



# WAHOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

Volume 21, No. 2

October 1 2007

Wahoo Public Schools

Wahoo, Nebraska 68066

www.wahooschools.org

## Homerooms Make Comeback after High School Hiatus

by Zach Bachmeier and Katie Sloup

The 2007-08 high school schedule looked a little different when students started school in August. Each class period had been shortened to accommodate a new 15-minute "Warrior Period."

Warrior Period, also known as homeroom, has been brought back to WHS. The idea of bringing back homerooms had been one of Principal Chris Arent's goals since coming to Wahoo High School a year ago.

"Students need to connect with teachers on a more comfortable level," said Arent.

Wahoo High School staff members agreed that bringing back the homerooms was a smart idea.

Each homeroom has a maximum student limit of 13 to guarantee that students will have an opportunity to get to know each other better and become more comfortable being around students and teachers with whom they aren't usually in contact.

"Studies show that students who connect well with their teachers and staff members enjoy being at school more and have a better chance at receiving a higher respect and want to

learn on a regular basis," said Arent.

The homerooms have been going "very smoothly" according to WHS staff members.

"But we need to keep going and make the homerooms better every day," added Arent.

Homeroom has proven to be much more than just a time for daily announcements and donuts. A committee made up of teachers has been working hard putting together theme days for every day of the week.

Tuesday has settled into a grade performance review day, Thursday is DEAR day and Friday is Challenge Day, when homerooms challenge each other in some kind of contest.

On any given Friday, students can be found in the gym, outside or in the former computer area playing kickball, volleyball or Red Rover. If they prefer to remain indoors, students can be found in a classroom playing "Seen It," "Rock, Paper,

--continued on page 4

## Thousands of Teens Revolutionize Leadership at Anaheim Meeting

More than 5,000 nationwide members, advisers, alumni, and guests of FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) gathered in Anaheim, California July 8-12 for the 2007 National Leadership Meeting.

Joe Dobesh, a senior at Wahoo High School, and his advisor Mary Ann Sohl were among them.

This year's student-devised subject for the annual national meeting was "Leadership Revolution," and throughout the five-day convention, participants examined and discussed several critical issues, including family, school and community violence prevention, physical as well as financial fitness, future career exploration and countless community service projects.

A number of relevant youth issues, such as the changing roles of men and women in the home and workplace, traffic safety, and cancer awareness were also explored at the meeting through presentations, workshops, and youth sessions.

Dobesh will continue to work

with other FCCLA members and advisers as a Nebraska State Officer to encourage others to discover their strengths, motivate members to target career goals, and initiate a plan to ignite youth leadership in their community.

FCCLA's advantageous programs enrich student learning, improve self-esteem, and serve students with a range of ability levels, economic situations, and cultural influences.



A little 'Mater time. Joe Dobesh takes time between meetings to meet 'Mater.

## DEAR a Big Hit at High School



Students in this Warrior Period "Drop Everything and Read."

by Jenifer Proctor

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you'll go."

Wahoo faculty and administration embrace Dr. Seuss' philosophy on reading and learning and are sharing this with all students at Wahoo High School this year.

Drop Everything And Read, or DEAR, means that students don't do homework or any other class assignments. They simply read a book.

"Reading helps with lifelong learning," said Principal Chris Arent.

"Students can read their personal reading book every Thursday dur-

ing homeroom or during lunch and study hall if they have no other work or just need a break before beginning class work," said Arent.

The new reading program has had a profound impact on students. They are reading more for their own pleasure and students are asking parents, teachers and friends for book recommendations.

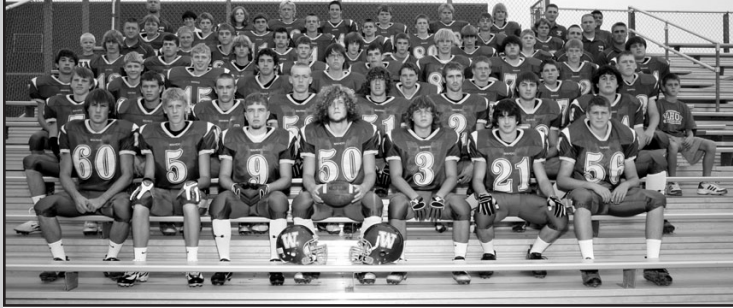
The number of books checked out by students this year has gone up tremendously compared to last year.

"Our circulation is through the roof," said WPS Media Specialist Dave Privett.

Many students weren't aware --continued on page 4

# Fall Sports Kick Off Exciting 2007 Season

by Courtney Clifford, Erin Curran, Katie Sloup, and Hunter Richmond



2007 Football Team



2007 Volleyball Team



2007 Cross Country Team



2007 Softball Team

## 2007 Football

Fifty-six young men strive to improve each and every day they practice.

