News

Door Decoration Contest Brings Out Holiday Cheer in SAS

By: Emily Jones
This year, each S.A.S. class participated in a winter door decorating contest. The P.B.I.S. Committee sponsored the event and encouraged each S.A.S. to decorate their doors with a winter theme. The doors were judged based on overall appearance by Mrs. Kari Burns, Mrs. Karen Metts and Officer Dan Mathis.

The first place recipient was Mrs. Deonia Mathis’ S.A.S. class. The theme for their door was “The Island of Misfits”. Her S.A.S. class received a Dairy Queen ice cream cake.

“It was a good chance for our S.A.S. to work together and make a great creation,” claimed sophomore Chelsey Milligan, a member of Mrs. Mathis’ S.A.S.

Mr. Brian Borkowski’s S.A.S. class tied with Mrs. Kelly Goetten’s S.A.S. class to receive second place while Mrs. Susan Ruyle’s S.A.S. received third. Their S.A.S. classes received ice cream sandwiches.

Mrs. Goetten said that a few boys in her class, who like to deer hunt, wanted to decorate the door with reindeer. She commented that Nathaniel Sellers and Braden Whippes were the ones mainly in charge but Caylin Beeman and Cassidy Rister contributed a lot to the project.

“I was proud of my class for working together,” added Mrs. Goetten.

When asked if the students enjoyed the contest, Mrs. Peg Mitchell stated, “I believe that the students did enjoy the contest. It’s always good for the students to get involved with school activities and have fun.”

SEE MORE PICTURES ON PAGE 9

FFA Parliamentary Procedure Team Debates Their Way to 2nd Place

By: Sarann Boker
On Thursday, January 10, the Southwestern FFA hosted the Parliamentary Procedure sectionals competition.

Competing for Southwestern was varsity chairman - senior August Schetter; varsity secretary - sophomore Keely Egelhoff; and varsity floor members - senior Emily Wilson, juniors Rachel Meisner and Jon Loy, sophomore Keely Egelhoff, and freshman Ashley Egelhoff.

Their advisor is Mr. Tim Reed and the alternates were junior Leighton Grothaus and sophomore Nick Ballard.

Overall three varsity teams competed and two freshmen teams. Southwestern has been participating in parliamentary procedure under Mr. Reed since 1998.

According to Ballard the team prepared for the event through hours of practice and much prodding from Mr. Reed.

Ashley Egelhoff, the only freshman on the team, stated, “It was nerve-racking at first, but in the end the team really came together and competed really well.”

First Snow-coming Held at SHS

Monday– Mismatch/ Opposite Day. Use your imagination and come up with mixed up outfits.

Tuesday– Decades Day. Dress the part of your favorite decade.

Wednesday– Super Hero/Movie Character Day. Dress up as your favorite Super Hero or Character from a movie.

Thursday– Twin/Triplet Day

Friday– Dress for Success– Wear your best and Try to Impress. Remember Friday is Tie Day.

From 4:30– 7 p.m. the International Club will be hosting a Chili Supper.

*Wear a white t-shirt to the Boys Basketball Game with North Greene.
For seniors having the sudden realization that college costs are looming in their not so distant future, scholarships may very well become a student’s best friend. There are numerous scholarship opportunities on local, state, and national levels that are available throughout the year. Ms. Debbie Ballard urges seniors to apply for all of the local “Foundation” scholarships (see below) which will become available in February. February and March are busy months scholarship-wise, so students should listen to the morning announcements and stop by the office to take advantage of any upcoming opportunities.

Students wanting to find scholarships on their own should check out websites such as Fastweb, Peterson’s, The College Board, Scholarships.com, and Zinch. There are thousands of opportunities, and not just for students with above average grades. There are some scholarships that are accomplishment based (community service, etc.), some that are specifically targeted for average GPAs, and some that are just plain weird. For example, there’s a $5,000 scholarship for the couple that designs and wears the best Duct tape prom outfits or a $7,500 scholarship (and a free trip to Disney) for the “Scholar Athlete Milk Mustache of the Year”.

