



WAHOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

Volume 20, No. 6

February 2007

Wahoo Public Schools

Wahoo, Nebraska 68066

www.wahooschools.org

r5 Strikes a Chord With Wahoo Middle and High School Students The January 10 assembly caused students to laugh, listen and cry all for a good cause.

by Christine Holm

On January 10, Wahoo Middle and High School students gathered in the gym for one of the most meaningful assemblies yet.

Mike Donahue of r5 Productions brought energy and humor to the stage that got his message across in a way that was different from any other assembly.

Donahue tried to relate to students instead of just lecturing and believes it might be more effective than just yelling some catch phrase like "Just Say NO!" or "Hugs are better than drugs!"

He showed blogs and testimonials of other students with the same problems the students at Wahoo Middle and High School have. He explains that he had a hard time in high school, too.

"I understand the temptation to make life go away," said Donahue.

Donahue showed that he can relate to teenagers' problems and talked about how everyone has their own

chains that they carry around every day—chains that prevent them from realizing their dreams.

Donahue also talked about how stereotypes play a big role in teenagers' lives. He said that by the way that you look, dress, by the people you hang out with, or even by who your parents are, you can be generalized and put in a category.

Once stereotyped, students are often "handed a script." This script represents the life path others expect you to take because you are who you are.

Donahue encouraged students to rewrite their scripts—blaze their own trail.

His hope for all students is to have a dream and work to make that dream come true, no matter what that old script is.

r5 member Jordan Brandt, sang "Better Together" by Jack Johnson followed by his own version of

--continued on page 4



Above: All eyes are on Jordan Brandt as he sings during the r5 assembly on Jan. 10.



Right: Mike Donahue explains that feeling "chained" to your script is no way to live. Students have the power to change and the first step is to remove the chains.

Wahoo Elementary Students Celebrate the 100th Day of School

by Cassie Havelka

One hundred down! Just 80 to go!

The 100th day of school was marked on Jan. 23 and what better way to celebrate the centennial than fill the whole day with the number 100?

Mrs. Rubesh's second grade class celebrated the "holiday" by reading books and playing games dealing with the number 100.

The class read "100th Day Worries" and "Miss Bindergarten Celebrates the 100th Day," which are books that celebrate the 100th day of school.

Students participated in activi-

ties such as seeing how many licks it takes to finish a popsicle and dividing M&Ms into five groups of twenty by colors.

The students also had some special homework for the 100th day. Students brought 100 things to share with the class. For instance Emma Hastings brought 100 beads.

Mrs. Rubesh's second graders had a "one-hundred-ful" day celebrating their 100th day of school.

"One hundred days of friends. One hundred days of fun. One hundred days of darling, dazzling, winning works we've done," said Mrs. Rubesh.



Mrs. Rubesh's 2nd grade class shows off their new masks and books about the 100th day of school. They spent most of the day participating in activities that focused on the number 100.

Wrestling Program Strengthens: Wrestlers Prepare for Districts February 9 & 10

The Wahoo-Cedar Bluffs wrestling team continues to improve as the season progresses. The wrestling team competed Saturday, Jan. 27, at the Raymond Central Invitational where they faced a tough field of teams.

This proved to be one of the tougher tournaments the team participates in every year. As a team, the goal was set to go into each tournament and improve on last year's performance.

The wrestlers really stepped up to the challenge during the tournament scoring 80 points and placing five wrestlers. The third place finish came in a tournament in which they finished dead last in 2006 with a total

of only 16 team points.

"I challenged this team to go into this tournament and make a statement, and I think they answered the call," said Head Coach Darold Foster.

"I was very encouraged with our performance. To come in here and finish third is exciting," Coach Foster added.

Six Wahoo wrestlers will be competing at the District Tournament in Schuyler beginning Feb. 9.

Seniors Tony Grabowski and John Myers, juniors Tyler Hedges and Clint Spangler and freshmen Corey Davis and Matt Hornung will be traveling to Schuyler to compete.



