

# KMS PURPLE PAGES

*Kenai Middle School  
Kenai, Alaska  
December 2016*



## Christmas Choir Concert

By Brandiee Bowers



On December 8<sup>th</sup> KMS had a Christmas Choir Concert in the KCHS auditorium. Every year KMS has multiple choir concerts, but this one was a little more special than the other ones, because it was the Christmas choir concert. Also it was Mrs. Bird's last Christmas choir concert at KMS.

The day before the choir concert isn't usually different from any other day, but you get your girls'/boys' song drilled into your head, which isn't a bad thing, but it's hard to get it out of your head after that. Some kids have been practicing before school, during school, and even after school for their solos and group songs, which requires both Mrs. Bird's patience and the kid's cooperation.

We had to come in earlier than usual because we were practicing with instruments. I came in way too early and had to wait for a while. There were 27 duets and solos, which were all amazing! Everyone tried their best and sang with excitement. Some people had a sillier attitude than the rest, like Tucker Vann when he sang "Jingle Bell Rock". On the other hand, some people had a more serious song, kind of like Isaac Erwin when he sang "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen".

The duets were spectacular, like when Kaya Cox and Rain Spotted-Eagle Wong sang "Lullaby Jesu", you could hear both of them harmonizing clearly.

Kaylee Jones told me that "Carol of the Bells" gave her chills, and she just thought, "Wow, it's amazing that we made it here, and presented ourselves like this." At the very end of the choir concert everyone in the audience stood and sang with us, which was super cool. I bet that they were glad to be standing, because of how many songs there were.

Thank you to Tomoka Raften for playing piccolo and flute, Jack Will for playing guitar, Maria Allison for playing piano, and Deborah Sounart, Doreena Doyle, Jeanne Duhan, Leah Stephens, and Chris Schultz for the brass ensemble.

Mrs. Bird doesn't just teach Choir, but she also teaches Keyboarding (for the 6<sup>th</sup> graders) and Home Ec. Imagine doing all those classes every day! Somehow she still manages to do extra practice for solos after school, before school, and even during school. The whole choir thanks Mrs. Bird so much for being our conductor; without her choir would be chaos.

**Check out the full-color version of the *Purple Pages* online:  
KMS Facebook, KMS website, and in your school g-mail!**

# Christmas Comes to Kenai

By Haven Walluk



Have you ever been to one of the Christmas Comes to Kenai events? We had a great Christmas Comes to Kenai celebration this year! If you don't know what it is, it is like a town get-together to start the Christmas season. This year's celebration fell on Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup>.

This annual event takes place at the Kenai Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center and has been going on for more than thirty years! The activities range from a light parade and bonfire to an arts and crafts fair at KCHS, plus a special visit from Santa in the Kenai fire truck!

Many of the students here at KMS also helped celebrate this wonderful occasion by either helping as Santa's elves or participating in the light parade. The KCHS and KMS drumline even got to parade down the street and be a part of the lights parade along with many of the floats that assisted in lighting up Kenai for the holiday season. Many groups of families and friends huddled together while enjoying warm cups of hot cocoa by a nice warm bonfire as they watched the assortments of lights and floats pass by, while kids got to write out their Christmas lists and pay a visit to Santa.

However, it isn't a celebration without fireworks! At seven, the celebration started to come to an end as the grand finale fireworks set the night sky ablaze and as people started to file out. Now it's time to start marking your calendars for next year, and have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

# Wonderful Winter Break

By Caitlin Crabb

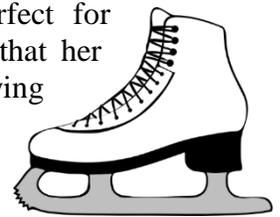
Seeing family is a nice way to spend winter break. Some KMS students are going to visit family during this winter, like Tyler Hippchen who's visiting his grandma. Samuel Roberts is going to visit family down in Florida. Talon Whicker said his favorite thing to do over winter break is when he visits family on a cruise.

But you don't have to go anywhere to visit family, you can just spend time with family at home. One fun thing to do over the holidays is baking and decorating (and also eating) cookies. After a long day out in the snow it's nice to warm up with a warm cup of hot chocolate.

With the snow outside, being outdoors is twice as fun. You can make snowmen, and snow forts are great; you can just chill out in there (literally). Or have a snowball fight with your friends, using the forts as hiding places, or using it to store extra snowballs. Plus, they're easy to make, you just roll a ball into the snow until it's the right size. It should turn out fine, just make sure you steer clear of yellow snow. There are tons of fun sports you can do in the winter, one popular one being skiing. Samuel Baisden and Gabby Tews both said that skiing is one of their favorite parts of winter break. Skiing can be super fun as long as there's some snow, which is looking promising.

Snowboarding is another sport that would be great to try during winter break. Hayes Howard said that snowboarding is one of the things he looks forwards to this break.