For those wary of applying for national scholarships because of the odds, Ms. Ballard says, “Their odds of not getting it are one hundred percent if they don’t apply.” She added that a student may have a better chance of winning than they think—even if it’s by default. “It depends on how many are given and how many apply,” Ms. Ballard stated.

Scholarships are not the only option for students needing financial help. Mrs. Ballard encourages every senior, regardless of income, to fill out their FAFSA forms. There are also opportunities to apply for grants and loans. Taking general education classes at a community college or working on-campus can also lower college costs.

### Local Scholarships Available in February

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarship Name</th>
<th>Eligibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southwestern Education Association Senior who is entering teaching profession</td>
<td>must write an essay (2 for $200)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwestern Chamber of Commerce “Student of the Year”</td>
<td>Based on community service and essay ($500)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwestern School Foundation for Educational Excellence Scholarships</td>
<td>Several Scholarships given ($1000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwestern Sports Boosters (Maggie Huff Sports Boosters Scholarship)</td>
<td>Senior with participation in several sports, GPA, rank, and Varsity letters (1 male and 1 female) ($1000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Club Scholarship</td>
<td>Senior who has taken two or more years of Spanish—determined by a test given by Spanish teachers ($500)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brighton Civic League Scholarship</td>
<td>Community service, good citizenship, top 50% of class ($1500)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William L. Ashton &amp; Ethel Gent Ashton Scholarship (St. Paul United Methodist Church)</td>
<td>Southwestern High School District graduating senior (max. of $1,000)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more scholarships go to piasabirds.net and click on “Guidance” under the “School Webpage” dropdown.
Fox’s *American Idol* Premieres for 12th Season

By: Alicia Woodman

The 12th season of American Idol premieres on Wed., January 16, and Thurs., January 17, on FOX with some new changes. There are three new judges this year: Nicki Minaj, Mariah Carey and Keith Urban. Judge Randy Jackson and host Ryan Seacrest are returning for another season. Guys and girls have always competed together, but this year they will be separated during Hollywood week. There will be equal representation of each gender (five guys, five girls) for the Top 10. Contestants will only get one chance to impress the judges, because there will not be a wildcard for the Top 12. Shy singers will have a chance to shine because friends can nominate singers for a private audition with Randy Jackson. What they don’t know, is that there will be a hidden camera capturing their audition.

The winner gets a recording contract.

Past winners have been: Kelly Clarkson (Season 1), Ruben Studdard (Season 2), Fantasia Barrino (Season 3), Carrie Underwood (Season 4), Taylor Hicks (Season 5), Jordin Sparks (Season 6), David Cook (Season 7), Kris Allen (Season 8), Lee Dewyze (Season 9), Scotty McCreery (Season 10), and Phillip Phillips (Season 11).

According to Parade, the most successful American Idol contestants are: 1. Underwood, 2. Clarkson, 3. Jennifer Hudson (7th place), 4. Katherine McPhee (runner-up), and 5. Chris Daughtry (4th place).

“My favorite singers have been Carrie Underwood and Lauren Alaina,” senior Beth Williams commented.

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What’s the Best Month to Buy…

By: Alicia Woodman

If you want to get the best deal on everything you buy, you should know what month features bargain prices on certain items. Here are some tips for February: Due to people gearing up for Super Bowl parties, flat screen TVs are a hot item to buy in February. Most electronic stores offer their lowest prices of the year on TVs the week before the Super Bowl.

Chocolate is usually on sale because of Valentine’s Day and post Christmas chocolate is on clearance.

Motorcycles and boats are available at sale prices enticing consumers to get ready for warm weather. Also, air conditioners are in the sale ad to help people prepare in advance for spring and summer months when the weather heats up.
Entertainment

NHL Drops First Puck After Lock-Out

By: Hannah Price

The 2012 NHL lockout began September 15, one month before the 2012-2013 season was to begin and ended January 6, 2013. After the 113 day lockout the National Hockey League Players’ Association (NHLPA) and The Owners of the League’s Franchises came to a mutual agreement on the fundamentals of the collective bargaining agreement (CBA.) The lockout affected the 2012-2013 season greatly with 625 regular season games being cancelled as well as the Winter Classic which was meant to be played January 1st in the faceoff of the Detroit Red Wings and the Toronto Maple Leafs. The 2013 All-Star Game was also cancelled, however it is not a regular season game, but is a favorite for players and fans.