From left: Tyler Hedges, Clint Spangler and Tony Grabowski are going to districts.

Lady Warriors Basketball Season Review

by Victoria Jonas

Despite some disappointing losses, the Warrior Girls basketball team had some high points worth celebrating. The girls have been working hard all season. Although falling short a few games, they have been playing okay.

"We're striving for consistency throughout each quarter of play," said Head Coach Linda Walker.

In the first round of the Holiday Tournament, the Wahoo Warriors defeated the Lincoln Christian Crusaders 54-41. Abbey Grandgenett played a great game, shooting well from beyond the arch and accumulating 5 assists and 6 steals.

"Since the girls have done such a good job cheering us to victories, I am glad to help keep their spirit up too," said Austin Watton.

The Warriors earned the Championship title at the Holiday Tournament after a much needed victory over their cross-town rival Bishop Neumann. With a winning score of 39-30, the girls really got a confidence boost.

"It was an awesome victory over a solid team. The girls played with great heart and communicated very well," said Coach Walker.

The girls went on to win four more games and lose two. During the D.C. West game they had a great win coming off of a five game stretch in nine days with three of them being away.

The girls had a chance to rest as they got ready for Raymond Central and the Capitol Conference Tournament.

Lady Warriors Take Third Place at NCC Tournament

by Cassie Havelka

The Lady Warriors hosted the first round of the NCC Tournament game against the Raymond Central Mustangs on Jan. 23.

The Warriors applied significant defensive pressure in the third quarter to outscore the Mustangs. The Warriors won with a score of 55-36, leading them into the semi-finals at Bennington on Friday.

During second-round play on Jan. 26, the Lady Warriors were matched up against the Syracuse Rockets. The Warriors played well, but were challenged by playing the Rockets that night. Syracuse won with a score 56-32.

On Jan. 27, the Warriors played the Conestoga Cougars for third place. Wahoo stayed ahead and defeated Conestoga with a score of 52-32 giving the Warriors third place in the tournament.



Senior Brianna Triplett has no trouble going after a loose ball.



Junior Amber Henkel gets set for a jump shot against Raymond Central during the NCC Tournament.

Wahoo Elementary School is working on the kindergarten enrollment list for Fall 2007.

If you know of a child who will be five years old on or before October 15, 2007, please call Colleen at the elementary school office: 443-4250.

WHS Varsity Boys Sweep NCC Basketball Tournament Improving Record to 14-1

Warrior Boys Basketball Season Review

by Victoria Jonas

An early loss to Grand Island Central Catholic hasn't stopped the Warrior Boys basketball team from an almost perfect season.

The boys basketball team has been playing outstanding all season and it was no exception during the Holiday Tournament. The boys went into the tournament with a record of 4-1 and won both games bringing their record to 6-1.

The first round was Warriors vs. Lincoln Christian Crusaders. Wahoo was ahead of the game the entire night and the first round was brought to a close with a win of 63-41.

Wahoo then faced their cross-town rivals Bishop Neumann during the final round of the Holiday Tournament. The game went back and forth in the first half, but by the end of the third quarter the Warriors were leading by twelve points. After a Shanahan dunk and a couple of free throws, the Warriors won 50-37.

"All the kids that played made some big plays for us. Justin Barry hit a couple of big treys. Jake Wiebold made a couple of big steals. Taylor Murren gave us some great minutes, and Tyler Pacas is our leader and the heart and soul of our team," said Head Coach Kevin Scheef.

Coming back from the win at the Holiday Tournament, the boys played Syracuse. There was great energy and teamwork during this game. Pacas scored a career high of 23 points bringing the final score to 58-45.

"Every time that Syracuse made a run in the second half, we answered. We did not lose our poise or get rattled and that is directly attributed to having great senior leadership out on the floor," said Coach Scheef.

The Warriors hosted David City Aquinas on Jan. 6. The boys almost doubled David City's score when they were up 59-30 after three quarters. The reserves finished the game with a final score of 65-38.

