



WAHOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

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Wahoo Public Schools

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Wahoo's Spare Change Sets New Nebraska Record

Pennies for Patients fundraiser benefits the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society for the second straight year.

by Victoria Jonas

"Find a penny, pick it up; and all day you'll have good luck!"

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society was somewhat lucky when the WHS National Honor Society chose them to receive the funds raised this year during the Pennies for Patients campaign.

Wahoo Public Schools raised



Mr. Bomar gets glammed up.

nearly \$3,000 over three weeks, a record-breaking amount in the history of the Pennies for Patients fundraiser in Nebraska.

The elementary school competed grade against grade. Mrs. Pearson's fourth grade class came out on top raising \$300.90. Their reward was to watch "How to Eat Fried Worms" and snack on popcorn and pop.

Sixth, seventh and eighth graders competed against each other at the middle school with the eighth graders winning by getting creative with their fundraising activities.

They participated in four activities sponsored on four different days throughout the competition.

On Feb. 15, their \$75 goal was easily met when they found out their reward would be a "No Homework



From left: eighth graders Dana Zeleny, Kelsey Meyer and Cassie Bulling are everyday super heroes.

Day" to be observed by core classes on Feb. 26.

The following week, the eighth graders paid one dollar to dress as his or her favorite super hero. Of course Superman and Batman were represented, but some students used

a little imagination and created their own super heroes like "Super Granny," "Super 70's Dude," and "Super PJ Kid."

"It was quite interesting to see sixty super heroes roaming the eighth

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Senior Greg Sohl makes his layup, but lands in an awkward position during the 2007 State Basketball Game against Ashland.

Fans Pack Pershing Auditorium to Cheer on Warriors

by Tricia Shanahan

For the first time in seven years, Pershing Auditorium was filled with excited and hopeful Wahoo fans. According to school secretary Launa Cook, about 600 tickets were pre-sold at the high school.

Sending the team off in style was essential at the pep rally held in the high school gymnasium on Wednesday, March 7. Elementary, middle and high school students attended with parents and other members of the community.

The Golden Warriors, a group of "senior" members of the community, have been to every game and supported the team through thick and thin. They wrote and performed a skit and a little ditty for the boys at the pep rally.

"We have a very unique situa-

tion here at Wahoo to have such great support from the Golden Warriors," said Head Coach Kevin Scheef.

"Our team really appreciates having them there at all of our games. Many times, we will show up for a game, and they will already be there. It is great to have that kind of support."

The pep rally got students, parents and Wahoo faculty and staff ready to take Lincoln by storm.

The warriors entered the State Playoffs with a strong 22-1 season record, but fell short of the state title with a disappointing 45-62 loss to Ashland-Greenwood in the first round ending their season with an overall record of 22-2.

"The team fell apart when we
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Annual Green Eggs and Ham Breakfast Sets New Record

by Cassie Havelka



Senior Erica Smith, and juniors Kelsy Luers and Laura Houfek dressed up as *The Cat in the Hat* and *Thing 1* and *Thing 2*.

"I do not like green eggs and ham, I do not like them Sam I Am."

Dr. Suess may not have liked his green eggs and ham, but WPS parents and students, along with elementary faculty, enjoyed their green eggs and ham on March 5 when the Wahoo Elementary PTO hosted the tenth annual Green Eggs and Ham Breakfast in honor of Dr. Suess' birthday and to help promote how fun and important reading is.

Fifth grader Michaela Miller arrived at school at 7:15 a.m. and had the privilege of sitting next to Senator Chris Langemeier. Along with Senator Langemeier, Sheriff Kevin Stukenholtz, Mayor Daryl Reitmaier and Wahoo Public Library employees, Denise Lawver and Carrie Trutna, also attended.

"I enjoy seeing parents and childrens interact at breakfast," said Senator Langemeier. This was his third year attending the breakfast.

Elementary school principal Jane Wiebold helped at the front table, taking tickets and money and greeting everyone with a warm welcome and stickers.

"Even though we moved the day, the parents and students still made time to come and visit," said Mrs. Wiebold.

"My favorite part about the breakfast is the meat," said second grader Jack Maass who really enjoyed his special breakfast.

This year's breakfast set a new record with 546 people in attendance including special guests Cat in the Hat, Thing 1, and Thing 2. The three volunteers, high school students Erica Smith, Kelsy Luers, and Laura Houfek, arrived at the school at 6 a.m. to prepare themselves for the event with makeup and costumes.

Everyone was very happy with the turnout, despite the rescheduled date.

Saunders County Health Services Announces Free Athletic Physicals

Saunders County Health Services will be performing athletic physicals for elementary, junior high and high school students living in Saunders County free of charge.

Appointments for the physicals will be available on Monday afternoons from 2:00 until 6:00 p.m. at the Coleman Clinic beginning May 21 through July 2.

It is asked that all students bring

a physical form as well as a urine specimen with them so the staff is able to complete the physical.