The NHL has plans to have a 50 game season for the 2013 year. Hockey fans, sophomore Chelsey Milligan and senior Jonathon Montgomery, said they plan to watch the entire season and hopefully attend some games.

“My favorite team is of course the Detroit Red Wings and I love to see them play against the St. Louis Blues,” stated Milligan.

Many fans watched teams face off on the opening day of the season January 19, 2013, when the Stanley Cup and banner was presented to the 2011-2012 winners, the LA Kings. The Kings followed the ceremony with an anticipated game facing the Chicago Blackhawks. The STL Blues opened against their rivals, the Detroit Red Wings ending with a shut out of 6-0.

“My favorite team is the St. Louis Blues and my favorite team to watch them play against is the Chicago Blackhawks,” commented Montgomery. The Blues played against the Blackhawks January 22, in Chicago defeated in a score of 2-3.

Prom Plans Underway for 2013 Event

By: Lauren Peiffer

This year’s junior-senior prom is approaching quickly. The event will be held in the LCCC commons on Saturday, May 11, from 8-11 p.m. The prom committee has selected a masquerade theme.

Promenade will begin at 7:30 p.m. Mandatory breathalyzer test will be administered at the entrance. Tickets are $35 per person, and seniors are free. Freshman and sophomores will be allowed to attend as a guest of upper-classman.

Outside guests are required to fill out a permission slip, must be approved by the administration, and must be under the age of 21.

After-prom is organized by the junior class officers’ parents, and is not yet decid-ed .

Students should be sure to note the rule in the student handbook (pg. 61) that states: “a student who has met or exceeded more than 10 absences will not be permitted to attend dances/ prom unless approved by the administration.” Before buying a prom dress or ticket, students should be sure that they are allowed to go to the dance.

If students have questions about prom, they can speak to Mrs. Brown, prom sponsor.

Background Division Page Contest

Draw a picture or scene for the 2012-2013 yearbook!

One winner will be chosen from every class and featured as his/her class’ division page in the yearbook. Requirements: Picture should include year of graduation and can be in pencil or color. The theme is Dr. Seuss. Due Date: February 15th (turn in to Mrs. Ruyle)

In the Halls

with Danielle H. and Lauren
What is your New Year’s Resolution?

Mr. Delong—to be grateful for the small things
Katie Laslie—to get better at guitar
Myles Porter, Jerad Gisy, and Doug Grizzle—to make Southwestern a better place with our presence
Abby Mizerski—not wear my hair in buns
Hannah Wilfong—to be a better “me”
Mr. Hanslow—win 20 baseball games
Josh Kelly—to quit bad habits
Austin Cummings—to be better at Tae Kwan Do
Garrett Sebastian—to stop eating candy
Katie Wooldridge—to sign with a college for softball
Brandie Menzie—to stop wasting gas
Lauren Cox—to stop using my car as a trashcan
Erin Huff—to lose weight
Josh Constable—to kill 30 coyotes
Danielle Churchich—to persuade the Chinese Buffet to get season passes

Blues’ defensemen T.J. Oshie has scored three goals this season.
Senior Brendan Lawson Flips His Way to McKendree Cheer Squad

By: Katelyn Stanley

Brendan Lawson, 17, is quite the gymnast.

He has been involved in gymnastics for about 14 years. He started when he was 4 years old and has stuck with it ever since.

Lawson goes to Mid-Illinois Gymnastics in Godfrey.

Throughout finding his love for the sport, he has also landed a job within his hobby.

Lawson coaches gym classes every night through the week. He coaches gymnasts from age 3 to age 18.

The first class he teaches is called Tumble Gems, which is like the basic stuff for beginners. That class ranges from ages 3 to 5.

The next class he teaches is Tumble Stars or Step Up. It’s the next step from your basic somersault. That division ranges from ages 5 to 10.

Tumble Twisters is another class Lawson teaches. It’s when the gymnasts are really getting into what they do. That class has gymnasts from ages 8 to 15.