The heat hasn't been a problem this year for the boys during practices, but there were thunderstorms early this season that drove them off the field. Other than that practices have been going well.

Upper classmen Taylor Murren and Jake Stewart are just a couple of players who are stepping up and taking on leadership roles. Coach Chad Fox expects plenty more to do the same. Two goals the team is looking to check off this season are winning districts and making the state play offs.

"This year we have one of the toughest districts in the state and will be a great challenge for us," said Fox.

Stewart leads the defense with 19 tackles; Ben Pokorny follows closely with 14 tackles and Matt Myers with five tackles and two sacks.

Also the defensive line has more size than last year's.

Tyler Brunsting has put up impressive numbers completing 67% of his passes. Brunsting often connects with Murren who has eight receptions for 149 yards and three touchdowns.

"All of our games are must-see games. Don't miss one!" added Fox.

## 2007 Volleyball

Dig! Set! Hit! The 2007 Wahoo Warrior volleyball team started strong with a 14-2 record after the first half of the season.

Coach Michelle Mahler brings back her knowledge and experience as head coach as she returns for her fifth year at Wahoo.

The team of 27 is returning all but one starter from last season. The three returning seniors, Amber Henkel, setter, Abbey Grandgenett, libero, and Katie Miller, middle, bring their combined 12 years of varsity experience back to the court this season.

In addition, juniors Katie Sloup, Taylor Kavan and Jenifer Proctor are all starting for their second year.

"I think our team has done a

nice job of coming together as one unit," said Mahler.

"Players that are capable of stepping up on the varsity team are juniors Ashley Sloup, Benishia Siemer, Courtney Clifford and sophomore Annie Divis. They have been working hard to earn some play time," said Mahler.

Grandgenett leads the strong defense at the libero position. "The team still needs to work on moving their feet to the ball and defending some areas better," said Mahler.

The team is still trying to get their offensive timing down in some areas, as they quicken up their speed, but Mahler believes they will get more consistent as the season goes on.

Height is a major issue for the volleyball team.

"We aren't a very tall team so we sometimes struggle with teams with big hitters because we can't get a block on them," said Mahler.

With about half the season put away, the girls are looking forward to a great end of the season.

## 2007 Cross Country

Runners, set! BANG! The 2007 cross country season is off and running. A total of 18 runners, 13 boys and five girls, make up this season's cross country roster. Eight of these athletes are returning letter-winners.

Already, the cross country season has had success. Coach Karla Curran reported that the Wahoo boys' team won the Schuyler Invitational with the girls' team coming in second.

Juniors Eric Curran and Erin Curran came away with first place finishes in the boys' and girls' races.

Senior A. J. Divis, sophomore Matt Hornung, and senior Tyler Hedges finished third, fourth, and fifth respectively.

Junior Alison Thomsen also helped the Warrior team by placing seventh at the meet.

The boys' cross country team, currently ranked eighth in Class C, also earned a fourth place finish at the Wahoo Invitational. Individuals Curran and Divis placed sixth and

--continued on page 3

## Fall Sports Season

--continued

thirteenth while Erin Curran finished second in the girls' race.

"I'd love to bring the conference title home again and get both teams back to the State meet," said Curran.

This goal may prove difficult, however, as the Warriors will face stiff competition.

The boys' team will run against the 2006 Class C state runner-up Syracuse, who returns Grant Aden, who placed sixth at the state meet last year, as well as a much-improved Bennington team.

The girls will also have their hands full as they will be competing against the defending 2006 Class C state champions Fort Calhoun.

Juniors Kristin Cherko and Chrissy Schroeder, who placed fourth and twelfth respectively at the State meet in 2006, will again be competing for the Pioneers.

The Conference cross country meet will be held at Bennington on Oct. 4 at 5:00 p.m.

Fort Calhoun is hosting the District meet on Thursday, Oct. 11.

Finally, the State meet, held at Kearney, will take place on October 19.

### 2007 Softball

It's not how good you are. It's how bad you want it.

And the Warrior Softball Team wants it! The team of 25 has proven that they can play hard and stay in the game till the bitter end, and in the end the team hopes to earn a shot at the state title.

Returning starters include juniors Jordan Hinrichs, Shelby Partridge, Taylor Flessner and Mallory Shanahan, along with seniors and co-captains Brittany Asche, Kali Pfeiffer and Ambrey Semrad.

Sophomore Sarah Chvatal and freshmen Mattie Murren and Morgan Hancock have moved into starting positions and contribute a lot to the team's efforts, too.

