



The Growler

Thursday, February 13, 2013

OMS Girls Basketball Team Wins Tournaments

By Emily Reynolds

OMS girls basketball teams, coached by Matthew Bridges and Rachel Ritter, are having winning seasons with several games to go.

A team has a record of 11-1, and the B team is 11-1. Bridges teaches OMS art, and Ritter teaches OMS P.E.

January 10 and 11 the A team took home the first place trophy at the Holden Tournament, winning against Holden and Pleasant Hill. Bridges said that the A team's toughest opponent was Holden, while the B team's toughest opponent was Oak Grove.

January 17 and 18 the B team took first place at the home tournament with

wins against Grain Valley and Pleasant Hill.

Bridges said that the girls are full of speed and are an athletic group. Experience is also an advantage for the A team because almost every girl had previous experience playing together. The teams' main focus this year was improving team play and getting the girls ready for high school play.

Although the girls have a lot of strengths, they are working to improve their communication. "They're not used to playing man defense. With man defense, you have to communicate," said Bridges.

A team leaders are Kloe Hilbrenner, Kinly Grubb and Laura Empson. Bridges said

that they do a good job of motivating the team. B team leaders are Jessica Callahan and Emma Smith.

Bridges said, "Overall, everyone has improved, but we are only halfway through the season." The girls' last game was on January 28.

Team members are Brooke Barker, Aubrey Beard, Rylan Buxton, Callahan, Bethany Clark, Destiny D'obron, Empson, Rebecca Engen, Grubb, Alexa Gust, Esmeralda Hernandez, Hilbrenner, Kaydon Iman, Miranda Norman, Camryn Ramsey, Smith, Corryn Steinbeck and Emily Wilder. Managers are Summer Collier, Brylee Duncan, Madi Ford and Maddie Murry.

OHS JV Boys BB Team is 4-3

By Hannah Gurney

OHS JV boys basketball team is 4-3 under the direction of Ryan Robinson, OHS history teacher. This is Robinson's third year of coaching the team.

"The team has improved defensively," said Robinson. "They have also improved on executing the offense and playing with a lot of energy." Robinson noted that one of the team's main strengths is that they play hard.

The team's toughest opponent

so far this season was St. Joe Benton. "They got the ball down the court quickly and that allowed them to shoot the ball well," said Robinson.

Robinson said that his outlook for the rest of the season is good. Robinson said that he believes the team will continue to improve and be competitive.

Kobe Hardin, sophomore, said, "Overall as a team we have improved our friendship and chemistry."

Young Authors Honored At UCM

By Zach Smith

Upper Elementary students are preparing to attend the Young Authors Conference in April at UCM in Warrensburg. This school year, 12 third, fourth and fifth graders at Upper Elementary were chosen to attend the Young Authors Conference out of approximately 40 submissions.

Jennifer Smith, fourth grade teacher, said that published local and regional authors are contacted each year to serve as guest speakers at the conference. Approximately 500 students and guests are expected to attend.

Young Authors was started to improve the quality of children's writing and to recognize young authors. Schools from Odessa, Warrensburg and the surrounding area work with the university to help put on the event. Each participating school

district sends a host or hostess who partners with an author.

Smith is Odessa's hostess and has been representing Odessa at Young Authors for approximately 15 years.

"When kids are allowed the freedom to be creative, it is amazing that they have such talent when allowed to show it," Smith said.

Smith said that there were many memorable stories over the years including a poem that was about a student's grandfather who had passed away. Sloane Poindexter and Olivia Munsterman, fifth graders, were also mentioned as being stand out writers. Both Poindexter and Munsterman have been Young Author winners in previous years.

"Both Olivia's and Sloane's writings are wonderful," said Smith.



Kobe Hardin, sophomore JV player, warms up before a home game.



2013-14 Young Authors Winner, Front Row: Emma Casebeer and Jared Kite. Second Row: Emilie Forrest, Cheyenne Beal, Aaliyah Logan, Taelor Horne, Taylor Butkovich-Manning, Olivia Munsterman and Sloane Poindexter. Back Row: Weston Dyer, Mikiyah Lutman and Faith Drenon.

OMS Wrestlers Learn Basic Techniques

By **Aubrey Banhart**

OMS wrestling team has numerous first year wrestlers this season. According to Cory LaBoube, coach, even though most of the boys are newcomers, they have improved and are learning that confidence and basic techniques are great areas to be strong in if you want to succeed in wrestling.

OMS wrestlers are coached by LaBoube, seventh grade social studies teacher, and Benny Palmer, assistant coach and OMS At-Risk teacher. LaBoube and Palmer have

both coached the team for the last four years.