Ice skating and hockey are perfect for winter break. Amelia Mueller said that her favorite part of winter break is playing pond hockey, which is just normal hockey, but played on a frozen pond. At the Soldotna Sports Center, you can free skate if you don't happen to have any frozen ponds or lakes nearby.

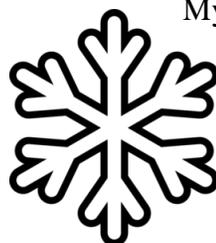


Sledding is yet another fun way to spend this winter break. You can get a sled at most stores fairly easy, and there are tons of places to sled. Some elementary school playgrounds have a hill that's fun to sled. Anonymous said, "One of my favorite things to do during winter break is sled, then I run into a tree."

There are even more things to do during winter break.

Mystery Garner likes ice fishing, and trapping, and she also hunts for grouse during winter break. Betsy Moffett said she plays hide and go seek in the dark during the winter.

What do you like to do during winter break? Whatever it is, have lots of fun!



# What Is Winter Solstice?

By Owen Plumridge



Winter Solstice is the shortest day and the longest night of the year.

The Winter Solstice is considered by some to mark the end of autumn and the start of winter.

In the Northern Hemisphere the Winter Solstice is in December and in the Southern Hemisphere it's in June.

When we are having our Winter Solstice, Australia is having their Summer Solstice.

The stone monuments at Stonehenge in England are lined up perfectly with the Winter Solstice sunset.

The Winter Solstice can happen on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> of December.

The last Winter Solstice on December 23<sup>rd</sup> was in 1903, and will not happen again until 2303.

For days before and after the Winter Solstice occurs, the sun appears to stand still in the sky at its noon-time elevation.

The Winter Solstice is also referred to as Midwinter, the longest night, and Yule.

During the Winter Solstice the sun appears at its lowest point in the sky.

# Opinion-8-ed

By Karley Harden

## What is your New Year's resolution?

Hanna Morrow- "To touch Grace's neck."

Grace Morrow- "Do NOT touch my neck."

Rachel Koppes- "To start an exercise routine every morning."

Abby Moffett- "Eat less food."

Tucker Vann- "Don't get any fatter."

Maria Shaginoff- "Work hard."

Jordan Smith- "To get to stage 10 in Karley's forgiveness."

Sorin Sorensen- "Don't procrastinate as much."

Isabelle Harris- "Not tell as many bad puns."

Nia Calvert- "Learn how to sew."

Aidan Milburn- "Go camping and fishing more often."

Sierra Purugganan- "Not as many detentions."

Khloe Anderson- "To learn how to draw."

Matthew Grzybowski- "To sleep more."

Cullen Engebretson- "To save little kids."

Abby Every- "To not be a loser."

Taylor Carver- "Sleep more, eat less."

Brianne Moore- "To fix my dirt bike."



Maryrose Macabuag- "Do my best even if people let me down."

Aria Fabiano- "Get a boyfriend."

# Winter Clubs

By Jacob Begich

Well it's that time of the year, that's right it's time for Clubs. If you are wanting to have some fun after we get back from vacation, when you choose a club you can do all sorts of things, from Afternoon Tea and Books to War Ball. Club sign-ups are on December 21<sup>st</sup>. Clubs will meet for 5 weeks in January and February on Wednesday afternoon.

Are you looking for a club that is relaxing? Here are some of the choices: Yoga, Being Present/ Mindfulness, and Afternoon Tea & Books.

If you are looking for an artsy kind of club, here are some of the clubs: String Art, Artsy-Craftsy Unique Scrapbooking, Watercolor, and Pottery.

If you are looking for an action packed club, here you go: War Ball, Shinny (Hockey), Rollerblading, Sports Appreciation, and Rock Climbing.



Here are some clubs that are fun and exciting: Outdoor Survival Skills, Hot Air Balloons and OFO, Movie Making, and Fashion Show.

And if you are looking for a club that is just hanging out with friends, here are some clubs for you: Board Games, Chess Club, and Anime and Manga.

And last but not least, if you're looking for an electronic club, here you go: Intro to Computer Coding, Computer Club 1, and Computer Club 2.

# KMS Wish List

By Aria Fabiano

At Kenai Middle School a lot of students are wanting electronics for Christmas. Here are a few of them:



Gavin Solomon: Laptop  
Andrea Beile: iPhone 6s+  
Owen Plumridge: iPhone 7s  
Shannon Murphy: 3DS  
Alex Martin: X-Box 1  
Xavier Zendejas: Laptop  
Rey Perez: iPad  
Nathan Brown: VR headset

Daniel Gonzalez: VR headset/iPhone 7  
Brienne Moore: Laptop

Some students at KMS would prefer something they could use outdoors. Here is what some students think:

Brayden Hanson: Mountain bike  
Rocky Sherbahn: North Face coat  
Izzy Katzenberger: Scooter  
Donny Wynn: A knife  
Rey Perez: A football  
Echo Thiele: A hoodie



