



WAHOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

Volume 21, No. 3

November 2007

Wahoo Public Schools

Wahoo, Nebraska 68066

www.wahooschools.org

Wahoo High School's Wild, High-Heeled Kingdom

Students rock out at 2007 Homecoming - "Welcome to the Jungle" *by Jenifer Proctor*



2007 Homecoming Candidates front row from left: Chris Borreson, Abbey Grandgenett, Austin Watton, Katie Snyder, Madelyn Tvrdy. Back row from left: Jake Stewart, Camdyn Kavan, Kali Pfeiffer, Jen Hackman, Amber Henkel, John Krejci, Ben Grandgenett.

"George, George, George of the Jungle, strong as he can be! Watch out for that tree!"

George may have hit a lot of trees in his jungle, but all WHS students hit was the dance floor on Sept.

29 at the 2007 Homecoming dance, "Welcome to the Jungle."

The homecoming celebration kicked off with spirit week on Sept. 24. Each day of the week brought about a different dress-up theme.

Sept. 24 was designated "Ret-ro Workout Day," when students dressed in workout gear in 70's and 80's fashion.

Tuesday was "Class Color Day". Freshman wore lime green while sophomores were decked out in pink. Juniors dressed in orange and seniors wore the traditional black.

Sept. 26 was "Backwards/Twin Day". Students either paired up and dressed exactly alike or they put their clothes on backward for the whole day.

Students showed their Warrior pride on Thursday by wearing blue and gold for "Spirit Day".

Students were out of school on Friday, but showed up in full force for the Homecoming game against D.C. West. The stands were full and the student section showed a lot of spirit by cheering the Warriors to a

victory. The Warriors beat the Falcons 34-27 in overtime. Students charged the field after the exciting win, carrying on a new tradition started after last year's homecoming win against Yutan.

Classic Rock band "High Heel The Band" rocked the jungle on Saturday with a variety of 80's, 90's, and today's music until 11:30 p.m.

While belting out classic hits by Pat Benatar, Heart, and Journey, lead singer Lisa danced and pulled students to the stage to sing along and play air guitar.

At 10 p.m., the homecoming court was announced. Homecoming queen candidates were Abbey Grandgenett, Jennifer Hackman, Amber Henkel, Kali Pfeiffer, Katie Snyder, and Madelyn Tvrdy. Homecoming king candidates were Chris Borreson, Ben Grandgenett, Camdyn

--continued on page 5

There are heroes, and "she-roes", among us

"How important it is for us to recognize and celebrate our heroes and she-roes!" --Maya Angelou

by Jen Hackman

It's true! Kids CAN be heroes and on Oct. 18, seventh graders gathered in Fremont for the Bullying Prevention Leadership Conference to learn how to take a stand against bullying.

During the conference, students learned the concepts of heroism and how bystanders can prevent bullying. "Bully-proofing your school" was a key concept of the conference, as was knowing how to recognize bullying and learning what to do when you witness someone being bullied.

According to the National Center for Bullying Prevention, school kids have seen bullying in or around their school one to six times within

the last month; bullying happens most often on the school bus or in the hallways; and kids bully because it makes them "feel powerful".

Bullying can include hitting, pushing, name calling, teasing, threatening, sending mean emails, taking or ruining personal property or deliberately leaving someone out. If a person is hurting another person on purpose, it's bullying.

Most bullying happens when a victim is alone or when adults aren't around.

One thing kids can do to keep from being bullied or to stop others from bullying is to hang out with other kids or at least make sure other

--continued on page 6



Middle school heroes from left: Jordan Baade, Jacob Wilson, Ashton Grell, Preston Raymond, Jason Semrad, Alicia Iverson, Mrs. Egr, Darcy Barry and superhero Tyler Kavan.

High school cross country comes to a close

by Erin Curran

By now, the cross country spikes purchased at the beginning of the season are caked with the remnants of previous races and long-sleeved t-shirts become a necessity for Saturday morning long runs.

The boys' and girls' cross country team participated in the Capital Conference meet at Bennington on Oct. 4.

The girls' team earned fourth place while being led by Erin Curran who placed first and Alison Thomsen who placed 17th.

"I was pleased with the girls' fourth place finish. It was a definite improvement over last year's conference meet," said head coach Karla Curran.