Finally, he teaches Cheer 1 and 2, which is the most extreme class at the gym. That class is for ages 12 to 18.

Aside from Lawson’s job, he also has to remember how far he has come.

When asked what has been the hardest thing to overcome, he answered “fear.”

Lawson specializes in floor routines. He doesn’t do the beam or the bars, strictly floor routines.

I asked him what is the best thing about the sport.

“How physically demanding it is,” answered Lawson.

He got involved in the sport at a very young age. He taught himself a back hand-spring when he was 3 years old, and his mom decided that he had a talent. That’s when she put him in a class at Mid-Illinois Gymnastics.

Lawson plans on always trying to stay involved in the sport. He said that he will always try to coach.

I asked him if he will want his kids involved in the sport and he fired back with, “Oh yeah, they will have no choice.”

Clearly, it’s something he wants to have his children carry on.

He recently got accepted to McKendree for cheerleading. He already earned a spot on the squad and got his acceptance letter in the mail.

A scout from the college, and the cheerleading coach, came to the basketball game in Lebanon to watch him cheer. She immediately told him that he had earned a spot.

Gymnastics lead to cheer because he had already planned on being involved in cheer during college, and he figured it would be a good experience while in high school.

Lawson’s favorite trick to do is a double Arabian.

He has competed in various competitions including Regional, State, and National. He has been state champion twice, National champion twice, and won Regional champion in almost every competition.

He has competed in Springfield, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and he will be heading to Florida this summer to compete.

Lawson has found something he thoroughly enjoys and has a deep profound love for. He will forever follow the sport and always hold his experiences, accomplishments, and struggles close to his heart.

Lawson in mid-flip at Nationals this summer in Wisconsin.

2013 People’s Choice Awards Winners

Movie: *The Hunger Games*
Movie Actor: Robert Downey, Jr. (*Iron Man*)
Movie Actress: Jennifer Lawrence (*The Hunger Games*)
Network TV Comedy: “The Big Bang Theory”
Network TV Drama: “Grey’s Anatomy”
Sci-fi/fantasy TV show: “Supernatural”
Daytime TV host: Ellen DeGeneres
Late-night talk show host: Jimmy Fallon
Competition TV Show: “The X Factor”
Male Artist: Jason Mraz
Female Artist: Katy Perry
Band: Maroon 5
Humanitarian: Sandra Bullock
Breakout Artists: The Wanted
Song: “What Makes You Beautiful”-One Direction
Album: “Up All Night”-One Direction
Music Video: “Part of Me”-Katy Perry
People’s Choice: Christina Aguilera
Celebrity Judge: Demi Lovato
Movie Icon: Meryl Streep
Lansaw Family Welcomes 4th Daughter

By: Danielle Halcom
At 11:15 a.m. on December 31, 2012, Mr. Jeremy Lansaw’s and his wife Christine welcomed their fourth daughter Leah Catherine. She was born at St John’s Hospital in Springfield.

She was 8 pounds 3 ounces and 21 inches long.

“When she was born I was very excited and proud,” Stated Mr. Lansaw.

Leah has three older sisters: Naomi, Elaina, and Adeline.

“The girls are really excited about the new baby. They are like three little mothers,” added Mr. Lansaw.

Scholar Bowl Finds Success in Tournament

By: Alicia Woodman
This year, the Southwestern Scholar Bowl team has had an opportunity to participate in many tournaments. On Sat., January 12, they traveled to Greenville for the IHSSBCA Turnabout Tourney. After many matches, the A team came home with a 2nd place win after playing Greenville in the championship game. Junior Daniel Woodman, Senior Jonathon Montgomery and freshman Kaeden Kessinger have helped the team achieve top places in tournaments.

On Sat., January 19, the team traveled to Springfield for the Springfield High School Invitational. A team won three matches, B team won one game and JV won three games.

On Tues., January 22, Southwestern went up against Greenville and Litchfield for a match at Litchfield. The Varsity team won against Greenville 320-130, but fell to Litchfield 330-250. JV lost to both teams.

“Scholar bowl is quite magnificent. It’s always a pleasure meeting new and interesting people. This season is going to be quite draining because there are so many tournaments,” junior Sarran Boker commented.