If you would like additional information about this program or have any other questions, please call Tricia Fox (443-1403) or Earl Sheehy (443-4191).

Students who do not schedule appointments during those times will be charged the regular athletic fee.

New Elementary School Library Promotes Reading at Any Time of Day

by Kari Darnell

The Wahoo Elementary School library began hosting a reading club in January for second through fifth grade students. Every morning from 7:45 to 8:05, students who love to read can gather in the library.

Reading Club students must sign into the library each morning with their book in hand. Knowing that they are at school early for Reading Club, students are instructed to report directly to the library during that time.

"Reading Club has been very successful," said librarian Sheryl Stouffer. "What a joy to see students reading!"

Some mornings are more popular than others, but attendance ranges from 20 to 50 students every day.

When not participating in Reading Club, students are accessing the library twice a week for classes that teach important library skills.

While the lower grades (K-3) learn proper care and different parts



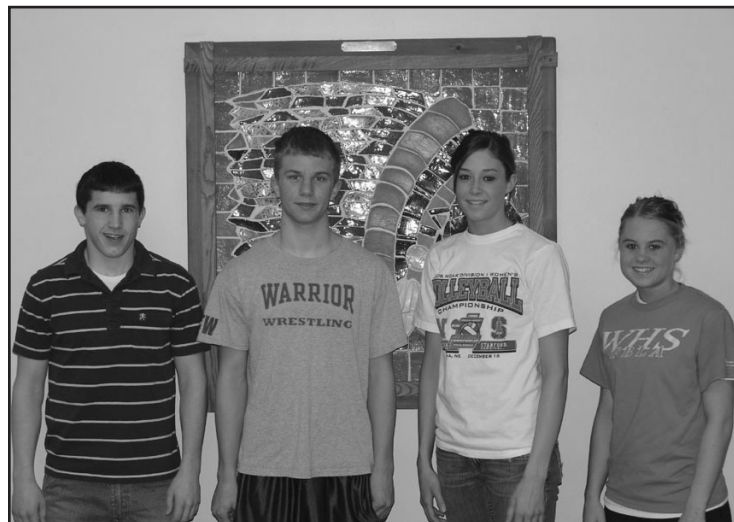
Students spend their morning reading in the new and improved Wahoo Elementary School Library.

of a book, the upper grades (4-5) are learning about reference materials and how and when to use them. The fourth and fifth graders can also use the library for extra reading or study time with special permission from their teachers.

"We have a beautiful library and I'm very happy to have it available to the students throughout the day," said Mrs. Stouffer. "It has helped students understand the library can be a quiet place to enhance learning. Let's keep those kids reading!"

Winter Sport Athletes Recognized for Classroom Achievements

by Christine Holm



From left: Student athletes John Kern, Cedar Bluffs sophomore; Matt Hornung, freshman; Mallory Shanahan, sophomore; and Amber Henkel, junior, received the NSAA Academic All-State Award for the winter season.

Four area winter sports athletes were honored for their dedication, efforts and contributions in both the classroom and athletic arenas.

Wahoo girls basketball players Amber Henkel and Mallory Shanahan were honored along with Wahoo/Cedar Bluffs wrestlers John Kern and Matt Hornung.

Students must be varsity players or organizational leaders who have played a significant role on the team or in the organizational activity during the seasons for which the nominations are accepted and maintain a minimum cumulative 3.7 GPA.

Congratulations to those four students!

Basketball Season Ends With All-State Honors

couldn't handle the pressure," said senior Ben Shanahan. "Overall we had a very successful season."

Outside of that loss, it was a terrific year for the Warriors. Before state, the Warriors lost their only game to Grand Island Central Catholic 57-55.

"This group accomplished each of their goals except for winning the State Title," said Coach Scheef.

"They won the Holiday Tournament, the Conference Tournament, the regular season Conference Championship, and they brought

home a district championship. The Warrior's ended their season ranked number five in class C-1," Scheef added.

The Omaha World-Herald announced on Sunday, March 11, that seniors Greg Sohl and Ben Shanahan were honored with positions on the class C-1 All State Basketball Team. Shanahan also holds the state record for blocked shots with a total of 121 for the season.

"This team worked extremely hard, was unselfish, and was fun to work with," said Coach Scheef.



The Golden Warriors get ready to perform a skit they prepared for the pep rally on March 7.

Elementary School D.A.R.E. Program Prepares Kids for Difficult Decisions Ahead by Kari Darnell



Officer Weis educates Mrs. Teetor's fifth graders about the hazards of drug and alcohol use.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) is alive and well at the Wahoo Elementary School. The nation-wide, officer-led program was created to give kids the skills they need to resist peer pressure and live drug and violence-free lives.

On Wednesday mornings, Wahoo Police Officer Dale Weis leads each fifth grade class through workbook exercises that provide the train-

ing they need to develop these important life-long skills.

At the end of the nine-week program, students will graduate if they meet all of the requirements. Students must complete their workbook activities and write an essay. One essay from each fifth grade class will be read at their graduation on Friday, April 13.