But of course some people would rather have something cute or cuddly. Here is some of what they think:



Maryrose Macabuag: A gigantic teddy bear  
Cheyenne Juliussen: A stuffed pink hippo  
Haven Walluk: A kitten  
Mrs. Rolph: To be with family  
Tania Cazares: A new dog

And then we have some kids that want some pretty weird and thoughtful things. Here is what they thought of:

Julia Hanson: Coffee  
Angel Anderson: A box of cashews  
Mary Nash: Pie Face game  
Tania Cazares: Art supplies  
Rain Wong: Dallas Cowboys jersey because Dallas is the best  
Maddie Edelen: Nerf guns  
Jeff Uta: Nothing  
Riley Reese: A REALLY hot guy



# Letters from Home

By Andrea Beile



This year Mr. Felchle is having his students write to some of his old KMS students who are now in the military. Some of his military students are Jordan Theisen, Kyle Foree, Corbin Streiff, Draiden McMinn, Merrick and his brother Jon David Ahlberg, Adam Agosti, and Taylor Landry.

They are in the National Guard, Air National Guard, and Reserves.

Here are some of his facts and opinions on what his time in the military was like. Mr. Felchle joined the Army National Guard to pay for college, and he did enjoy serving. He would describe his experience as the best thing in his life. It taught him to appreciate the little things and to be a more responsible and better person. He also says that he does miss the military. The things he misses the most are his friends, the discipline, and organization. He says he uses the organization skills in his everyday life.

As you know, he is having his students write to his old students in the military. We can't write to them now because they're all going home for the holidays. But he says that he has his students write letters because he knows how important it is to get letters in the military because of how often they are moving around.

If you are not in his class, you can go ask him for the new addresses. You can't write to them yet because they're going back home and their address will change, but soon they will have a new address. Also, go thank Mr. Felchle and Mrs. True for serving in the military.

# T.A.T.U.

By Haven Walluk



Nurse Dixie, Alivia Howard, Courtney Ellis, Jackson Duperron, Nurse Pam, Kiara Moses, Taylor Carver, Emmarie Edwards-Dean, and Abigail Moffett.

Have you ever considered being a member of T.A.T.U. (Teens Against Tobacco Use)? TATU is a program that any student in grade 8 and up can join that teaches students in our community about how important it is to take care of yourself without using tobacco products and to be smoke free. The state of Alaska gets money from tobacco companies to go towards education for young children so they can avoid using tobacco products.

This year our school's TATU program has seven students. The program usually goes from school to school teaching a class about how bad it is to use tobacco. But wait, we can't have a program like this without a great leader! That's right! The head of our TATU program is our very own Nurse Dixie! She stated that she highly encourages students to take part in TATU and thinks it is helping our community by aiding young children to make better decisions when they're older.

When I asked her what her favorite part of TATU was, she said, "Kids teaching kids. It makes it more influential when a child is told about how dangerous tobacco products are when they are being told by someone who is the same age as them more, rather than an adult."

Some of the recent activities that TATU has taken place in were Red Ribbon Week, and in March, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be able to teach 3<sup>rd</sup> graders about avoiding tobacco use. The TATU team will also have a "Kick Butts" day when TATU students will go and pick up cigarette butts around town.

When I asked Abigail Moffett, a TATU member, about her favorite part of TATU she said, "I love all of the events that TATU takes place in." You can make a difference too, so don't hold back if you ever want to become a member of TATU!

# CrossFit

By Tucker Vann

CrossFit is a fun, informational class on building strength and correctly using workout techniques. Only 8<sup>th</sup> graders may join this class, so you 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders should try to get in this class in the future because your time here is short. When participating in this class you must use strength, smarts, and most of all safety.

Recently we had some people from CrossFit headquarters come and film our class. They told us that we were one of the only states in America that has a good CrossFit program spread throughout the state. These guys are producing a video that will hopefully get people started and try CrossFit nationwide. They interviewed us to see what our point of view of CrossFit was; it was close to what they thought with being smart and safe, and with the skills involved.

The instructor of this class is Mrs. Zorbas, who has a few things to say about CrossFit. She started the program after talking to Mr. Baker at KCHS and trying it for three years, and she found how effective it can be from the lifts and WOD's. "I wanted to bring this awesome fitness program to my PE classes and students. I wanted them to get stronger and feel better about themselves by learning new lifts and new fitness skills that they can enjoy the rest of their lives." She likes CrossFit because it's so varied. The WOD's are different yet challenging, and there is often something new to learn and

improve on each day. "I like to see my max's improve, and my time get faster, and improve on skills like double-unders. My best is now 37 in a row! It's been a painful process but very rewarding."

In CrossFit we do a lot of WOD's and/or lifts, regularly three days a week, and the other two we work on speed and agility. We have a variety of lifts, such as the push press, front squat, and clean. The class plays a variety of games and has many competitions to keep things fun and intense so students are really trying their hardest.