The Warriors went on to defeat both D.C. West and Raymond Central.

The game against D.C. West wasn't one of their best performances, but in the end the Warriors won with a score of 69-57.

The Warriors got their rhythm back when they won 61-47 over Raymond Central. The Mustangs played hard and the Warriors had to work for every point.

Norfolk Catholic is always a team the Warriors know will be a challenge. The Warriors never led by more than six points. With a little more than two minutes left in the game, the score was tied at 57, but after a Shanahan dunk and a couple of other last minute shots, Wahoo won the game 63-60.

"I thought it was just a tremendous high school game, with two good teams going after each other and competing very hard. The game

--continued on page 4



Ben Shanahan electrifies the crowd when he goes up for the dunk.



Left to right: Seniors Justin Barry, Tyler Pacas, Greg Sohl, Jake Wiebold and Ben Shanahan are having a terrific year on the court.

NCC Tournament Champs!

by Cassie Havelka

The Warrior seniors turned up the heat during the last two, nail-biting games of the Nebraska Capitol Conference Tournament.

On Jan. 22, the Wahoo Warriors boys basketball team played the Arlington Eagles at Wahoo High School in the first round of the NCC tournament. The mighty Warriors won against the Eagles with a score of 74-40.

On Jan. 25, the Warriors played the Bennington Badgers for the Conference Semi-finals. Bennington was ahead until the third quarter, when senior, Tyler Pacas, made his two free throws, which put the Warriors on top with a score of 40-38.

Bennington was up 55-51 with 42 seconds left in the game. Senior Greg Sohl made two free throws and a three-pointer to win the game. The Badgers may have given the Warriors a run for their money, but in the end, the Warriors advanced to the finals.

On Jan. 27, Wahoo played

the Ashland-Greenwood Bluejays. Ashland led most of the game, which made for yet another round of screaming fans and an exciting fourth quarter.

The Bluejays were ahead in the fourth quarter when Wahoo came back and tied it up in the last few seconds.

In overtime, the Warriors stayed ahead and beat Ashland with a score of 72-68, earning the "Conference Champion" title. The two lead scorers for the night were Greg Sohl with 35 points and Tyler Pacas with 19 points. Ben Shanahan also had an outstanding game with 13 points, 9 blocks, and 15 rebounds.

"Our kids showed great courage and poise to come back for a second straight night when things were looking pretty bleak," said Head Coach Scheef. "To come back from a 7-point deficit in the last two minutes says a lot about the character of our kids."

--continued on page 4

This newsletter is created and published by the journalism class of Wahoo High School.

Any comments or suggestions should be directed to Mrs. Carol Mertl

at (402)443-4332.

or email <cmertl@esu2.org>.

WHS Alternative School--Imagine the Possibilities

by Kaitie States

The Wahoo Alternative School represents one of those things available as another possibility—the possibility to graduate from high school.

Most of the students at the alternative school may not be able to function at the regular high school, are in the process of credit recovery, or have parental responsibilities or have had medical issues that make attending school difficult.

Students can earn credits at the alternative school in a variety of ways. One way to earn credits is by arriving on time and attending classes on a regular basis. By supplying a pay stub, students can also receive class credit and good behavior may be rewarded with earned credits.

The alternative school is run by Mr. Marc Kaminski who believes that working hard and doing your best is the way to accomplish your

goals, and goals are very important to Mr. Kaminski.