"I expect a unified team that works extremely hard," said Head Coach Katrina Christen.

--continued on page 4

# Students Shine Wherever Life Takes Them

by Courtney Clifford, Erin Curran, Katie Sloup, and Hunter Richmond

These students can be seen in action on the field, court, and course, but did you know that they are great students, too?

Fall coaches select student-athletes-of-the-month and here's why.

### Brittany Asche

Hey batter, batter, swing! And swing she does. Senior Brittany Asche is a fierce competitor on and off the softball field. Asche is a four-year starter for the lady Warriors softball team and has earned the honor of leadoff batter with a .432 batting average.

Speed and judgment have also secured a starting position in center field for this talented young athlete.

Outside of softball Asche hits it hard in the classroom. She is currently ranked 7 of 72 students in the class of 2008, with a current grade point average of 3.6.

During the spring, Asche can be found back on the diamond playing for the Lincoln Storm, a select softball team out of Lincoln, Neb., that competes all over Nebraska, Colorado, Oklahoma, and Tennessee.

Put a bat in her hand and Asche will pull through. Put a textbook in her hand and she'll show you what she's made of in the classroom.

Asche is an all-around clutch player and student.

### Eric Curran

"Tis' but a scratch!" This may be one of the numerous quotes heard throughout the school day escaping from the mouth of junior Eric Curran, the "Monty Python" fanatic and number one runner of the cross country pack. After winning the 3.1-mile race at the Schuyler Invitational, Curran then went on to place sixth at the Wahoo Invitational as well as the Columbus Scotus Invitational. He also has some personal goals.

"I want to better my personal best time (17:30) and place at State," Curran said.

Curran is not only involved in cross country, he participates in track & field, choir, W-Club, and B-Sharps while maintaining a 4.0 GPA, which ranks him first in his class. He keeps a good balance by prioritizing academics before athletics. Even with all of these activities, Curran still

finds time to write, read a good book, keep up with his model rail-roading, and view a "Monty Python" flick on occasion.

"Eric cares about other people. He's a likeable person and fun to be around. He's a down-to-earth kind of guy," said Ian Hoppe, a classmate and the cross country student manager.

### Amber Henkel

Four, Four, Four! One, One, One! Six, Six, Six! This is sometimes the only thing the 5'3" senior setter Amber Henkel hears during a volleyball game. Henkel has been playing volleyball since first grade and has started all four years of her high school volleyball career.

Henkel's main goal for the season is to be playing her best volleyball at the end of the season. She is undecided on if she's going to play volleyball in college.

Henkel is very active in extracurricular activities at WHS. She also has lettered in basketball and runs track during the winter and spring seasons. She is president of the student council, treasurer of FBLA, president of W-Club, treasurer for National Honor Society, Senior Class Secretary and in Jr. Mates.

"It's stressful, but I learned how to manage my time wisely," said Henkel.

Henkel still maintains a 4.0 GPA while participating in these activities and working part-time at Dairy Queen. She is a top student and athlete.

Coach Michelle Mahler has chosen Amber Henkel to be the student athlete of the month because Amber is a "top student and athlete".

"Her intelligence carries over to the court where she consistently makes good choices and is an excellent leader," said Coach Mahler.

Henkel's hard work in both academics and athletics should get her far in life.

### Matt Myers

Matt Myers is six feet, two inches and 260 pounds of man-tackling muscle coming off the line at his opponent.

--continued on page 4



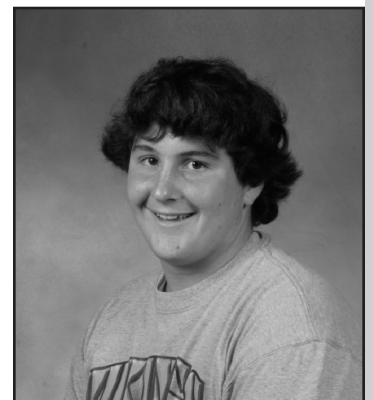
Brittany Asche



Eric Curran



Amber Henkel



Matt Myers

# Kindergartners Learn Lessons Through Hands-on Experiences Brought to the Classroom

by Felicia Brazda, Hilary Plybon and Sami Timm

What does a policeman *really* do? Who *is* that lady at the library? Why *is this* lady cleaning my teeth when I already brush every day?

Answers to these and many other questions were answered during the week of Sept. 10 when Mrs. Michelle Britton invited a dental hygienist, a policeman, and a media specialist from in and around Wahoo to speak to her kindergarten students.

On Sept. 10 Dental Hygienist Trisha Glock brought her love for clean teeth to Britton's kindergarten class to show students how to brush properly.