The boys' team finished fourth, running for the first time without top runner, Eric Curran. Curran broke his femur during the Lincoln Lutheran Cross Country Invitational only a week before, and was lost to the cross country season. However, A.J. Divis placed second with a time of 18:22 and Kreig Lacey placed eleventh with a time of 19:02.

The District Cross Country meet



Erin Curran



A.J. Divis

took place in Fort Calhoun on Oct. 11. Divis placed eleventh and Erin Curran was crowned district champion, both qualifying as individuals for the State Cross Country meet.

"I thought Erin ran a smart and tactical race. Beating Oestmann was quite a feat given the fact that she was ranked second in the state," said Curran.

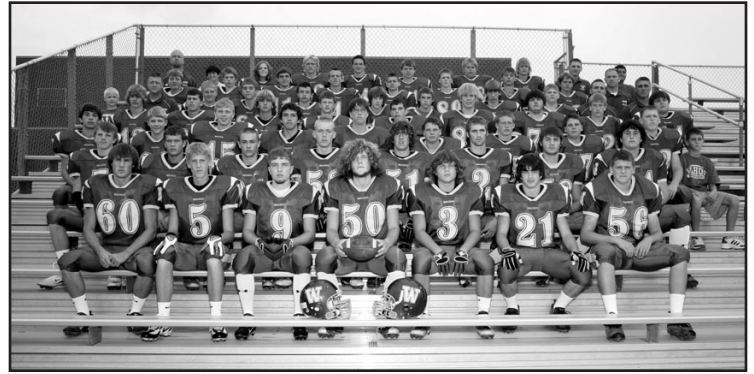
The girls' team placed eighth, while the boys' team placed fourth, narrowly missing a trip to Kearney. Matt Hornung, Tyler Hedges, and Jake Barry ran 16th, 17th, and 24th respectively.

"I know the guys were disappointed with the fourth place (team) finish, but losing our number one runner was too much to overcome," said Curran.

"I am still very proud of this team. I saw these boys run with a great deal of passion at the district meet," added Curran.

The cross country season came to an end on the sunny afternoon of Oct. 19 in Kearney, Neb. Erin Curran managed to place fourth at the state meet with a time of 16:04 and A.J. Divis placed 28th with a time of 18:22.

Warriors end exciting gridiron season with 6-3 record



2007 Warriors

Wahoo ended its 2007 football season with another hard-fought game in the first round of district playoffs.

The Warriors faced tough opponents during the second half of the season. After falling to Boys Town 29-0 on Oct. 5, Wahoo won a close one in double overtime the following week against Ashland-Greenwood, 14-13. Then on Oct. 18, Wahoo suffered its second loss of the season to cross-town rival Bishop Neumann, 33-9.

"This year's team showed a lot of resiliency," said head coach Chad Fox. "Five of their six wins came after the team was trailing."

"They never quit in any of the games we played, which resulted in some exciting games this season," added Fox.

Unfortunately, turnovers and poor defense played a major part in

the Warriors' third loss of the season.

Junior quarterback Tyler Brunsting finished the playoff game with 81 yards rushing on 10 carries and junior running back Layne Moore led all rushers with 130 yards on 35 carries. Junior wide receiver Taylor Murren was the leading receiver with two catches for 77 yards.

Defensively, the Warriors were led by seniors Camdyn Kavan with 17 tackles and Jake Stewart with 11 tackles, one tackle for a loss, and two sacks.

Ben Grandgenett and Matt Myers both had interceptions and Murren was able to come up with the only fumble recovery for the evening.

"All of the players worked extremely hard in preparing for this season and preparing for each opponent, which was appreciated by the entire coaching staff," said Fox.



Lady Warrior softball says goodbye to seniors pictured here on "Retro Workout Day" during spirit week. Back row from left: Kelsey Loos, Kali Pfeiffer, and Jen Hackman. Front row from left: Sam Polivka, Ambrey Semrad, and Holly Styskal. Not pictured is Brittany Asche.

Wahoo Athletic Booster Club Meeting

Tuesday, November 13
7:30-8:30pm
High School Board Room

Wahoo Middle School fall sports teams gain valuable experience

by Shelby Partridge

Volleyball

Middle School volleyball bumped up their play and set out to fight. The 2007 "A" team ended their season with a solid 5-1 record; the "B" team ended with a 4-2 record; and the "C" team ended off with a 3-3 record.

