THE MAVERICK MAYHEM

BIG READ WINS BIG WITH AWARDS

BY KWYNN BLANTON

The SPIAA Big Read judging day was a culminating event that was held at Kiowa County on January 15th. This event occurs every year, where the league English Language Arts teachers come together to judge the students' projects and essays.

Junior high and high school students in the league participated in creating various projects based off this year's Big Read theme: "Holocaust: Lessons for Today", which focused on Holocaust literature.

Each school in the league is allowed to take up to 10 entries. The judges award medals to the top projects and essays. All projects are graded off of a 40-point rubric.

Mrs. Ballard's 8th grade class read the novel *Prisoner B-3087* by Alan Gratz. The 8th graders chosen to compete were: Delaney Little, Jemma Ploger, Addison Minyard, Dallas Derley, Lincoln Piester, Myles Mitchell, Grayson Ballard, Jack Minyard, Cy Yost, and Charlee Jantz.

Ploger reported, "I liked being chosen because then I knew that my project was good and graded well. I chose to create this project because from the book we read I found the story of Auschwitz very interesting to learn about."

All 10 of the Kiowa County submissions received a medal with three students also receiving an Award of Excellence. Delaney Little, Dallas Derley, and Grayson Ballard received the Award of Excellence for receiving perfect scores on their essays/projects.

"I was blown away by the outstanding projects and essays that KCJH had this year. I had a hard time choosing only 10, and I am confident that we could have had many more medals if I could have taken more projects," reported Mrs. Ballard. She also noted, "Having 10 out 10 projects receive medals is not the norm. Most schools receive a few medals. This is a testament to the amazing work from our students. We were also the only junior high school in the league that received perfect scores!"



BIG READ AWARD RECIPIENTS

Grayson Ballard: Non-fiction writing - Gold Medal & Award

of Excellence

Myles Mitchell: 3D Artwork - Bronze Medal

Delaney Little: Textile - Gold Medal & Award of Excellence

Dallas Derley: Artwork: Drawing - Gold Medal & Award of

Excellence

Lincoln Piester: 3D Artwork - Silver Medal

Jemma Ploger: 3D Artwork - Silver Medal

Charlee Jantz: Metal Artwork - Bronze Medal

Cy Yost: Metal Artwork - Bronze Medal

Jack Minyard: Woodwork - Silver Medal

Addison Minyard: STEM: Welding - Gold Medal

Top: The Big Read award recipients were recognized at the last regular season home game of the season. "It was an honor to have received an award for mv hard work," reported Dallas Derley. (courtesy photo)

HONORING THE HARD WORK

BY MYA HOFFMAN

This year students have worked hard to keep their grades up to be recognized for the 1st Semester's Honor Roll. The Superintendent's Honor Roll is for students who finished the semester with straight A's, and the Principal's Honor Roll is for students who finished with A's & B's.

Students on the Superintendent Honor Roll were 8th graders Grayson Ballard, Truman Barnes, Kwynn Blanton, Delaney Little, Jemma Ploger, and Addison Walters; 7th graders Sebastian Favela and Brody Hoffman; 6th graders Gentry Ballard, Khloe Gilkey, Mya Hoffman, Mya Mitchell, and Hannah Torres.

Students on the Principal's Honor Roll were 8th graders Lincoln Piester; 7th graders Ty Hatton and Bodie McDonald; 6th grader Treydan Walters.

Torres said, "I was happy to be on the honor roll. To me it feels like I am being praised for achieving good grades."

The Honor Roll students were recognized at the JH pep assembly on January 23rd and again with their names listed on posters around the school and with locker signs.

Keep up the good grades, Mavericks!



The KCJH Honor Roll students include L-R) Front: H. Torres, J. Ploger, A. Walters, Ge. Ballard, M. Hoffman; Middle: T. Barnes, B. Hoffman, Gr Ballard, K. Blanton, K. Gilkey; Back L. Piester, T. Hatton, & S. Favela.

EYES ON THE PRIZE OF A LEAGUE TITLE **DEFENSIVE PRESSURE PUSHING LADY MAVS AHEAD OF OPPONENTS**







Top L: 8th grader Delaney Little looks for the basket and shoots the shot, gaining 2 points for the Mavericks. Top R: 6th grader Selah Lingafelter sinks another free throw as 6th grader Gentry Ballard looks on. (photos by Sebastian Favela-Clayton) Bottom: 6th grader Gentry Ballard and 8th grader Kwynn Blanton trap a T-Bird in the corner. (photo by Dallas Derley)

BY CHARLEE JANTZ & KWYNN BLANTON

Starting up the second half of their season, the Lady Mavericks have played in some close margin ball games resulting in a record of 7-5.