(continued on page 7)

## November Students of the Month

By Jacob Begich

Every month several students are recognized because of their hard work. There are usually three per grade. When they are chosen they receive a pizza for lunch. This month's students are Eva Sorensen, Andrew Gaethle, and Maryna Hurst for 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and Tyler Hippchen, Hayden Hanson, Leah Fallon, and Caitlin Crabb for 7<sup>th</sup> grade. And last but not least, Kasey Kaiser, Gabby Hanson, and Tania Cazares for 8<sup>th</sup> grade.



6<sup>th</sup> graders Maryna, Andrew, and Eva



7<sup>th</sup> graders Hayden, Tyler, Caitlin & Leah



8<sup>th</sup> graders Gabby, Tania, and Kasey

## Hadessah Parkki

By Caitlin Crabb

Hadessah Parkki is a 7<sup>th</sup> grader here at KMS. She likes to dance, draw, and play clarinet. She has a great personality and at times can be very funny. She's an overall nice person to be around, and you should get to know her.



At school Hadessah's favorite subject is band. When she was in 5<sup>th</sup> grade the band teacher had students take a test within the three instruments to see what they would play best, out of a trumpet, clarinet, and flute. Out of the three, she played clarinet the best. Hadessah said, "The trumpet sounded like a dying animal, and the flute was like air going through an empty pipe. But on the clarinet I was able to play a decent note." What she likes to do the most at school is hang out with her friends.

Hadessah also dances hip-hop, but she's considering trying some tap as well. She first got into dance when she was young and saw a dance recital in the springtime. Hadessah thought it looked like fun and asked to join. She started out dancing jazz and hip-hop, although she doesn't dance jazz anymore. Hadessah dances hip-hop because, "Ballet is strict, while hip-hop is more free and fun."

Along with dance and clarinet, Hadessah is also a talented artist. She draws anime and manga. She started drawing at a young age, because she saw her dad draw and wanted to draw as well. She said, "As soon as I was able to hold a pencil I started drawing."

At home Hadessah has a younger sister, Leia. She also has three pets! Jakers the dog, Macchiato the guinea pig, and Mr. Bubbles, her beta fish.

As you can see, Hadessah is a talented artist, dancer, and musician. She has a great personality, and can be very funny. Everyone who knows her will agree!

## January Birthdays

By Joe Hamilton

Tyler Hippchen-3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Shay Smith-4<sup>th</sup>  
 Grace Morrow-6<sup>th</sup>  
 Maison Dunham-7<sup>th</sup>  
 Blake Baker-8<sup>th</sup>  
 Patrick Kramer-10<sup>th</sup>  
 Ky Calvert-10<sup>th</sup>  
 Arielle Hamar-13<sup>th</sup>  
 Lucas Tunseth-13<sup>th</sup>  
 Hailey Followell-14<sup>th</sup>  
 Erin Kozickowski-15<sup>th</sup>  
 Kylie Cramer-16<sup>th</sup>  
 Lillian Miller-17<sup>th</sup>  
 Gavin Langham-18<sup>th</sup>  
 Kaitlin Roumell-19<sup>th</sup>  
 Jason Rowland-20<sup>th</sup>  
 Eli Morris-21<sup>st</sup>  
 Mystery Garner-21<sup>st</sup>  
 Jenna Streiff-21<sup>st</sup>  
 Kordell Flecha -22<sup>nd</sup>  
 Sierrah Lanahan-22<sup>nd</sup>  
 Nathan Brown-23<sup>rd</sup>  
 Logan Satathite-23<sup>rd</sup>  
 Gavin Solomon-24<sup>th</sup>  
 Donovan Miles-26<sup>th</sup>  
 Nekoda Cooper-27<sup>th</sup>  
 Matthew Caughran-27<sup>th</sup>



# Esther Joseph

By Kaylee Jones



Esther Joseph is a 6<sup>th</sup> grader who loves animals, and her animals include two dogs named Fancy and Draco, and four cats named Mrs. Marshmallow, Zepher, Ping, and Mr. Spooky. She also has two siblings whose names are Iris (eight years old) and Scarlett (three years old).

Her favorite color is purple and her favorite food is sushi. (Sushi is my favorite food too, it's so delish lol). Some of her favorite movies and TV shows include *Once Upon a Time* and *The Princess Bride*. Her favorite holiday is Christmas (because who doesn't love it) and her favorite kind of music is pop.

And if she could go anywhere in the world, she said, "I would like to go and be with my family anywhere because I love them."

## CrossFit

(continued from page 5)

In second semester we will be working on the snatch, clean and jerk, bench press, and back squat, among others.

"I want kids to join my class. But unfortunately I only have room for 24 students at a time. It takes a student willing to work hard and able to focus on the variety of workouts. I wish I had the opportunity to participate in this when I was 14."

So, when CrossFit is available for you, I want you to take that class so you can feel better about yourself and have a good time.