Senior Abi Bregenzer quoted, “There is nothing quite like a feeling of getting a power.”

Last year, Montgomery broke the record for the most toss ups with 224 tossups. This year he hopes to beat it. So far this season, Montgomery has 216. Montgomery said that his focus isn’t on his record, but on the team achievements.

“A team is like a family. Sometimes we might not get along but in the long run, we always stick together,” senior Nick Simmons stated.
Varsity Girls Defend Their Winning Season
By: Katie Wooldridge and Alysa Kaiser

As the season has progressed, the girls have managed to maintain a winning record of 14-3. Coach Wooley stated that he is more than happy with the team’s effort but would like to see more consistency with the girls’ overall performance.

“I’m not much of a goal setter, but my main goals are to win county and make sure the girls go hard every day at practice,” noted Coach Wooley.

A variety of players have had the opportunity to start varsity including senior Jamie Geisler, along with four underclassmen: sophomore Ashlyn Ringhausen, and freshmen Maddie Greeling, Kristin Cox, and Kelsey Rhoades.

“It feels really good to be starting varsity as a freshman and being able to produce wins,” commented Rhoades.

Their winning streak continued into the Macoupin County tournament where the team placed first. Greeling was the only Southwestern player to earn a spot on the All-Tournament Team.

“Receiving this award made me feel very honored, but I definitely think there were quite a few of my teammates that deserved it just as much as I did,” quoted Greeling.

Greeling also stated how much she enjoys having the opportunity to play for Coach Wooley and with her teammates.

Senior Softball Player Allison Moran Signs with LCCC

Senior Allison Moran, daughter of Anna and Denny Moran, signed with Lewis and Clark College to play softball beginning next season. She signed on January 18, 2013, accompanied by her parents, Lewis and Clark head softball coach Ronda Roberts, and select softball coach Darrel Gaudio.

Moran exclaimed, “I’m really excited to play with Lewis & Clark because they seem like a good team and I think it will be a lot of fun!”
Cheerleaders Climb to the Top
By: Morgan Ozark

The competition cheerleading squad competed at McKendree College on Sunday, January 6th. The competition was called the “McKendree Winter Classic.” The squad scored a total of eighty-two point five points which earned Southwestern a first place finish. Eleven other squads competed.

“I’m very proud of how well the squad is doing this year. My goal for next competition is to clean up the routine and qualify for IHSA State,” said Coach Jennifer Borkowski.

Coach Borkowski mentioned, “This competition wasn’t our best work, but I know everyone tried their best and we got what we deserved. Once we improve on our timing and put more difficulty in our stunts and tumble passes we will have good chance at placing at state in February.”

“It’s very overwhelming standing on the end of the mat getting ready to perform,” commented sophomore Amber Barnett.

Bowling Team Finishes Last Frame
By: Frankie Steward

The boys’ bowling team finished the season on January 5th, with Sectionals held at Bowl Haven. The team had a record of 5-2. No boys qualified for state. The girls’ team will start sectionals in February.

Two of the highest scoring members are juniors Adam Keene and Brian Heineman.

When asked about the season, Heineman stated, “We had a very good record this year.”

Bowlers’ Profiles

Jimmie Naylor, junior, began bowling this year. His highest score of the season was 257. Naylor said that he sees bowling in his future.

Dylan Wittman, junior, has been bowling for two years. His highest game bowled was 236. Dylan also sees bowling in his future.

Victoria King, sophomore, began bowling two years ago. 189 was her highest game of the season. She does not see bowling in her future.

Super Bowl XLVII - Feb. 3rd

On February 3, 2013, the Baltimore Ravens, representing the AFC, and the San Francisco 49ers, representing the NFC, will be competing in the Super Bowl. This year the Super Bowl will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Take a LOOK at the Bird’s Eye View Staff:
Editor: Danielle Gillespie
Sports Editors: Alysa Kaiser and Katie Wooldridge
Entertainment Editor: Hannah Price
Copy Editor: Alicia Woodman
Staff Writers: Caylin Beeman, Sarann Boker, Danielle Halcom, Emily Jones, Morgan Ozark, Lauren Peiffer, Katelyn Stanley, Frankie Stewart, and Ellie Trombetta.
Advisor: Mrs. Goetten

The Bird’s Eye View is produced by the Publications I class. Copies will be handed out once a month at lunch. Also available online at www.piasabirds.net!
SAS Classes Participate in Door Decorating Contest

Mr. Borkowski’s SAS class tied for 2nd place in the contest with their “Elves on Strike” theme.