Coaches Jacque Jensen and Jana Marco have high standards for the teams, hoping they improve their skills on the court.

"As the season progressed the girls improved a lot," said Marco. "Their biggest challenge was learning defense, but the girls performed

the most advanced offense I've ever seen a middle school volleyball team run."

The girls pulled through with some outstanding wins. The "A" team earned second place in the Wahoo Invite while the "B" team placed first at the Raymond Central Invite.

Sydney Hancock and Sadie Murren led the "A" team to a second place finish in the Wahoo Invite.

Setter Laura Harris played strong on the "B" team leading them to a first place finish at the Raymond Central Invite while "C" team setter Courtney Jones proved to be a strong leader on and off the court.



Middle school volleyball players get ready to move up to high school play.



Lady Warrior softball sees success

by Hunter Richmond

The Wahoo Lady Warriors proved to be a worthy opponent on the softball field, ending the 2007 season with an overall record of 18-11 and crowned Capitol Conference champions.

The team also took second place at the Ashland-Greenwood Invite and finished second at districts.

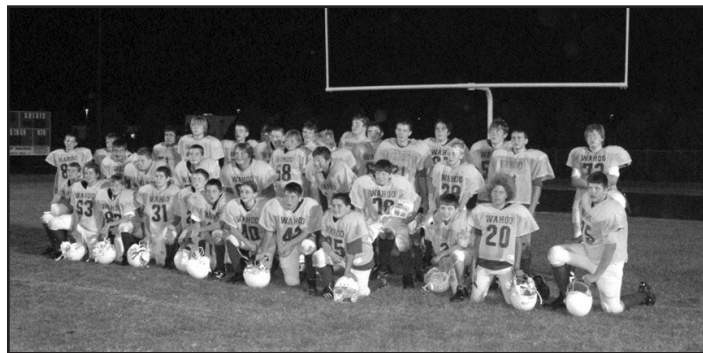
Wahoo played well in other key games this season, too. The Warriors beat fourth-ranked Syracuse on their home field 4-1, and beat Bishop Neumann (who later went on to compete in the state tournament) in two regular season games.

"Milford and Tekamah-Herman have good pitchers and strong bats," said head coach Katrina Christen. "They were two very tough teams."

Nebraska all-state honors were awarded to senior center fielder Britany Asche who ended her season with a .406 batting average, 14 runs scored and two homeruns. The Lincoln Journal Star named Asche to its first team and the Omaha World-Herald honored Asche with a spot on its second team.

Kali Pfeiffer and Kelsey Loos both earned all-state honorable mention in the Omaha World-Herald and Lincoln Journal Star. Pfeiffer ended the season with an impressive .456 batting average, 32 RBI's and two home runs while Loos ended the season with a .424 batting average, 19 RBI's and three homeruns.

Senior first baseman Ambrey Semrad was strong on defense with a fielding percentage of .974.



2007 Wahoo Middle School Football Team

Wahoo Middle School brought the 2007 football season coached by Michael Bomar and Darold Foster to a close last month.

"The goal for the season was to come out and play hard. It was tough to sustain, but the boys tried their hardest," said Bomar.

Middle school football is different from high school football. Every season four games are played against other area teams at both the seventh and eighth grade levels.

The eighth grade team ended their season with a disappointing 0-4 record, but winning isn't everything in middle school football.

The players learned how to play together and improved their skills

so they will be ready to play in high school.

"All of the players were confident, practiced hard, and loved it," said Bomar.

One of the greatest challenges on the field this season was rival Bishop Neumann, but with hard work and the strength to compete, the team had a good chance at winning. Although the boys were excited to play, they couldn't pull through with the win.

"Even though the middle school games aren't quite the same intensity as high school football games, they are still an enjoyable experience and I'm sure the players enjoyed lots of support and encouragement from fans," said Bomar.

High school volleyball closes exciting 2007 season

by Courtney Clifford

After a strong 14-2 start to the 2007 season, the Lady Warriors faced some tough opponents on the volleyball court.

Senior libero Abbey Grandgenett led the team to a regular season record of 22 wins and two tournament championships.