According to LaBoube, "The boys are hard workers, coachable and always willing to try." LaBoube noted that lack of experience is the team's main weakness.

Vincent Monarca, second year wrestler, focuses on one of his favorite quotes while wrestling. "Whenever you want to succeed as bad as you want to breathe, then you'll succeed," said Monarca.

Max Bake said, "I like wrestling over basketball because you

don't have to rely on anybody, and you can get better as a person."

OMS wrestlers are: Bake, Tyler Barney, Jonas Bennett, Michael Broshears, Dylan Curtin, Justin Danner, Peyton Davis, Clint Donovan, Issac French, Lane Fisher, Hunter Garrison, Spencer Healey, Gage Jensen, Colten Johnston, Nathan Kaler, Johnathan Kirchhoff, Monarca, David Peterson, Jakob Smith, Brandon Spiers, Cooper Stiles, Joe Tinsley, Jacob Todd, Wesley Tolbert and Jaden Worthington.

Seniors Prepare for the Future

By **Angela Boutross**

Seniors are busy preparing for graduation and making decision now that will shape their lives. OHS counselors, Mary Williams and Ashley Ray, help guide students and direct them to deadlines listed in the daily bulletin.

Seniors working on filling out local scholarships are reminded that many deadlines are coming up in March and April, along with college applications which need to be finished as soon as possible.

To help prepare students and their families for college, a financial aid meeting was recently held on January 22 to provide more information

about how to finance and pay for college.

Parents and seniors are also invited to bring in their 2013 tax paperwork for a FAFSA Frenzy from 2 to 4 p.m. on February 23 in the OHS library. This meeting will allow parents and students to get any help needed to complete their FASFA paperwork. This paperwork is required for all students attending college and determines financial aid.

Finally, students have been working to prepare their senior projects which will be presented April 24. Other important dates are Senior Awards night on May 6 and Graduation on May 8.

C Team Looks For Win

By **Hannah Williams**

OHS boys' C Team basketball players hope to gain a win under the direction of Jesse Stewart, coach and OHS P. E. teacher.

The team is currently 0-8, and according to Stewart, the team needs to work on becoming more consistent. He also said that he knows the team will continue to improve and work hard.

Stewart was hired at OHS for the 2013-14 school year, so this is his first year of coaching the team; however, he is in his seventh year of coaching basketball for both boys and girls teams. Stewart was an assistant football coach at OHS. this year Stewart is in his

eleventh year of teaching, and is certified in health and special education as well.

Isaiah Asher, freshman, notices the players have improved on confidence on the court and on fundamentals.

"We can shoot outside, but we lack height. We don't have a lot of players, but the whole team is excited and has a good outlook on the rest of the season," said Asher.

With only seven players, Asher says that he has enjoyed being a leader for the team.

Stewart said, "I enjoy being with the kids and watching them grow as a team."

100th Day of School

By **Marley Shackles**

McQuerry students celebrated the 100th day of school on January 24. Students and teachers participated in fun activities to commemorate the day. Activities included: dressing up like you're 100 years old, counting exercises to 100, arts and crafts having to do with the number 100, and bringing 100 of something to school.

Laura Kelley, first grade teacher, helped organize the activities. Some of the crafts the

students made were a 100 piece Fruit Loop necklace, a hat with a big 100 on it, and a picture of what they thought they would look like when they were 100. Kelley said that the students enjoyed all the activities. "Many thanks to all the teachers that helped," said Kelley.

The teachers enjoyed dressing up like they were 100 years old and having the kids not recognize them. "It's funny to walk down the hallway and see the kids stop to get a really good look at you," said Kelley.



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Around R-7 Schools

JV Girls Team Led By Hall and Walsh

By Haley Dye

JV girls basketball team is 5-3 under the direction of Kelsey Smith, OHS Spanish teacher. Smith was an assistant last year, but she has switched roles and is head coach this year. Bud Nelson, OHS ISS teacher, is an assistant coach.

Maddy Hall and Annie Walsh, juniors, are the team's captains. They both enjoy playing basketball and being on a team with girls who are close. Hall and Walsh both average six points per game.

According to Smith, the team's strengths are playing

well together as a team, having fun, being positive, and trying hard at all times.

"As a team, we're good at staying together and picking each other up," said Walsh.

According to Smith, the team's weaknesses are turning the ball over, a low free throw percentage and being too hard on themselves. Their strongest opponents this year have been Grain Valley and Pleasant Hill.