8th grader, Kwynn Blanton, stated that the team has improved very much since the first 1/2 of the season. "We have gotten so much better at being aggressive with the ball. I think that we struggle a little with the offense. Defensively, we have done great. I think the team needs to improve more on being pressured. We can become very frazzled when we are pressed."

The first matchup after Christmas break was against the South Central Timberwolves. The Lady Mavs had great effort but fell short with a score of 21-26.

After that, the Lady Mavericks headed to Spearville to dish out a loss to the Lady Lancers, winning 25-17. Next, Kiowa County unfortunately couldn't hold off the Lady Bulldogs and took an unexpected loss 18-21.

At their last regular season home game, the Lady Mavericks challenged the Lady Rebels from South Gray but could not get their shots to fall, resulting in a 18-23 loss.

Powering through their previous two close losses and some illnesses, the Lady Mavericks defensive pressure could not be handled by the Skyline Thunderbirds, ending with a win of 27-10.

6th grader Gentry Ballard reported, "My favorite part of playing basketball is defense because we are very aggressive and intense. I think we have been playing really well, but I also think that we can bring more defensive pressure to fluster our opponents."

Lady Mavs will end their regular season against Minneola on Monday, Feb. 3rd and will conclude with the SPIAA League Tournament at Kiowa County Feb. 6th, 10th, and 13th, so make sure to come out and support them!

LADY MAVS SCOREBOARD

01/09 vs South Central

A Team (L): 21-26 B Team (L): 11-18 C Team (W): 11-6

01/16 @ Spearville

A Team (W): 25-17 B Team (W): 40-11

01/20 vs Ingalls

A Team (L): 18-21 B Team ½ Game (W): 15-06

Current Record: 7-5

01/23 vs South Gray

A Team (L): 18-23 B Team (L): 15-24

01/27 @ Skyline

A Team (W): 27-10 B Team (W): 36-04





The Lady Mavericks take a timeout to discuss their plays against the South Central Timberwolves. (photo by Dallas Derley)

Regular season spiaa league champs

MAYS CLENCH SEASON LEAGUE TITLE, LOOKING TOWARDS THE LEAGUE TOURNEY TITLE

BY SEBASTIAN FAVELA-CLAYTON

The Junior High Mavericks are still going strong following their Christmas break. They have faced some battles, knocking down undefeated South Central. It was a close game with a game winning buzzer beater coming from 7th grader Brody Hoffman. He stated, "The only thing that was in my head was to throw it to Preston, run to the corner and shoot." The game winning 3-pointer was perfectly shot, ending the T-wolves undefeated season.

The Mavs then went on to another battle against Spearville, resulting in Kiowa County's first and only loss on the season. They played incredibly hard but unfortunately couldn't pull through and lost by two points.

The Kiowa County Mavericks boys made a massive comeback never looking back against the Ingalls Bulldogs winning 56-41.

They have been playing this season with incredible mightiness and aren't stopping anytime soon. Head Coach Brad Lingafelter reports, "So far the season has gone how I thought it would go. I thought we had a legitimate chance of going undefeated, but that was not to be. All our goals are still in front of us!"

When the Mavs played the South Gray Rebels, they played hard beating them by a whopping 12 points. 8th grader Preston Coss stated, "We played well, and moving the ball around was the best part and definitely driving to the basket. I think if we play hard enough we will go places and will be in the championship game."

The team had their last game of the month against the Skyline Thunderbirds and decimated them with a margin of 37 points.

They have one more regular season game left against Minneola. Following that, the Junior High Mavericks play in the SPIAA League Tournament at Kiowa County. Make sure to come out and support them!







Top: Head Coach Brad Lingafelter draws up the game winning play during the timeout against the South Central Timberwolves. Bottom L: The Mavericks come out of the tunnel ready to beat the T-Wolves. Bottom R: 8th grader Lochlan Gumpenberger looks for a pass down low. (photos by Dallas Derley)



7th grader Brody Hoffman shoots the buzzerbeater to win the game for the Mavericks against the T-wolves. (photo by Dallas Derley)

