P.E. Classes Donate $1,000 to 2013 Toys for Tots Marine Corp Campaign

By: Casey Moore

During the week of Dec. 4th, the Southwestern High School P.E. classes were all asked to donate $5 or a new toy to support the Toys for Tots charity.

With Christmas fast approaching, the classes were more than happy to donate toys and money to the charity which supplies presents for low-income families with children. Started by the U.S. Marine Corps in 1947, the Toys for Tots foundation has collected millions of toys and delivered those toys to millions of children.

The Southwestern P.E. teachers collected the money and toys from their students throughout the day.

Mrs. Peg Mitchell, P.E. instructor, commented, “Toys for Tots helps two groups at once because it helps children of underprivileged families with Christmas and teaches the students how to donate to charity.”

The Toys for Tots bin was picked up by the Marine Corps and the P.E. classes raised approximately $1,000 to donate to the charity.

Welding, CAD, and Art Students Visit the Dana Thomas House and State Museum

By: Emily Bowman

Southwestern students enrolled in CAD, welding, and art classes recently traveled to Springfield where they visited the Dana-Thomas House, Illinois State Museum, and Midwest Technical Institute field trip.

Mr. Joe Buttita, CAD teacher, and Mr. Rodney Knittel, welding teacher, chaperoned their CAD and welding students as well as ten Art students. The group toured the Dana-Thomas House, which is known for its architectural design by Frank Lloyd Wright.

After touring the home, the group continued on to the Illinois State Museum, splitting off into different groups to explore the museum.

The group then stopped at the Midwest Technical Institute of Springfield, where students toured the campus and visited different classrooms. Students also learned about various programs offered in technical education and mechanical trades.

“I enjoyed myself. It was insightful and the trip also gave me another option for college,” stated senior Taylor Cranmer, Art Club member.

Mr. Webb Cunningham (left), chairman of the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program in the area, presented Mr. Brian Hanslow a plaque in appreciation for donating over $50,000 in toys over the past ten years.

Southwestern students visited the Dana Thomas House in Springfield which was designed by famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright.
On Sunday morning, June 6, former band teacher Mr. Elwyn Mielke along with 46 students and several parents boarded a charter bus and started their long ride to Orlando, Florida.

Once the band arrived in Orlando they had the first day to part into groups and explore the “land of magic.” The parks they could enjoy were Magic Kingdom, Hollywood Studios, Epcot, and Animal Kingdom.

After day one was done the band took day two, June 3rd, to perform and participate in a workshop. The students performed four songs that had been practiced over and over again. The songs played were “The Thunderer”, “Pacifica”, “Glory of The Yankee Navy”, and “Denbridgeway”. These were played in Downtrip was the workshop and being able to

By: Leah Cohrs

This month’s Artist of the Month is senior Morgan Cates. She has been very fascinated with art and is interested in 2-dimensional arts. Morgan has taken almost all of the art classes Southwestern offers.

She specializes in sketches. Cates said that she focuses on realistic features of people. Last year, her realistic sketch of “Adam Levine” was featured in the art show.

When asked if she had anyone to inspire her, Cates stated, “My dear deceased grandmother, as well as my family, have inspired me to always pursue my love of art.”

She plans to become an animator or a graphic designer once she finishes high school. She is considering Columbia College of Chicago or Lewis and Clark.

She also added that art has helped her relax and focus on subjects in school that are difficult.

Her advice for younger students who want to get involved in art is, “If it’s your passion, pursue it. Practice, hone your skills and don’t get frustrated with imperfections or failures. Express yourself and do what makes you happy.”

Area Church Makes Cookies for Teachers

By: Chelsey Milligan

Since the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year, the Assembly of God Church in Brighton has been bringing boxes of cookies to teachers in the Southwestern School District and to other local public officials.

In the boxes, goodies range from chocolate chip cookies to brownies. There’s never the same variety in every box.

Pastor Clyde Kallal delivers them on the first Wednesday of the month in which the congregation fills the boxes the night before. They make about 40 to 50 dozens of goodies to put into the boxes.

They deliver to Brighton North, Medora Elementary, Shipman Elementary, Brighton Fire Department, and the Brighton Police Department.

Pastor Kallal commented, “We want to show our support for the ones who take care of our children. It’s not an easy job. We want to show them we appreciate all they do.”

Mrs. Kelly Goetten, English teacher, stated, “The faculty really looks forward to the treats and appreciates the church’s kindness and support.”

In the Halls

With Hayley and Breanna

What is your favorite Christmas movie?

Mr. Redfern - Christmas Vacation
John Pierce - The Grinch
Jamie Brockway - Rudolph
Andrew Meredith - Elf
Briston Johnson - Rudolph
Morgan Cates - White Christmas
Jacob Bowman - Home Alone 2
James Krankel - The Grinch
Carley Link - Christmas Vacation
Emme Hays - A Christmas Story
Race Davis - Eight Crazy Nights
Mr. Mosley - Die Hard
Morgan Ozark - Home Alone 2
Ailee Manns - Frosty
Elyabeth Colburn - It’s a Wonderful life
Cody Catlett - Bad Santa

What do you want for Christmas?