"We have a lot of fun, and we try hard at all times. It's a growing process," said Smith.

OHS JV Wrestlers Gain Experience

By Aubrey Banhart, Hannah Gurney & Emily Reynolds

OHS JV wrestling team improves their technique and conditioning every day, according to Adam West, coach and OHS history teacher.

West said that the team has an aggressive attitude and a lot of try even though they are not very experienced. He said that the future looks bright for the wrestlers for the rest of the season and that many will probably wrestle varsity

next year.

"I've improved on my conditioning and technique and on having the drive to go out and win," said Tommy Hardin.

The boys' toughest opponent so far this season, according to West, was Pleasant Hill. "The timing was tough for the boys because the matches came just after Christmas break, so the team had not had very much time on the mat," said West.

JV wrestlers are: David Brown, Brett Fleener, Ricky Gallegos, Kurtis Garrison, Ivan

Hernandez, Caleb Hopkins, Alan Johnson, Armand Kenepaske, Luke Klotz, Zac Klotz, Garrett Peek, Charles Ritchie, Mason Smith, Colin West, Dempsey Wood and Leighthon Yancey, freshmen; Matthew Boyd, Champ Donpalao, Garrett Fiegenbaum, Trent Llewellyn and Dylan Smith, sophomores; and Hardin, junior.

JV coaches are: West; Jason Kusick, OHS Intensive Services Program Instructor; and Dan Schreimann.



Maddy Hall and Annie Walsh, juniors, are captains for the JV girls' basketball team.

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McQuerry Teachers Offer Gift of Experience to Students

By Alison Brown

Seven educators at McQuerry Elementary offer students 173 years worth of combined experience in the building.

Carrie Moore, Lynnette White, Wendy Courtway, Renee Winfrey, Laura Kelley, Pam Smith and Larry Hol, have all worked at McQuerry for at least 20 years.

Moore, first grade teacher, has worked at McQuerry for 32 years. Every day is different, according to Moore, and what she loves about McQuerry is the

"little people with big minds."

White, Literacy Interventionist has taught for 26 years in the building. She likes seeing children reach the "a-ha" moment and feels a sense of satisfaction when the children find their own way of learning. White enjoys the people she works with and plans to retire in a few years.

Courtway, Literacy Interventionist, has worked at McQuerry for 22 years. She loves the students she works with. "They're the best

reason to come to school," said Courtway.

Winfrey, counselor, has worked at McQuerry for a total of 22 years. Her favorite part about teaching is working with children and getting to know them. Winfrey is not considering retirement yet. She said, "I like routine."

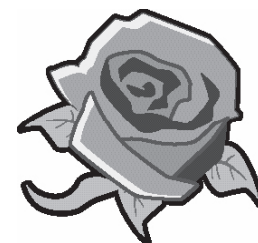
Kelley, first grade teacher, has taught at McQuerry for 22 years. She appreciates watching the children learn and improve. "It's very rewarding," said Kelley. According to Kelley, working at

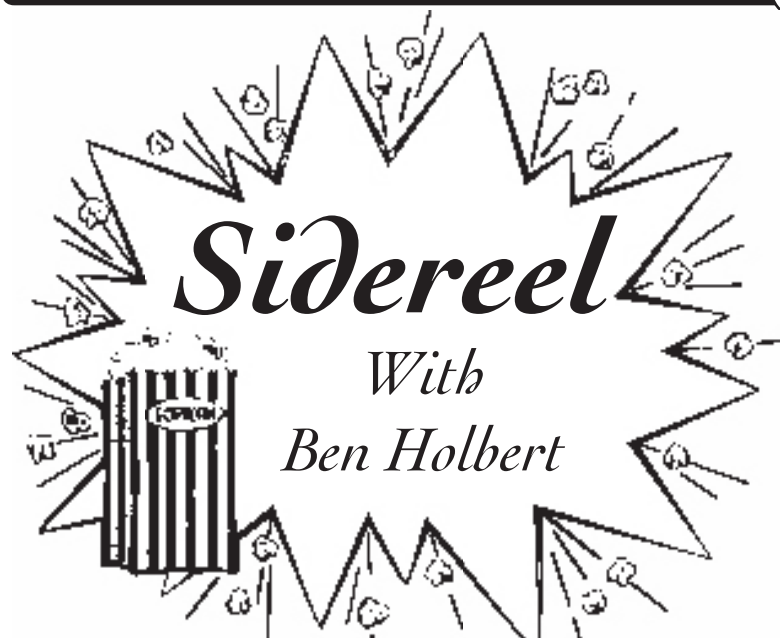
McQuerry gives her a sense of community. She noted that she did not plan to retire for at least another eight years.