MAVERICK SCOREBOARD

01/09 vs South Central

A Team (W): 31-28 B Team (L): 22-29 C Team (L): 29-36

01/16 @ Spearville

A Team (L): 32-34 B Team (W): 25-22 C Team (W): 22-19

01/20 vs Ingalls

A Team (W): 56-41 B Team (W): 29-20 C Team (L): 26-30

01/23 vs South Grav

A Team (W): 39-27 B Team (W): 32-15 C Team (L): 18-39

01/27 @ Skyline

A Team (W): 51-14 B Team (W): 34-20 C Team (W): 35-31



Current Record: 11-1

SCHOLARS BOWL PREP FOR SUCCESS

KCJH QUIZZERS LOOKING TO REPEAT AS LEAGUE CHAMPS





Top: The Scholars Bowl team split into two groups, battling to see who can answer the question first. (photo by Ellie Hayes) Bottom: The 2025 Kiowa County Junior High Scholars bowl team. (photo by Kwynn Blanton)

BY GENTRY BALLARD

Ready, set, BUZZ! The 2025 Kiowa County Junior High Scholars Bowl team is looking forward to their upcoming season.

The team has started practices and are preparing for another successful season as they welcome back some returning players, but they also have added several new faces to this year's team.

This year's group of quizzers have large shoes to fill, looking to repeat as SPIAA League Champions in a very challenging league.

"I am very optimistic about this season. We have three returning and nine that have never done scholar's bowl before, but I'm excited to get started," says Mr. Lohrding, the KCJH Scholar's Bowl coach.

This year's scholars bowl team includes 8th graders Grayson Ballard, Truman Barnes, Dallas Derley, Delaney Little, Lincoln Piester, and Addison Walters. The 7th graders are Sebastian Favela-Clayton, Brody Hoffman, Natalie Koger, Bodie McDonald, and Rowdy Young. Lastly, Caleb Watson as the only 6th grader. Ballard, Barnes, and McDonald are the three veterans.

Ballard said, "I'm really excited for this year to compete with other schools and to defend our SPIAA league championship."

Scholars bowl competitions at the junior high level include meets where teams go head to head in rounds. The rounds consist of 16 questions, each worth 10 points. The subjects include: three questions each from social studies, English language arts, math, and science; two questions from fine arts; and one each from miscellaneous (often sports questions) and year in review.

The first scholars bowl meet is at Meade on February 20th. Make sure to come out and support the KCJH Scholars Bowl team!

SCHOLARS BOWL SCHEDULE

2/20 @ Meade, V/JV

2/24 @ South Gray, V

2/27 @ Minneola, V/JV

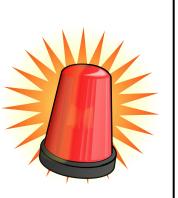
3/01 @ Spearville, JV

3/04 @ Satanta, V/JV

3/11 @ Ashland, V/JV

3/25 @ Bucklin, V/JV

4/03 SPIAA @ South Central (Protection), V/JV





The Junior High Quiz Bowl Team answer some math questions during practice. (photo by Kwynn Blanton)⁴

FUN FACTS

WITH THE 8TH GRADERS Article by Ellie Hayes

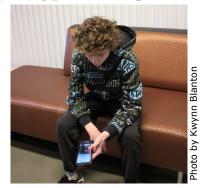
Jemma Ploger



Jemma's favorite sport to play is basketball.

- Q: Would you rather shout all of the time or only be able to whisper? A: $^{\rm w}$ I would rather whisper all the time because I already usually talk quietly."
- Q: Would you rather have your hand stuck in a jar or get your head stuck in a bucket? A: "My hand stuck in a jar because I've heard there are tricks to get it out."
- Q: Would you rather be able to fly or be able to breathe underwater? A: Fly because I don't go in the water that much.
- Q: Would you rather spend a day exploring space or the ocean? A: "The ocean because I don't want to get stuck in space"
- Q: Would you rather let a spider climb over you or let a snake slither across you? A: "A snake slithers across me because that wouldn't be that bad."

JOSEPH CORBALLY



Joseph likes to play on his phone in his spare time.

- Q: Would you rather eat steak for a week or ice cream for a week? A: "I think steak because of all of the different types."
- Q: Would you rather be a surgeon or be a college professor? A: "Professor."
- Q: Would you rather never play basketball again or never play Fortnite again? A: "Fortnite because Warzone is better."
- Q: Would you rather be able to turn invisible or be able to fly for a day? A: "Fly, so no one can catch me."
- Q: Would you rather go skydiving or bungee jumping?
- A: "Bungee jumping because I can get my hair wet without getting soaked."

JOSH GILKEY



Josh enjoys participating in sports at KCJH.