On Sept. 15, the Warriors won the Logan View Tournament with wins against Logan View, Yutan and Class A Omaha Bryan.

The next weekend, the girls kept

their streak alive winning the David City Tournament. The team won against Fullerton and David City Aquinas and was able to beat Twin River in the championship match.

The Lady Warriors went on to defeat D.C. West and Fort Calhoun to win the Wahoo Triangular on Sept. 24.

Junior Katie Sloup and Grandgenett led the Warriors to a big victory against rival Bishop Neumann on Sept. 25.

After the third set, the Warriors
--continued on page 6

////////////////////
A successful season for Wahoo will provide some positive momentum going into next season.

Look for returning pitcher Shelby Partridge and catcher Jordan Hinrichs to lead the team next year. Hinrichs was strong defensively and Partridge pitched 154 innings with 107 strikeouts.



Seniors Amber Henkel, Katie Miller, and Abbey Grandgenett.

Fine Arts students make life beautiful for WHS

by Zach Bachmeier, Hilary Plybon and Jenifer Proctor



Ben Grandgenett



Laura Houfek



Alison Thomsen

Ben Grandgenett

Senior Ben Grandgenett has been drawing since elementary school and has become one of WHS's most accomplished artists.

"Ben is an outstanding role model for all other art students," said art instructor Kim Brigham. "I think other students see that the time and hard work that Ben puts into his projects pays off in his finished works of art."

In addition to taking Independent Art 4 with Brigham, Grandgenett is enrolled in Web Design through WHS's new Distance Learning department. He also enjoys using Photoshop, drawing movie posters and sketching people in his spare time.

"I like to draw because it is relaxing and cool to see what you can create," said Grandgenett.

As if his involvement and focus on art weren't enough, Grandgenett plays football and baseball for WHS and is president of FBLA, president of NHS, and vice-president of FCCLA. He also works part-time at Subway while maintaining a 3.93 GPA, ranking him third in the class of 2008.

Grandgenett hopes to major in graphic design at the Art Institute of California in San Diego.

"If Ben chooses to go into art as a career he will do great things!" said Brigham.

Laura Houfek

Lights, camera, action! Laura Houfek is an unlikely drama queen here at Wahoo High School, but it's not what people might think. Houfek has been active in the drama department since her freshmen year at WHS, participating in close to eight plays.

"Laura does a lot of extra, goes beyond what's required," said drama instructor Diane Reece. "She stays late and comes in on Saturdays."

She enjoys being in drama because she has so much fun building sets.

Houfek is a very active senior. She keeps busy as a member of One Act, the Speech Team, and she throws shot put and discus for varsity track and field. With all this Laura has maintained a 3.39 GPA and is ranked sixteenth in her class.

"My main goal is to keep my grades up so I can attend the University of Nebraska at Lincoln," said Houfek, who plans to major in agriculture.

But, she is dedicated to Reece and the WHS drama program and will come back to help when called upon.

Business Law class winds up in court



Business Law students from left Camdyn Kavan, Justine Thomas, Jeff Borreson, Logan Kellner, Josh Bartek, and Patricia Thares.

On Oct. 22, the Wahoo High School Business Law class went on a field trip to the Saunders County District and County Courts.

"The goal of the field trip was to allow students to observe in person what they have been studying in the classroom," said Business Law instructor Barb Shanahan.

In district court the students witnessed a variety of cases, including divorce cases, probation hearings, burglary sentencing, possession of an illegal drug sentencing, name change, and property suits. While there, students had an opportunity to approach the bench and ask Judge Gilbride and her court reporter, Angie Eickler questions about the court system.

In County Court the students

observed cases involving DUI's, misdemeanors, disturbing the peace, domestic assault, warrants, and change of plea.

The most interesting case of the day took place in district court. A person was appearing for sentencing for possession of an illegal drug - methamphetamine. The defendant had hoped to extend his probation, but instead was sentenced to 20-60 months in the Nebraska State Penitentiary. It was a relief to the students to see this person, who had 62 prior convictions, handcuffed and taken into custody.

"It is one thing to read about the courtroom scene, read the law terms and cases, and another to actually sit in the beautiful, massive courtroom and watch our government in action," Shanahan added.

Alison Thomsen

Alison Thomsen just might be one of the busiest juniors at Wahoo High School.