# Mrs. Megan Smith

By Kaylee Jones

At KMS Mrs. Megan Smith is a tutor for 6<sup>th</sup> graders and Ms. Johnson's counselor's assistant. She also teaches 6<sup>th</sup> grade study hall after school.

Mrs. Megan has four siblings, her first older brother's name is Mike, second oldest is JB, her younger brother's name is Ken, and her younger sister's name is Mandy. She also has two boys named Owen and Eli and her husband. Things she likes to do with her family include travel, playing card games, fishing, camping, and exploring.

She has 11 chickens which are all girls. Their names are Hot Lava, Salt, Pepper, Brownie, Caramel, the Two Teenagers (because they are moody), Ghost Recon, Commando, Speedy González, and Todd Chicken. She also has a dog named Train and a cat named Minnie.

Things she likes to do include binge watching Netflix, dancing with Peninsula Artists in Motion, coaching slow pitch softball, and gardening. In the summer she commercial fishes and set nets at Clam Gulch.

Her favorite color is purple, and her favorite foods include Mexican and anything chocolate. When she was younger she liked English and biology. She went to college at Eastern Oregon University.

Her favorite superhero is named Rogue from X-Men. Rogue can absorb any other superhero's power, so if Mrs. Megan could have any superpower, she wants the ability to absorb another superhero's powers.

When I asked where she would go if she could go anywhere

in the world, she said, "To central Europe, because my older son is obsessed with World War II, and he would take away a lot from that vacation."

Ms. Johnson said, "Mrs. Megan is the sister I never knew I needed. She complements my crazy and being friends with her is a true gift."



## B-Team Girls B-ball



The B-Team girls had lots of fun this season and learned lots of new skills from Coach Johnson and Coach Dolifka, as well as from each other. Players included Denali Bernard, Taylor Huett, Sydney Johnson, Shaleen Kay, Erin Koziczkowski, Amber Nash, Kylie-Anne Raye, Macy Stanley, and Valerie Villegas. Some favorite positions to play were post, wing, and point guard, although players had to learn to play many positions.

Shaleen was especially happy with her awesome teammates and how much they accomplished together this season. Some of the skills that players appreciated learning included how to box out, how to rebound, how to play a zone defense, and how to play more aggressively overall. Other players really looked up to Amber, Valerie, and Macy for their energy, drive, and inspiration on and off the court.

For Macy and Amber, dominating Homer 38-5 was a great memory. According to Denali and Taylor, the time that Amber threw the ball right at Taylor's head was pretty interesting; Amber is just glad that Taylor didn't hate her afterwards. Another near-accident was Valerie dribbling with her head down when she ran right into Erin and knocked herself down; fortunately, nobody was seriously injured either time!



## B-Team Boys B-ball

By Samuel Baisden

The B-team basketball season has started and is now in full swing. Here is the list of the players: Samuel Baisden, Gavin Dirks, Dylan Duniphin, Isaac Erwin, Leroy Evarts, Kordell Flecha, Levi Good, Hayden Hanson, Brayten Hooper, Kasey Kaiser, Isaac Pontius, and Ryin Witte.

Coach Henry is the B-Team coach. Thanks to him, the players have an experienced mentor to coach them.

How long have you been coaching?

*Coach: Four years.*

What is your favorite part of coaching?

*Coach: Seeing students develop as players and individuals.*

Why did you decide to start coaching?

*Coach: Because of my love of basketball and teaching students.*

Do you have any special methods of coaching?

*Coach: Student Focus Coaching. This means that I am not concerned about winning, but about the development of the players.*

Here are the B-Team players' opinions from this season:

How do you feel about this year's B-Team?

*Brayten: It was pretty good.*

*Leroy: We were a good team, and had lots of fun and had good sportsmanship.*

*Ryin: I think we really improved on things like layups since tryouts.*

*Isaac: It was good, but our teamwork could have been better if we had more time to practice.*

*Hayden: It was fun. We had a great team.*

*Gavin: I had fun. We worked as a team, and worked hard in practices.*

*Kordell: I think we are doing a good job for beginners.*

*Dylan: We were pretty good, and we gave a good effort. It was fun working with them, and I had a good time.*

*Kasey: It was fun, but I wish that we had won more games, though. We just screwed around.*

*Levi: We had good sportsmanship.*

*Isaac P. We had fun, and we were a great team.*

Our basketball team has been practicing for an hour and a half for five days every full school week. We do sprints, plays, drills, and sometimes, games. I think that we have been working hard and have come a long way from the beginning of the season. I know that we still have a long way to go, but I think that with some hard work, this team could be great!

# A-Team Girls B-ball

By Cloey Followell



We are coming into our last game for the basketball season. It's been an interesting- four weeks for the girls, including;

- Brooke Ashley
- Vanessa Beck
- Taylor Carver
- Andie Galloway
- Julia Hanson
- Kaitlyn Herrmann
- Kaylee Lauritsen
- Taylor Pierce
- Dulce Santana
- Logan Satathite
- Jenna Streiff
- Rain Wong

A special thanks to their manager Kara Pratt.