- Q: If you could give your 6th grade self advice what would it be? A: "Turn in your work on time."
- Q: Would you rather have the superpowers of Iron Man or Batman? A: "Iron man because he is richer."
- Q: Would you rather eat only burgers for a week or only ice cream for a week? A: "Burgers because it has more nutrients."
- Q: Would you rather own Kobes or Curry basketball shoes? A: "Kobes because they have better color selections."
- Q: Would you rather have to always hop around on one foot or have to always squat as you walk? A:"Hop around because squatting is kind of weird."

Bee-ING THE BEST

BY SHELBY FULTON

The spelling bee has been buzzing again at Kiowa County with even more ecstatic spellers. The class spelling bees were held in the library on January 14th with Mrs.Noll as the judge and Mrs.Greenleaf as the moderator.

The top spellers from the 8th grade class were: 1st Truman Barnes, 2nd Abel Martinez, 3rd Myles Mitchell, and alternate Preston Coss. The top spellers from the 7th grade class were: 1st Sebastian Favela, 2nd Rowdy Young, 3rd Shelby Fulton, and Iva Brown as the Alternate. Winners in the 6th grade class were: 1st Khloe Gilkey, 2nd Caleb Watson, 3rd Gwen Smith with Hannah Torres as alternate.

These students went on to compete against each other in the KCJH Spelling Bee on Jan. 23rd. With a winning word of "keening", Caleb Watson clenched 1st place. Following in close at 2nd was Rowdy Young, and in 3rd was Gwen Smith, with the alternate as Myles Mitchell. The top three will go to Haviland on February 12th to compete in the County Spelling Bee. Good luck, spellers!

The winners of the KCJH Spelling Bee were: (L-R) Caleb Watson, Rowdy Young, Gwen Smith, and Myles Mitchell. (photo by Kwynn Blanton)



AROUND THE SCHOOL

FEATURING ALL THE ACTIVITIES IN KCJH





Top: 8th graders Dallas Derley and Delaney Little receive their awards at the assembly from Victoria Yohn from the Kiowa County Conservation District. Delaney was the Grand Champion while Dallas was Reserved Grand Champion for grades 6-8.

Rosenbaum, and Hannah Torres are presented awards because of their artistic abilities for the "Home is where the Habitat is" Conservation Posters. (photos by Charlee Jantz)

CONSERVATION AWARDS MANY

BY IVA BROWN

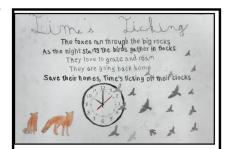
The first month of the new year is coming to a close, and as of the 14th of January, the results of the Conservation Posters & Limericks competition have been announced. For the posters, the top three in 6th grade include 1st Hannah Torres, 2nd Khloe Gilkey, and 3rd Cheryl Rosenbaum. Meanwhile, the top from KCJH in the 7th grade class were Sebastian Favela in 1st and Jayce Banta in 3rd.

As for the limericks results, Cooper Jantz received 1st, Cheryl Rosenbaum 2nd, and Scarlette Small 3rd for the 6th grade class. For 7th grade, our winners were Ty Hatton 1st, Bodie McDonald 2nd, and Larston Higbie 3rd. Our top 8th graders from KCJH were Delaney Little in 1st and Dallas Derley in 2nd. Little also received overall Grand Champion and Derley Reserve Champion for their limericks. Little reported, "I worked hard on my limerick poster. I was really surprised when I won." Little's limerick will compete in the state competition.

Mrs. Ballard, the proud JH teacher associated with the conservation limericks, stated, "I think it was special that every single junior high student at Kiowa County participated in the limerick contest. I felt that it was important for them to study and understand limerick poetry and then apply what

they learned with their creativity to make unique conservation limericks on *Home Is Where the Habitat Is.* I was very proud of the impressive poems and posters that our students produced."

With that being said, congratulations to all of our talented artists and poets this year for their well-earned victories, as well as to all of the hardworking students.



Time's Ticking

The foxes ran through the big rocks As the night starts birds gather in flocks They love to graze and roam

They are going back home
Save their homes, time's ticking off
their clocks.

By Delaney Little, KCJH 8th grade Grand Champion

Keepin' up with Kiowa county

ALL THE LATEST HAPPENINGS IN GREENSBURG, HAVILAND, & MULLINVILLE

"KOOK"ING UP SOMETHING TASTY

BY DALLAS DERLEY

Stop by at Kook's Meats, whether you take the time to dine in or go with their easy and quick drive through. Owner/Operator Andy Kooken and Georgina Rodriguez will proudly serve you with welcoming smiles on both their faces.

Andy has been cutting and slicing all types of meats for 36 years and has been going strong in Greensburg since August of 2009.

