted by McQuerry and means that students have followed directions without many reminders for the day.

“The program does not take time away from the students’ education because they are reviewing counting, letters and shapes during their stations,” noted Burroughs.

“The room is controlled chaos,” said Kim Fletcher, assistant OT contracted by the school district. Michelle Davis, Kim Moore and Fletcher, OT/PT staff members, are in charge of the program. Fletcher and Moore attended a conference on Function Junction and brought it back to McQuerry. Fletcher said that she has seen improvement in all the children she works with.



Drew Corder, kindergartener, hula hoops during Function Junction, a program which promotes body control. Faith Harvey, Lucas Bellis and Kendyll Howell participate in sensory buddy ball roll. In the background, Johnathon Ostermeyer and Harley Morrison do a line trace crossing the midline activity. Carson Bromley and Lazett Aviles receive instructions on a dribbling a ball activity from Kim Moore, OT/PT staff member.

Dawg Designs business benefits students

By **William Johnson**

Dawg Designs is a nonprofit business run by the Practical Living class in the Odessa R-7 School District where students make a variety of items to sell.

The business is run out of a kiosk in the classroom and is designed to teach a multitude of skills including fine motor skills (threading the beads), math skills (handling the

money), patterning (beads), customer service skills and other aspects of running a business.

Originally the business focused on making lanyards mostly purchased by teachers, but it has since grown into a full business including ornaments, necklaces, earrings, key chains and assorted bracelets.

The items are sold seasonally in the school offices and at

various home sporting events throughout the year. All profits are invested back into the business. Dawg Designs even maintains salaries for the students based on time sheets, so they learn about income.

“In short, these students produce quality products that prepare them for the real world. This is a wonderful teaching/learning opportunity,” said Jennifer Johnson, Special Educator, OMS.

FFA Greenhands attend motivational conference

By **Savanna Middleton**

FFA Greenhands, first year FFA members, traveled on January 5 to the University of Central Missouri to attend the annual Greenhand Motivational Conferences. State officers conducted the 18 conferences which were held across the state within a four day period. MFA Incorporated helped sponsor the event.

Twenty OHS Ag Science I and II students attended and met with state officers to learn about new opportunities. First year members were exposed to numerous career possibilities.

“New members came together to meet with state officers and

learn about the opportunities and activities that are offered in FFA. They learned about speaking contests, SAE projects, contest teams, leadership and career development events,” said Abby Bertz, sophomore, FFA vice president.

“This is our busiest time of the year,” Bill Angel, FFA sponsor, said. “We are getting ready for contest season and FFA week.”

FFA week, which is a spirit week, is the last week of February and will include a Barnwarming dance, ski trip, bowling, ice-skating and attending the Kansas City Western Farm Show.



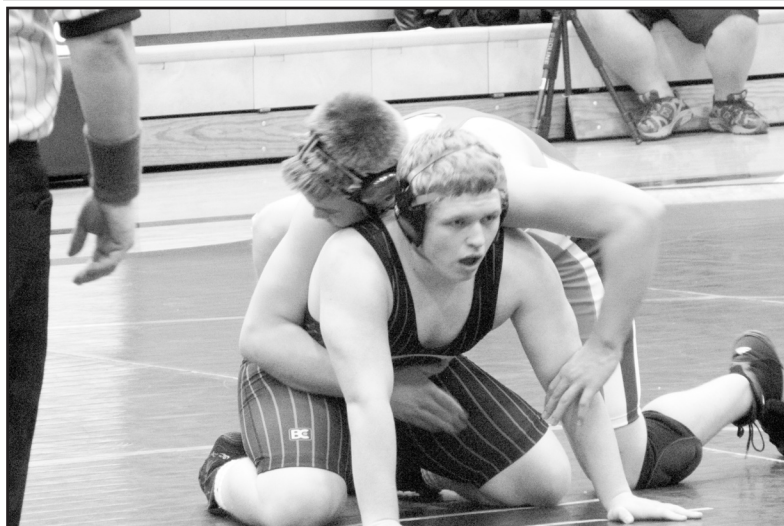
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Trey Fulbright, freshman, prepares for his next attempt against Oak Grove.

OHS JV Wrestlers display quality and depth

By Garrett Peek

OHS JV wrestling team is currently 8-1 only falling to Cameron, who is currently the number one team in the state. The varsity team, with the support of JV, earned the MRVC title this year.

Kirk Gross, head coach and OHS health teacher, had 28 wrestlers when he first started coaching at OHS five years ago. Currently, he has a team of 30 wrestlers, and he feels that the quality and depth of the team is much stronger than in previous years.

"You are only as strong as your weakest link," Gross says repeatedly to his wrestlers. He feels that the Odessa JV wrestlers are truly varsity-quality wrestlers.

"On any other team they could be varsity wrestlers but the Odessa team is chalked full

of talent," said Gross.

The constant pushing from the JV team to make varsity better is what Gross considers "iron sharpening iron."

"There is always a JV wrestler wrestling off the varsity, keeping them on their toes," said Gross.

With a number of wrestlers remaining undefeated so far this year, they are continuing to try to improve and stay strong in each practice. They will be attending summer and off-season wrestling activities. Gross believes this is helping to build the depth of the team. "This JV team shows promise for the upcoming seasons," said Gross.

Assistant coaches are Adam West, OHS history teacher, and Jason Kusick, Intensive Services Program teacher.

JV girls adjust to refereeing changes

By Sydney Smith

OHS JV girls' basketball team is currently 6-1, under the direction of Kelsey Smith, OHS Spanish teacher.

Even though their only loss is to Adrian, Smith said that despite the win, Clinton was the toughest team that they have played because Odessa got into foul trouble.

"We played four against five for three minutes and still won. The refereeing has tightened up, and we were not ready for the change," said Smith.

The ten JV players practice against the varsity. "If we practice against varsity and win, then we can beat anyone," said Smith.

According to Smith, her most

motivational player is Morgan Kleoppel, sophomore, because she's always up and ready. Smith also noted that Corryn Steinbeck, freshman, is the most improved player and was moved up from C team to JV.

Kinly Grubb, freshman, said, "Our greatest strengths are our defense and our perseverance."

The girls recently participated in a popcorn fundraiser, and in March, they will be hosting their annual three on three basketball tournament.

Team members are: Aubrey Beard, Laura Empson, Grubb, Kloe Hilbrenner, Kleoppel, Brittany Leap, Emma Shutt, Emma Smith, Steinbeck and Melisa Williams.



Kloe Hilbrenner, freshman, prepares to pass during a JV game against the Wellington Tigers

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Odessa R-7 Basketball Records

OHS JV Boys

1-7

OHS C-Team Boys

2-8

OHS C-Team Girls

9-2

Middle School Girls A

1-10

Middle School Girls B

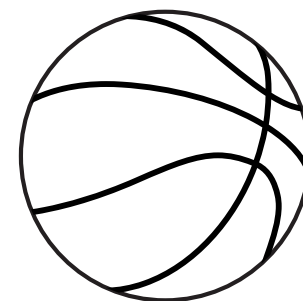
0-9

Middle School Boys A

9-2

Middle School Boys B

1-7



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