If you haven't had the chance to watch the KMS girl's A-team basketball play, you have surely missed out. It was for sure worth it! In the regular season they had 2 wins and 4 losses. Throughout the whole season they had 3 wins and 6 losses.

Talking to Rain Wong she said she has been playing basketball for about four years now. Playing basketball for so long she doesn't know yet if she would go into the WNBA. She wants to play in high school and college basketball, but we will see in the future if she really does go into the WNBA career. She is excited to play as a freshman for the high school basketball team. "I feel like I did my best, but you're gonna have to ask Mr. Gustkey."

## Winter Sports Seasons

Three winter sports are available for KMS students starting on January 9<sup>th</sup>:

- Wrestling, girls & boys, grades 6-7-8
- X-C Skiing, girls & boys, grades 6-7-8
- Intramural Volleyball, girls, grades 7-8

# A-Team Boys B-ball

The A-Team boys had a very successful season, including lots of ups and downs, from awesome road trips to playing some games without a full team. This year's team included Zoticus Active, James Baisden, Brad Chaffee, Maison Dunham, Dillon Hanson, Tyler Hippchen, Jordan Smith, James Sparks, and Lucas Tunseth. Their favorite positions to play overall were point guard and wing, although Lucas was also a pretty big fan of playing center.

The game against Skyview was really memorable for the team, especially for the five players who played the entire game themselves! The game against Homer was also awesome, not only because Kenai beat Homer, but also because Homer was undefeated up until that game. And apparently the game against Seward was rather interesting, especially the "banshees" on the Seward girls' team!

Players learned a lot throughout the season, like how not to hesitate with the ball, how to dribble around other players, and the importance of 5-man motion. Apparently they also learned first-hand that it is possible to break people's ankles during a game! Coach Songer made a big impression on them with his motivational speeches, and several players noted that it's important "to never make two mistakes" and to "not make more than one mistake." Some players who wished to remain anonymous will always treasure the memory of that "special pat" as Coach sent them onto the court.

Some other favorite moments from the season included James' memory of mid-court mayhem and Dillon being impressed by Coach's backwards half-court shots. Zoti summed up their season by saying, "I will always remember my teammates," which really shows how hard these players worked together as a team!



## Geo Bee Finalists



Congratulations to all of the grade-level finalists for the KMS Geography Bee!

The following students will move on to the school-wide Geography Bee during the week of January 17<sup>th</sup>, and the school winner will head to the state competition in Anchorage.

### 8<sup>th</sup> graders

Brayden Hanson  
Cody Hanson  
Kiara Moses  
Shay Smith  
Sorin Sorensen

### 7<sup>th</sup> graders

Hayes Howard  
Jenna Tureman  
Liam Whitney  
Tyler Hippchen – alt  
Carson Koppes – alt

### 6<sup>th</sup> graders

Blake Bucho  
Malerie Nunn  
Carter Tennison  
Bridger Beck – alt

## Upcoming Events

- KMS Talent Show Tryouts – starting week of January 16<sup>th</sup>
- KMS Geography Bee – mid January
- KMS Spelling Bee – late January
- KMS Talent Show @ KCHS – February 2<sup>nd</sup>
- KMS Film Fest – entries due March 31<sup>st</sup>

## Canned Food Drive Competition

As of December 19<sup>th</sup>, the boys were slightly ahead of the girls in the canned food drive competition; the boys have brought in 1185 cans, and the girls have brought in 1039 cans, for a total of 2224 cans. If the boys stay in the lead, all of the girls in the school will have to dance and sing along to a song chosen by the boys during the celebration assembly at the end of the day on December 21<sup>st</sup>! Hopefully this will motivate everyone to bring in more cans by tomorrow.

Students have had lots of fun with all the rewards offered as daily and weekly incentives, including the hot cocoa station on Tuesdays, and the weekly pizzas for top collectors, which so far have gone to Valerie Villegas, Kyle Rice, and Ben Crawford. The top boy and girl will also get to bring along a friend for a ride to Arby's for lunch on a fire truck on Wednesday.

The girls won the math homework pass for reaching 500 cans first. Lots of students and teachers also enjoyed the dress-up days for reaching 1000 cans, which was a holiday outfit theme, and for 2000 cans, which was purple and yellow day. Hopefully the students will reach 3000 total cans in the next day so that they can duct tape Mr. Beck to the wall in the gym! And could a huge effort maybe even result in getting to watch Mr. Summer, Mr. Gustkey, and Mr. Fischer shave off their mustaches at the assembly? Well, only if students bring in *lots* more cans by tomorrow, for 5000 total cans.

Here are some pictures of students celebrating the holiday themed dress-up day last week:



# What's Your Secret Elf Name?

By Andrea Beile & Angelina DiLucchio

Match the first letter of your first name with your birth month to find out your secret elf name!