They serve multiple delicious items including: Cold, Hot, or Grilled Sandwiches along with their mouth watering burgers. Sink your teeth into their famous BBQ Beef Sandwich to satisfy your taste buds or try one of their daily lunch or dinner specials.

For a real treat, Mr. Lohrding claimed, "They always have good specials, I especially love their cheeseburgers and the Lip Smacker with all that crispy bacon." He also stated, "My favorite thing about Kook's Meat is their environment and the way they are so friendly. They are always up to supporting our school, which is awesome."

Georgina makes multiple scrumptious homemade treats like cakes, pies, cupcakes, cinnamon rolls, and so many other delicious desserts for customers to devour. She also makes various pasta salads that people love and order all the time. The desserts rotate every week, so Georgina is often busy making goodies with lots of love and passion. They also do catering for various occasions, making charcuterie boards, party trays/platters, and sandwiches that are affordable and tasty for any event.

8th grader Lincoln Piester explains that his favorite thing to eat is the BBQ Sandwich and said, "I love the tenderness of the meat, how it melts in your mouth, how the savory bun pulls everything together."

To find this amazing restaurant/deli, you can go to: 115 W Kansas Ave Ste A in Greensburg. This superior place to eat and butcher shop is open 7am-8pm from Monday to Friday, 9am-2pm on Saturday and is closed on Sunday. Call them at (620) 723-2121 to place your order, check on the weekly specials, or order catering for your next party or event. They can also be found on Facebook.

Make sure to stop by and enjoy the deliciousness of Kook's Meat! Tell them the Publication at Kiowa County Junior High highly recommended it and sent you!















MEET THE PUBLICATION TEAM



Kwynn Blanton Grade 8 Co-Editor



Charlee Jantz
Grade 8
Write/Photographer



Dallas Derley
Grade 8
Write/Photographer



Ellie Hayes
Grade 8
Writer/Photographer



Sebastian Favela-Clayton
Grade 7
Writer/Photographer



Gentry Ballard Grade 6

Writer/Photographer



Khloe Gilkey Grade 6



Mya Hoffman Grade 6



Mya Mitchell Grade 6

Writer/Photographer



Mrs. Ballard KCJH Advisor





Writer/Photographer Writer/Photographer











Clockwise from Top R: Some of the 8th graders cheer with the junior high cheerleaders at the pep rally. Bottom R: Students open their gifts from the Christmas Gift Exchange on the last day before Christmas Break. (Photos by Mrs. Ballard)

Bottom Middle: 8th grader Grayson Ballard is awarded his Gold Medal at the Big Read Award Ceremony. (Courtesy photo) Bottom L: The Junior High Pep Band plays 'Crunch Time' at the Pep Rally. Top L: 7th grader Malcolm Sitlington gives his gift to 8th grader Truman Barnes at the junior high Christmas party . Top Middle L: Social Studies Teacher, Mr. Lohrding, loves to skate at the 2nd 9 weeks Accelerated Reader Party at the skating rink in Pratt. (photos by Mrs. Ballard) Top Middle R: The Kiowa County Junior High Cheerleaders put 7th grader Grace Brown up in a stunt. (photo by S. Favela-Clayton)

OUT OF THIS WORLD

BY KHLOE GILKEY

The KCJH Impact Leadership Team will be hosting a junior high school dance on February 28th at the Rec Center from 7 to 9 P.M.

The theme for the dance is "Out of This World". The dress code for the dance is casual. The Impact Leadership Team will provide snacks for the event.

The rules for the dance include: 1) All attire must meet the school dress code outlined in the handbook. 2) Once you arrive at the dance, you must stay until it is over or a parent comes in to get you. 3) Students may not go outside and come back in. 4) If you do leave the dance early, a parent will be notified. 5) No rough housing, horseplay, messing with rec equipment (including the basketball goals).

Most importantly, make sure to enjoy the night dancing!

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

BY KWYNN BLANTON



To find upcoming events, information and more, go to usd422.org



JUST FOR FUN



Valentine's Day Word Search

H U G S A A E Y S W B I
Y Z V H A V R R G K G O
W C B A O S E R J E N Z
T K H L L W Y R O J P Z
B C D O O E Z E C W H Y
I A I L C M N X U H E L
D N F G T O E T P C A M
U D Q E I P L M I V R C
S Y E G O F V A D N T Q
I W Z J U F T N T R E W
S E K W P R X Q Z E O T
Y E I E K I S S E S K A

Gift Hugs Love Arrow Candy Cupid Heart Sweet

Kisses Flowers Chocolate Valentine When you've had enough of the snow



When your milk has a Valentine's day date and you don't





(All images taken from Freeprint.com)