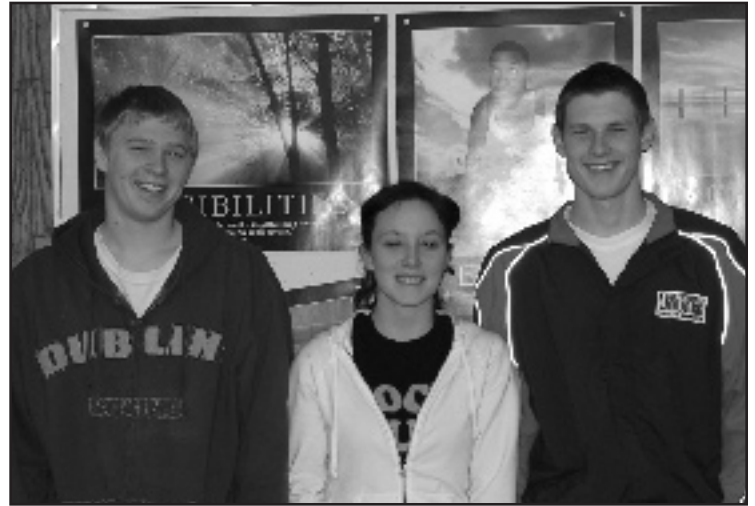
Each day students at the alternative school fill out a sheet stating two daily goals and a weekly goal. Students then work their hardest to accomplish those goals.

When students aren't working hard on their regular studies, they write in their journals, keep up on current events by reading the newspaper and learn job skills.

Mr. Kaminski coaches students on how to fill out applications and create resumes, do well in job interviews, and write cover and thank you letters. If a student doesn't have a job, Mr. Kaminski will help them look for job opportunities and fill out applications.

"It's important for students to know life skills and have a vision for their future," said Mr. Kaminski.

"Kids need an opportunity to



From left: Josh Williams, Jessica Kubik, Robbie Kotschwar are currently earning credits at the Alternative School. Not pictured are Railey Dinges, Kaitie States, Brian Fisher, and Tyler Duckworth.

get themselves on the right track and learn how to actually reach their goals," he added.

The alternative school truly

gives students a second chance to get their diplomas and for some, another possibility is what they need to accomplish their goals.

"No One Belongs in a Box"

--continued from page 1



Wahoo High School juniors and seniors sign the "NO ONE IN THIS SCHOOL BELONGS IN A BOX" tarp, committing to a life free from their own scripts and stereotyping others.

"Somewhere Over The Rainbow."

Afterward, Donahue pointed to a tarp on the floor that he made for students at WHS saying "NO ONE IN THIS SCHOOL BELONGS IN A BOX."

Donahue had another r5 member, Amber, chained and sitting on

the tarp and asked, "If she were a student at WHS, would anyone help her?"

WHS juniors and seniors came out of the bleachers to help her break out of her chains.

To conclude the assembly, Donahue invited the juniors and seniors

to sign the tarp and write their dream under their signature. The tarp hangs in the high school commons area.

"The assembly was awesome," said sophomore Brittany Barker. "It affected me a lot. They knew exactly what to say to connect with students."

"I am extremely pleased with how our students responded to the message," said WHS principal Mr. Chris Arent. We are looking at the most appropriate way to follow up and will be making some decisions soon."

Boys Basketball Review

--continued from page 3

went back and forth, with a number of momentum swings, but our kids kept their poise and made some big plays down the stretch," said Coach Scheef.

Many of the students at Wahoo are thinking about how great it would be to go to state this year.

"We haven't been to state since I was a student manager in fifth grade. We are excited about cheering at state," said senior Reed Manstedt.

Soup Supper Sales Soar!

by Katie Snyder

Music supporters of all ages rallied to raise funds for the Wahoo High School music department at the Wahoo Boosters Club Annual Soup Supper on Jan. 13.

Serving chili, chicken noodle soup, rolls, a vegetable, and desserts, the soup supper was very successful. Desserts were donated from the parents of students participating in chorus and band.

"We had a fantastic turnout in desserts as well as diners!" said Mrs. Audra Barrick, the Wahoo Chorus director.

Earning nearly 3,500 dollars, the 2007 soup supper did indeed have a fantastic turnout.

Money raised through the sale of Soup Supper tickets will go toward the 2007 summer choir trip to St. Louis.

NCC Champs

--continued from page 3

"With the game on the line and having to have both free throws, Tyler Pacas stepped up to the line and hit them both tonight, as Greg Sohl did for us on Thursday night," said Coach Scheef.