A- Yellow	N- Giant	January- Snow Storm
B- Jingle	O- Silver	February- Toy Bag
C- Purple	P- Grumpy	March- Teddy Bear
D- Melting	Q- Frozen	April- Pine Tree
E- Ruby	R- Sour	May- Candy Cane
F- Tiny	S- Emerald	June- Ribbons
G- Sparkly	T- Little	July- Jingle Bells
H- Jolly	U- Stinky	August- North Star
I- Glittery	V- Sweet	September- Sweater
J- Sleepy	W- Merry	October- Christmas Lights
K- Twinkling	X- Furry	November- Hot Chocolate
L- Moody	Y- Soft	December- Snowflake
M- Sapphire	Z- Gold	

## Easy Snowman Cupcakes

By Kordell Flecha



These easy snowman cupcakes are perfect for winter time! I used chocolate cupcakes and vanilla icing, but you can use whatever flavor of cupcake and icing that you want, as long as the icing is a light color.

### Chocolate Cupcakes

Here's what you'll need:

- 1 1/3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 3/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons butter, softened
- 1 1/2 cups white sugar
- 2 eggs
- 3/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup milk

First, preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Line a muffin pan with paper or foil liners. Sift together the flour, baking soda, baking powder, cocoa, and salt. Set aside.

Second, in a large bowl, cream together the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add the eggs one at a time, beating well with each addition, then stir in the vanilla. Add the flour mixture alternately with the milk; beat well. Fill the muffin cups 3/4 full.

Last, bake for 15 to 17 minutes in the preheated oven, or until a toothpick inserted into the cake comes out clean.

### Decoration

Here's what you'll need:

- The chocolate cupcakes that you just made
- Vanilla frosting
- White crystallized decorating sugar
- Butterscotch chips
- Mini chocolate chips

Spread a generous amount of frosting on top of the cupcake. Don't worry about smoothing out the icing – the sugar will cover it. Then, fill a small bowl with white, crystallized, decorating sugar. Next, holding the bottom of the cupcake, gently press it down into the coarse sugar, and rock it back and forth in all directions until the icing is completely covered. You'll want to press just hard enough that the sugar sticks to the icing and it sort of smooths out any of the lines you had from icing it. Lastly, take a butterscotch chip for the nose and gently press it into the center of the cupcake and use mini chocolate chips for the eyes and mouth.

### Sources

<http://www.countryliving.com/food-drinks/g1036/easy-christmas-desserts/>

<http://allrecipes.com/recipe/17377/chocolatecupcakes/>

# Must-See Christmas Movies

By Angelina DiLucchio

During Christmas break my family and I always watch *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*, *The Polar Express*, *Home Alone*, *Christmas with the Kranks*, and *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*. When we watch movies we sometimes eat ice cream and French fries and we get a lot of candy.

Here's some Christmas movies to watch:

*The Nightmare Before Christmas Elf*

*A Christmas Story*

*Home Alone*

*The Polar Express*

*How the Grinch Stole Christmas*

*Ernest Saves Christmas*

*Prancer*

*A Christmas Carol*

*Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*

*Gremlins*

*Frosty the Snowman*

*National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*

*Vacation*

*Christmas with the Kranks*

*Holidaze*

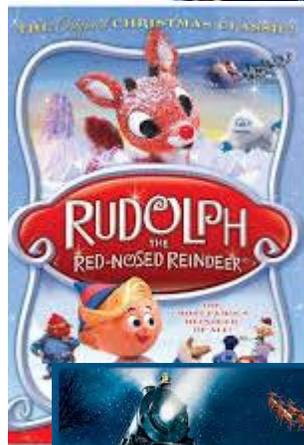
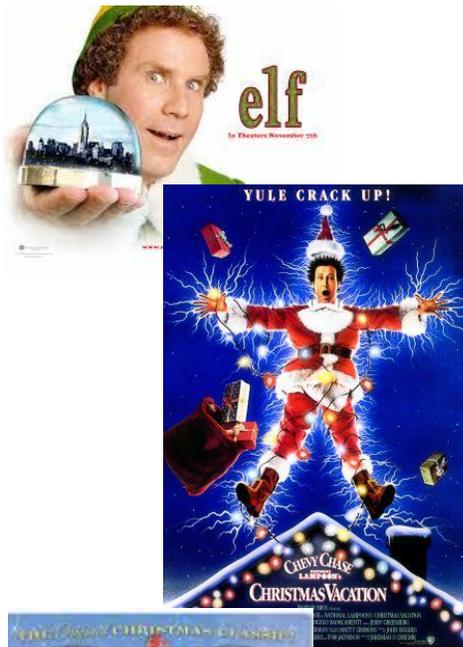
Kaylee Jones: "Holidaze because we watch it every year."

Owen Plumridge: "I like *Home Alone* because Donald Trump is in it and I like when kids get lost."