Thomsen plays both the flute and the piccolo in the WHS band, runs Cross Country, and waitresses part-time at Pizza Hut.

To add to Thomsen's already busy schedule she travels to Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln to take weekly private lessons from flute instructor Mary Howell, which help her become a better player.

Thomsen was in fifth grade when she started playing the flute. She practices every day for at least a half hour, which paid off when she was selected first chair flute/piccolo last spring with the 2007 Class B All-State Honor Band. She is committed to what she does and tries to improve every time she practices.

"Alison tries her hardest in everything that she does and to be the best that she can be," said WHS band director Eric Snyder.

Thomsen takes school very seriously, too.

"I'm so busy that it just forces me to stay organized and on task," said Thomsen.

Her organizational skills help her maintain a 3.97 GPA placing her on the WHS High Honor Roll.

"Alison is the type of person that goes above and beyond what she really has to do," said Snyder. "She understands the importance of being a team member in the band."

Thomsen does not plan on majoring in music, but hopes to continue playing the flute in a small ensemble while attending college.

Middle School Student Council officers elected

by Taylor Kavan

Wahoo Middle School students and staff gathered on Oct. 8 to hear several officer candidates give enthusiastic, creative speeches in an effort to win votes.

Officer candidates had fun making campaign posters and stickers and came up with creative slogans or theme songs.

“Eye of the Tiger” and “Let’s Get It Started” got the crowd excited about what the candidates had to say. Students shared ideas about

lengthening the times for middle school dances or raising money for the school or other charities.

Sadie Murren’s slogan “Don’t be lazy, be crazy, and vote for Sadie for Vice,” helped her capture enough votes to land her the office of vice president on election day Oct. 9.

In addition, students elected president Aubrey Voboril, treasurer Laura Harris, secretary Alison Brodahl and historian Sydney Hancock.



Wahoo Middle School 2007-2008 Student Council officers from left: Laura Harris, Alison Brodahl, Aubrey Voboril, Sydney Hancock, and Sadie Murren.

HC royalty is all in the family

--continued from page 1



Homecoming Queen Abbey Grandgenett, King Ben Grandgenett and their father Al Grandgenett.

Kavan, John Krejci, Jake Stewart, and Austin Watton. Last year’s king and queen Reed Manstedt and Sarah Gottschalk crowned this year’s king and queen of the jungle, twins Ben Grandgenett and Abbey Grandgenett.

“I never thought this would happen,” said Abbey. “I was so surprised!”

Summer camp more than just fun and games

by Benishia Siemer



2007 Honors Camps Attendees standing from left: Darian Coffey, Tara Burkey, Krystal Lindgren, Savannah DeWine, Katelyn O’Brien, Nicole Pearson, Emma Harris, and Alex Talbott. Seated from left: Paris Mood, Jason Semrad, and Tyler Kavan.

While some kids spend their summers at the swimming pool, on family vacations or making money at summer jobs, many students take off for camp.

This past summer, eleven middle school students attended Central Honors Institute (CHI) Academic Camp in Columbus, Nebr. and/or the Ad Astra Camp in Omaha.

Both of these camps focus on academics and social interaction with other middle school kids.

Alex Talbott and Paris Moon attended the Ad Astra Camp while Jason Semrad, Tyler Kavan, Darian Coffey, Tara Burkey, Krystal Lindgren, Savannah DeWine, Katelyn O’Brien, Nicole Pearson, and Emma Harris went to the CHI camp.

These two week-long camps ran from July 13-18. While there, students experienced life on a college campus, socialized with their peers, and ate and slept in the college dorms.

Central Honors Institute Academic Camp was hosted at Central Community College in Columbus, Nebr. Students that were selected provided teacher recommendations, showed academic accomplishments, leadership skills and maturity around their peers. This camp focused on

math, creative expressions, and science.

“It was a lot of fun and I learned a lot,” said Darian Coffey. “My favorite part was the group activity at night.”

Bowling, swimming and karaoke were some of the fun evening activities in which the students participated.

“My favorite part was hanging out with friends,” said honor student Jason Semrad.

The Ad Astra Camp was hosted by Creighton University in Omaha. Students that were selected also showed leadership and maturity qualities, scored high on achievement tests, and received positive teacher recommendations.