Smith, second grade teacher, has worked in the school for 22 years. She loves the age of the children who she works with. Every day is different, according to Smith. "McQuerry is my home," said Smith.

Hol, McQuerry principal, has been in his role for 28 years. He is pleased that the teachers at McQuerry offer so much professional and practical

experience to the students. His favorite part about working at McQuerry is getting to know people, students and teachers. He also enjoys watching children grow academically. "There are a lot of good people here," said Hol.





Sidereel

With
Ben Holbert

47 Ronin Worth Seeing

47 Ronin is a movie about a band of exiled samurai seeking to avenge the wrongful death of their master, Lord Asano.

The movie is based on a Japanese legend in which the 47 Ronin, who are samurai left without a leader to serve, seek revenge. Lord Asano was compelled to commit seppuku by the emperor of Japan after assaulting Lord Kira. The Ronin waited and planned for two years before going to kill Lord Kira and afterwards were compelled to commit seppuku themselves.

While the movie did include the deaths of many warriors on both sides of the fight, it can be appreciated that there was next to no blood and gore in the movie, as it had no point in advancing the story. The legend was portrayed well and included witches and magic.

Keanu Reeves did a great job in his role as Kai, who was

a half-Japanese/half-English outcast. Reeves was able to pull off being the outcast throughout the entire movie. Although Reeves was the star of the film, the rest of the actors did well in their roles, although they were sometimes hard to understand.

Whenever the movie incorporated magic, the effects were well done. At one point, someone was able to turn into a dragon, and the dragon looked realistic, long, strong and ferocious. There are a few times in the film where the characters travelled at a speed where they weren't even visible, and the blur effect was impressive.

All things considered, I would say the movie was good, and I would recommend seeing it at night when some friends and family could all get together. I would rate this movie an 8.5 out of 10.

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Girls' C Team Holds 5-5

By Morgan Williams

With only a few games left in the season, the girls' basketball C Team is working to add more wins to their current record of 5-5.

Emma Shutt, freshman point guard, said that the players have improved their free throws and defense throughout the year. Shutt also said that the team has great chemistry, and they work well together.

Tia Saxon, coach and OMS health teacher, is in her sixth year of coaching Odessa basketball.

Saxon said that she enjoys coaching this group of girls. "These girls have great attitudes and are fun and coachable," said Saxon.

Strengths of the team are playing well together and

having a good attitude. Their only weakness, according to Saxon, is a lack of experience.

The team played a standout game on January 14 against Excelsior Springs. "It was one of the most fun, and best game I have been a part of," said Saxon. Saxon said that the team played hard and did a great job of boxing out. "They will be very tough to beat the rest of the season if they play like I know they can," said Saxon.

The team has a good outlook for the rest of the season and is working to improve their record.

Team members are: Maddie Estes, Brittany Leap, Tabby Lyons, Shelby Palmer, Abra Raybourn, Hannah Scott, Shutt, Krysten Smith, Brittany Walquist and Caitlin Wisdom.



Brittany Walquist, freshman C Team player, moves in for a shot under the basket.

OMS Boys BB Keep Improving

By Kylin Grubb

OMS boys' basketball teams will finish the season on January 28 against Oak Grove. The A team is currently 1-11, and the B team is 6-6.

The A team recently placed second in the Holden Tournament, and the B team placed third in the Odessa Tournament.

The A team is coached by Nic King. This is King's seventh year teaching sixth grade and coaching at OMS.

The B team is under the direction of Alex Smith. This is Smith's first year teaching Special Education and coaching at OMS.

"The bigger conference schools are definitely our toughest competition," said Smith.

Smith said that the team's

basketball knowledge and situational awareness have improved the most throughout the season. He also noted that fundamentals were improving daily.

"We have a group of kids that complement each other. They play off of each other's strengths and weaknesses," said Smith.

Players are Sam Brown, Austin Burkhart, Kyler Byers, Robbie Conchola, Nick Conn, Logan Davis, Brandin Hallier, Carter Hawk, Matthew Jobe, Tommy Loges, Robbie Magruder, Dallas Martin, Eli Munsterman, Cale Neville, Dylan Olinger, Lucas West, Matthew Woodward, Jordan Yancey and Matthew Younce. Managers are Brett Gittinger, Jeremy Loges and Pat Redden.



Cale Neville, eighth-grader, inbounds the ball against Harrisonville.



Happy Valentine's Day!

-The Growler Staff