Glock's main goal was to teach students basic brushing techniques

and to teach them what to eat to keep their teeth healthy.

The kids were really excited and very interested.

"The main thing is working with the kids. I like getting to know people," said Glock.

Then on Sept. 11, Investigator Geoff Britton and K-9 trainer Kevin Webel brought Bodie to Mrs. Britton's kindergarten class to show off Bodie's skills.

It's not every day that a dog gets to go to work with its owner, but Bodie, a five-year-old Black Lab, gets to go to work with his owner and trainer each and every day. In fact Bodie and Webel are partners who keep the Nebraska Department

of Corrections safe.

Both Webel and Britton work with Bodie, who was trained as a drug dog. Trainers communicate with the dogs in German so others are unable to command or control the them.

"I like to come and teach the kids," said Britton. "It's a good way to contribute to the community and I have fun doing it."

Dogs like Bodie are extra special and perform an important service to the community.

"You have the world if you can read," said librarian Denise Lawver who stopped by Britton's classroom to read to students on Sept. 13.

Lawver's goal was to share her

## Student Athletes Shine

--continued from page 3

The junior has been playing tackle football for seven years, has been named team captain in his third year playing at Wahoo, and plays on both the offensive and defensive lines.

"It's [being a team captain] great!" said Myers.

"Coach talks to us before the game starts, and I love knowing what is going to happen during the game!" said Myers.

"Matt is a great kid," said Head Football Coach Chad Fox.

He is a player that is very easy to coach. He is a tremendous positive leader that helps all of our younger players."

Myers maintains a 4.0 GPA, which keeps him on the high honor roll and helps maintain his top ranking in the junior class.

"The fact that he gets it done in the classroom and on the field says it all," added Fox.

Myers also participates in FBLA, W-Club, Basketball and Track.

love of reading, inspire children to read and encourage them to visit the new Wahoo Public Library.

The kids were excited when they learned they only had to be five to get a library card at the Wahoo Public Library.

Lawver said the new Wahoo Public Library is a fabulous addition to the Wahoo community. It's three times bigger than the old library and now has new story times, computer classes, second language programs and after school programs.

Mrs. Britton was very excited about having all of her visitors.

"I believe children learn from hands-on experiences," said Britton. "It is also a fun way for the children to begin thinking about the future and what they want to do when they grow up."

## Homerooms Return in 2007

--continued from page 1

Scissors," or having staring contests.

Other theme days include critical thinking days and communication days where students learn about the importance of verbal and non-verbal communication.

Arent has heard many positive comments about the homerooms and is confident that bringing them back was the right thing to do.

## Reading Program a Hit

--continued from page 1

of all of the books the Media Center had to offer until this year.

To find a good book students can ask Privett for help, but if the Media Center doesn't have a particular book, Privett may be able to get it through interlibrary loan.

The DEAR program creates time for students to relax with a good book and will take students places they've never been before.

**Attention Junior & Senior Parents:**  
Please plan to attend our first Post-Prom meeting to discuss and decide on plans for this year's Post-Prom event.  
The meeting will be held October 16, at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Commons area.  
Every parent's input is needed and welcome prior to the event.  
The earlier planning meetings are the most crucial.  
Hope to see you there.

## Fall Sports Off to a Strong Start

--continued from page 3

"We're off to a great start and look to keep improving each day. Practices are going smoothly, and the team is doing really well," added Christen.

The lady Warriors are doing quite well indeed. With districts around the corner, the Warrior's record stands at 15-7.

Recently crowned Conference Tournament Champions, the girls were ecstatic when they were able to avenge previous losses against Bennington and DC West.

In addition to the conference tournament win, the team also upset number four Syracuse on their home field on Sept. 6.

Beating Neumann in a close game on Aug. 28 was also a huge win for the Warriors. The Warriors

jumped out to a 6-0 lead, but Neumann pulled to within one point in the sixth inning. The Warriors held on to win 7-6.

"The team stayed mentally tough and finished strong," said Christen.

Pfeiffer and senior Kelsey Loos both hit homeruns during the Neumann game, helping to keep the drive alive.

"We play a lot of rated teams, but we are just as good and will compete with them," said Christen.

Districts will be held at Hackberry Park on Oct. 4 & 5, and it appears that the team has a lot of motivation and drive to do well.

Come to districts to cheer for the lady Warriors!

**Parent-Teacher Conferences**  
**October 22 and 24, 2007**

<b>Elementary School</b>	<b>4:30-8:00</b>
<b>Middle School</b>	<b>5:00-8:30</b>
<b>High School</b>	<b>5:30-9:00</b>

Black and White Page