Mini-courses at Ad Astra included “Nuclear Science from Quarks to the Cosmos”, “Imagination Nation”, “We’re Talking Shakespeare” and “Digital Video Hacks for the YouTube Generation”.

“It was really fun,” said Paris Mood. “Most of the classes were pretty exciting.”

“Being in the dorm rooms was my favorite part,” added Mood.

Overall, the students had a fun time and learned a lot.

Veterans Day Program

Thursday, November 8

10:30 a.m.

Wahoo High School Gymnasium

Speaker: State Treasurer Shane Osborn

THE PUBLIC IS
INVITED TO ATTEND

Post-Prom Meeting
WHS Commons

Monday, November 19
7 p.m.

Clowning around leads to learning

by Felicia Brazda



Clowning around from left are Kody Pope, Bailee Schubauer, Chase Freidel, Tyler Ruzicka, and Steven Tiedman.

"What kinds of clowns are there?" "How long does it take to put the paint on?" "What does a clown do?"

These are some of the questions that fifth graders in Nancy Teetor's class asked during their study of clowns.

After reading "Clowning Around", retired professional clown Regina Leninger schooled students on the art of clowning around. Leninger helped students draw pictures and she explained the differences between the many types of clowns. She even taught them some "clown moves".

"The children enjoyed having Mrs. Leninger in class and were very pleased with their clown pictures and posters," said Teetor.

Students showed off their newly acquired clowning skills and costumes when they wrote and per-

formed skits for the first graders. Of course there was a lot of planned tripping, falling and a few other clumsy clowning around moves, which thoroughly entertained the younger students during the Oct. 9 performance.

"The fifth graders were excited to perform and the first graders really seemed to enjoy it," said Teetor.



Retired clown and guest speaker Mrs. Leninger shows Mrs. Teetor's fifth graders different types of clowns.

Students hope to score higher on ACT

by Cassie Nicholls



High School students feel confident they will raise their ACT scores after participating in the John Baylor Test Prep.

Twenty-nine juniors and seniors at Wahoo High School are hoping to improve their ACT scores by participating the John Baylor Test Prep Class.

Baylor's goal is to familiarize students with the entire college application process so they will be equipped to turn a higher ACT score into better chances for scholarships and acceptance to the colleges of their choice.

"I am pleased to see students taking advantage of the Baylor Test Prep. John Baylor provides good pointers to help students remember strategies for the ACT's," said Wahoo High School counselor Terry Kopish.

Students met twice a week in the WHS boardroom during the school day to receive instruction on English, reading, math, science and writing—the five ACT test sections.

Students paid 50 dollars and received an ACT Prep guide that included basic skills reviews and practice tests.

Baylor teaches test taking strategies so students can understand the questions more easily and do well on the ACT.

Kopish hopes that each and every student participating in the class will benefit by scoring higher on the ACT.

Lady Warrior Volleyball

--continued from page 3

were down two to one, but the team was able to fight off the Cavaliers in the fifth for the win. Sloup led the Warriors with 17 kills while Grandgett had 25 digs.

"Being able to come back in the fourth set from being down two games to one and fighting off three game points in the third set was huge," said head coach Michelle Mahler.

On Oct. 11, the girls began the Capitol Conference Tournament with wins over Fort Calhoun and D.C. West. Big wins over Arlington and Bennington led them to the championship game against Syracuse, but they fell to the Rockets in just two sets.

The girls wrapped up their regular season play with a loss to Bennington on Oct. 23.

Bullying Prevention

--continued from page 1

students are around.

Another thing students can do is tell an adult. Moms, dads, teachers and other grown ups can help.

Kids need to remember that bullies want their victims to feel scared, so kids should try not to get scared or upset. Instead, a bullied student should remain calm and say, "Leave me alone!"

The conference was sponsored by ESU 2 Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Consortium.

Wahoo Middle School counselor Anne Egr described the conference as "awesome" and "super cool".

Students really loved the conference and are planning to present their information to the WMS Parent Teacher Organization.

2007 Close-Up Turkey Dinner

Sunday, November 11
Carryout begins at 10:30 a.m.
Dine-in is from 12-2:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$7.00
Tickets may be purchased at the door
or contact Ryan Mueller at 443-4332 ext. 3203