Seventh Grader Earns Black Belt

By Katie Snyder



Mitch Snyder proudly displays all of the Tae-Kwon-Do belts that he has earned.

Many people view Tae Kwon Do as a way to merely defend themselves, but according to the International Tae Kwon Do Association, the philosophy is to build a more peaceful world, and the individual performing it is responsible for accomplishing that goal.

"To do Tae Kwon Do, you have to have good grades, respect people, and focus on everything you do," said seventh grader Mitch Snyder.

There is a series of eleven steps to earning a black belt. Usually every two months, Snyder tested to see if he qualified to move up to the next level. After earning a purple belt, a half step must be completed by each student on their way to earning the black belt. Tests include everything from memorization of weapons formations to breaking boards.

"I thought it looked like a lot of fun," said Snyder.

From the tender age of ten, Snyder attended Longoria's Black Belt Academy in Lincoln every Monday

and Wednesday until earning his black belt on February 16.

Approximately 20 percent of the students who start Tae Kwon Do actually receive a black belt, which takes them an average of three to four years. Snyder earned his black belt after just two and a half years.

"Mitch is very focused and dedicated to his training. This helped him advance quicker than most students," said Senior Master Daniel Longoria, owner and master instructor at Longoria's Black Belt Academy.

Longoria's Black Belt Academy is one of the largest academies in the state and is a member of the American Tae Kwon Do Association, the largest martial arts organization in the world.

"We use a very methodical curriculum to help our students advance at a rate of speed that is dictated by their dedication and devotion to their studies," said Longoria. "Mitch was very dedicated and goal driven. He has been a wonderful student!"

Fundraiser Benefits Luekemia and Lymphoma Society

grade hallways," said Mr. John Harris, eighth grade social studies teacher.

On Feb. 23, students and staff had to raise a whopping \$175. To meet that one-day goal, Mr. Bomar, a middle school math teacher, agreed to be made up as a "man model" on Feb. 26.

For their final activity, students held a bake sale on Feb. 27 after school.

"It has been great fun and the

participation rate has been high," said Mr. Harris.

The high school's fifth period classes competed against each other ending in a tie between Mrs. Barrick and Mrs. Snyder's classes. Each class raised over \$15 per student.

The winners at both the middle and high school will get to "skip" class to relax and watch a movie while enjoying treats.

Each school did a great job contributing to a very successful event.

March 2007

Dear Parents:

In the months ahead, your child will have the opportunity to make memories that will last a lifetime. Prom and graduation are often long-awaited events in the lives of high school students. Project Extra Mile and Wahoo High School would like to remind parents and guardians that including alcohol in these celebrations – by hosting an underage drinking party or providing alcohol to minors – is a serious offense that can result in tragic, life-changing consequences.

Alcohol is the number one drug of choice among Nebraska's youth, killing four times more young people under 21 than all illicit drugs combined. Binge drinking, or consuming five or more drinks in one sitting, is on the rise – in fact, over 90 percent of the alcohol consumed by 12- to 14-year-olds is consumed when binge drinking. Alcohol use has profound consequences for young people. A young person who drinks underage is eleven times more likely to ride in a car with a driver who has been drinking and five times more likely to be sexually active with one or more partners.

We're asking for your support to help prevent tragedies during the prom and graduation season. Please, never provide alcohol to minors – even in your own home. In addition, talk to your teen about the dangers of underage alcohol use. Make sure he/she knows it's illegal, unhealthy, and unacceptable. Encourage young people to have fun – but to celebrate without alcohol.

Most importantly, our children learn in large part by our example. Please always be a good role model for your children and other young people. Our own responsible use of alcohol (if we choose to consume at all), and our attitudes surrounding alcohol, play an important part in what our children learn.

2007 PROM SCHEDULE!!

Prom 2007 will be held in the Wahoo Elementary School Gymnasium on Saturday, April 21.

7:30-8:00 p.m. Doors open to students (testing for alcohol)

8:15-8:30 p.m. Doors open to the public for coronation (admission fee is 25 cents)

8:30 p.m. Coronation - Those arriving just for coronation are asked to leave promptly after the ceremony.

The dance will begin immediately after coronation and end at 11:15 p. m.

Tickets are \$15 per person.

The Post Prom committee is providing a required and free valet parking service in front of the elementary school for all students.

Finally, if you know of an underage drinking party, or of adults providing alcohol to minors, please contact the Saunders County Sheriff's Dispatch at (402) 443-1000 or call 911. On behalf of our community's students and their families, we thank you for your efforts to keep our young people safe.

Sincerely,

Chassity Bassett
Project Extra Mile

Project Extra Mile is a statewide network of community coalitions in Nebraska whose mission is to create a community consensus that clearly states that underage alcohol use is illegal, unhealthy, and unacceptable.

Let the young people in your life know that you want them to be more than just a memory. Be clear with them - drinking before age 21 is unacceptable.