Mrs. Goetten’s SAS class tied for 2nd place in the contest with their “Reindeer Stable” theme.

Mrs. Ruyle’s SAS class constructed a Piasa Bird reading “The Night Before Finals” to a class of little Piasa Birds. Their class placed third.

The office got into the door decorating spirit by making Mr. Bearley and Mrs. Mitchell’s “Office Wishlist”.

Mrs. Laird’s SAS class created a Santa and chimney on their door.

Mr. Bennett’s SAS class designed a snowman to go along with their “Let It Snow” message.

Student Government Sponsors Ugly Sweater Day

On Wednesday, Dec. 19th, junior Lauren Jenkins “shined” in her Christmas tree sweater with lights. She had to make sure she was near an electrical outlet to plug in her fashion statement.

Seniors Hunter Watson (left) and Phillip Reedy participated in the event and said that they found their sweaters at the local Salvation Army store.
Still Time to Sign up for the 2013 Europe Trip

For anyone interested in traveling to France this summer, there’s still time to sign up. The Southwestern International Club is still looking for several more people to sign up by February 20 to ensure a private group. Freshmen through seniors are eligible to sign up.

The trip is a nine day tour across Paris, Normandy, and Brittany booked through EF Tours. Students will be visiting sites such as the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, Versailles, and the D-Day beaches.

The departure date is set for June 10 (give or take a couple days if a private group is not made).

Those interested in signing up should contact Mr. Mosley or Mr. Hasquin for more information.

FCCLA Sponsors Matchmaking Questionnaire

It’s nearing Valentine’s Day and love is in the air. FCCLA will use this upcoming holiday as a way to raise money for their club by asking students to take part in the Matchmaker Fundraiser.

Students can fill out a Matchmaker Questionnaire during English class. There is no charge for students to fill out the survey. If they choose to purchase their result sheet, the cost will be $1-$3. The results will be available during lunch in February.

Matchmaker is a great way for students to become better acquainted with one another and is an intriguing, fun-filled, and profitable school activity.

See Mrs. Sinclair for more information.

Student Government Fundraise for “Pennies for Patients” in Classrooms

Student Government is raising money for Pennies for Patients. Pennies for Patients is a program run by The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. In sixteen years $211 million in pocket change has been raised. The change collected pays for research and patient aid.

Boxes will be located in certain classrooms and money will be collected throughout the month of February.

Student Government would appreciate any donations.

Driving: A Privilege with a Price

Driving is a privilege. It symbolizes freedom and with that freedom is a cost. It’s a responsibility that most never come to realize. When you get behind the wheel you not only have yourself to look out for, but also the passengers in the car and the other drivers on the road. One false move and you could put a countless amount of lives in danger.

From what I’ve seen and heard from the news and from others is that teens are a common culprit in driving accidents, and the number of distracted driving accidents is rising. So many things are considered dangerous when it comes to being distracted while driving. Eating, smoking, tuning the radio, and most of all, texting. Anything that causes you to take your eyes off the road for more than five seconds could be more life threatening than you think.

It only takes a split second for a car to slam into you, head-on, killing someone in your car or the other driver before you even know what has happened. Sadly, that’s how most distracted driving accidents occur.

Throw the phone in that backseat, put away the sandwich, stop messing with the radio and maybe once you reach your destination, head to this website: keepthedrive.org for tips and stats on safe driving. You’re not the only one on the road. Share it. Respect it. And keep on driving.

Submitted by Kayla Cole

Chili Supper
Southwestern H.S. Cafeteria
Friday, February 1st
4:30-7:00 p.m.
Before the Southwestern vs. North Greene Boys Basketball Game
Cost: $6/ Adult
$4/ages 8 & under

Sponsored by the Southwestern International Club