Evan Lowis - snow days
Josh Kelly - a kitten
Ms. Gaffney - Game of Thrones
Marion Black - bass guitar
Maggie Carrigan - money
Zach Davis - car speakers
Frankie Steward - new exhaust
Lora Fritsch - a husky
Jacob Rotermund - a pony
Brad Spurling - two front teeth
Leah Cohrs - Harry Styles
Dylan Green - playstation 4
Tanner Moore - a laptop
Mr. Henry - a maid
Varsity Girls Basketball Team Keeps Up Winning Streak

By: Brittany Means and Austin O’Heron

The Southwestern girls’ basketball team kicked off their season with big wins against Calhoun, 72-32, and Greenfield, 83-29, before entering their own Thanksgiving Tournament. The girls grabbed a first place finish after getting past Calhoun in an overtime finish, 64-62. They toppled Gillespie, Wesclin, and Highland JV in the tournament.

On Monday, December 2, the girls’ basketball team took a win at an away game against East Alton-Wood River with a score of 58-22. Following that big win, the girls defeated Vandalia on December 7, with a score of 63-38, and the beat Madison at home with a win of 77-22 on December 11.

The girls look forward to their holiday tournament at Jerseyville which starts on Dec. 26.

Cross Country Races to the End Of 2013 Season and Finishes with Banquet

By: Breanna Fowler

The 2013 cross country team had a great season this year from the practices to sectionals. With cross country ending this season Coach Gary Bowker and a few cross country members had some things to say about the season and sectionals.

“Sectionals were great this year,” said Coach Bowker. The girls for the fifth time in seven years went to sectionals.

Southwestern and Bunker Hill have a co-op for cross country. Sophomore Brandon Myatt, the only Bunker Hill member, had an exceptional year making it to state and placing sixth.

Coach Bowker stated that many runners improved from the beginning of the season to the end. When asked who improved the most, Coach Bowker responded with Sara McCoy. He explained that she went from her starting off time with 31:47 to 23:32, she improved with an 8 minute difference.

The entire cross country season was not only successful, but enjoyable for not only the members but for Coach Bowker as well. When asked what his favorite part of the season was, Coach Bowker replied, “The practices. Every practice was fun and I looked forward to getting with the kids every day.”

Senior Josh Jorden agreed with Coach Bowker that the practices were his favorite part.

Boys Basketball Team Looks to Improve Record

By: Ricci Flannery

Amber Freeman

On Nov. 29, the boys’ basketball team started their season in the Lebanon Thanksgiving Tournament at Lebanon High School. The Birds’ first game was tough outing against College Prep, with a loss of 81-38. In their next tournament game, the Birds were upset by Columbia, 50-42. On December 4, they played Freeburg with a loss of 48-47.

On December 7, they won their first game with the score of 47-42 against Lebanon. The boys placed 7th place in the tournament.

Coach Jason Darr stated about the tournament play, “It’s really hard for the boys to get into a game and finish it.”

On Dec. 3, the team played their first regular season game against Carrollton at home. The JV won 51-49 and the Varsity loss 65-64.

The Varsity team finally notched their first win against Staunton, 73-45, on Dec. 17. The boys will play in the Carrollton Holiday Tournament beginning Dec. 26.

When asked the same question, junior Ailee Manns said, “Ultimate frisbee was my favorite.”

The members and Coach Bowker noted their thoughts about what they will miss most now that the season is over for the year.

Junior Nick Ballard responded, “Being around Coach Bowker and the team.”

Senior Sondra Thurm said, “Being with everyone is what I’ll miss the most. We are like a family.”
“Baby It’s Cold Outside” - SHS Warms Up Community with Hat and Mitten Tree

By: Rachel Meisner & Chelsey Milligan

The Spanish Club and Student Government is currently sponsoring a hat & mitten tree. The tree is located in the office, and students can give hats or mittens which will be donated to the grade schools across the district for the kids during recesses.

The tree will be up in the office until the end of the semester.

When asked Mrs. Beth Hasse, Spanish Club Sponsor, how many years Southwestern has been sponsoring a hat & mitten tree, she stated, “I have been teaching here for eight years and it has been done since then.”

Mr. Matt Hasquin, social studies teacher, has been collecting hats and mittens with his classes.

Bird’s Eye View Gets Exclusive Interview

By: Juliet Wooldridge

Q1: What has been the most requested gift this year?

Q2: When do you start making Christmas gifts for next year?
A2: When did I say we ever stop making toys?

Q3: How do you make it to every house, eat the cookies and drink the milk, while still having time for every other house in the world?
A3: Well, those cookies sure give off a sugar rush.

Q4: Who is your favorite reindeer?
A4: I can’t pick favorites! (Secretly, I would have to say Dasher!)

Happy Holidays! Have a great winter break!
- From Bird’s Eye News Staff

SHS November Students of the Month

Freshman Grant Francis

Sophomore Samantha Cranmer

Junior Bo Watson

Senior Emily Harbison