Brandie Bowers: "I like *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* because we used to watch it every Christmas day."

Caitlin Crabb: "I like *A Christmas Story* because we would watch it a lot."

Kordell Flecha: "I like *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* because we watch it a lot and it's good."



# Holiday Jokes

By Karley Harden



Q: What do you call an elf that sings?

A: A wrapper!

Q: What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?

A: Tinselitis!

Q: What do you call a cat on the beach during Christmas time?

A: Sandy Claws!

Q: What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

A: Frosted Flakes!

Q: What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?

A: Frostbite!

Q: What nationality is Santa Claus?

A: North Polish!

Q: What do you call a scary reindeer?

A: A cariboo!

Q: What would you call a Christmas duck?

A: A Christmas Quacker!

Q: What car does an elf drive?

A: TOYota!

Q: What do you learn at a school for elves?

A: The elf-a-bet!

# Jolly Word Mash-Up

By Kordell Flecha

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

BLITZEN  
 BUON NATALE  
 COMET  
 CUPID  
 DANCER  
 DASHER  
 DONNER  
 EGGNOG  
 FELIZ NAVIDAD  
 HOT COCOA  
 MERRY CHRISTMAS

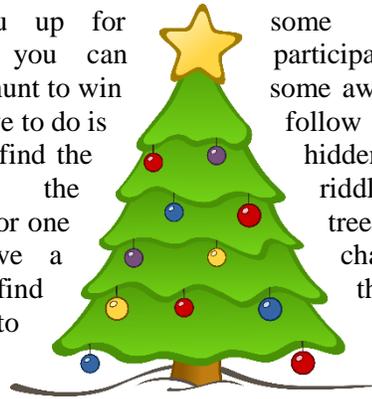
NAUGHTY  
 NICE  
 NORTH POLE  
 PRANCER  
 PRESENTS  
 RUDOLPH  
 SAINT NICK  
 STOCKINGS  
 TOBOGGAN  
 VIXEN



# December Scavenger Hunt

By Owen Plumridge

Are you up for some fun? This December you can participate in a scavenger hunt to win some awesome prizes. All you have to do is follow the clues below and find the hidden trees by following the riddles. Please only hunt for one tree, so other people have a chance also. When you find the tree please return it to Mrs. Nabholz. Good luck!



Clue for Tree #1: Where seventh graders go to get a drink look towards your feet and take a peak.

Clue for Tree #2: If you walk to the library and look for a book pay attention to the presents and take a look.

Clue for Tree #3: When you go to the office to get a flier on the yellow shelves look a little higher.

Clue for Tree #4: When you have money and you're thirsty for milk look at the poster and you may have luck.

Clue for Tree #5: On the way to see a Packer's fan look at the art on the door to find what you hope for.

# The 12 Songs of Christmas

By Joe Hamilton

Christmas songs get me excited for Christmas and all the temptations I have for Christmas, like sledding on Christmas Eve, making Christmas presents for my family, and opening them on Christmas Eve. I made a list of amazing Christmas songs that I think will make you feel happy and enthusiastic for Christmas!

1. "12 Days of Christmas"
2. "Deck the Halls"
3. "Jingle Bells"
4. "Silent Night"
5. "Winter Wonderland"
6. "The Christmas Song"
7. "Sleigh Ride"
8. "Mr. Grinch" (aka Mr. Gustkey)
9. "Silver Bells"
10. "Jingle Bell Rock"
11. "The First Noel"
12. "Christmas Song"

# Overheard

By Angelina DiLucchio

“My binder is cutting off my arm.”  
“Do the right thing, no Grinch yoga.”  
“The bunnies are vicious and poop out eggs!”  
“No! I am not dropping mini nukes on my oranges.”  
“Pet my applesauce.” “What’s 9 plus 6?”  
“A brain blob can’t be blobbed a wrong way.”  
Student One: “Hey, eight years ago we had our first black president. Now we have our first orange president.”  
Student Two: “Isn’t orange the new black?”  
“I like big chickens and I cannot lie.”  
“After this I’m going to bite your arm off.”  
“You know what’s not a living creature? *Me.*”  
“This warm is room.”  
“Pizza with maggots.”  
“My neighbor is a killer clown.”  
“I don’t want this baby anymore.”  
“I got organizing chambers.”  
“I got love scars.”  
“I’m eating a sandwich while drying my hair.”  
“Are you drinking ice?”  
“The hokey-pokey is against my religion.”  
“Am I supposed to indent a paragraph?”  
“I’m offering a chess club.” “Hallelujah!”  
“Monkeys are just furry humans.”  
“I don’t use technology, that’s why I have a flip phone.”  
“That’s a bald, furry baby.”  
“Wow, I should just eat my face.”  
“I’m so white, I probably just blinded him!”  
“What does yadda yadda yadda translate to?”  
“The kangaroo is flexed.”  
“I bit my teeth.” “Hit me in my face.”  
“I like to bite my toenails in my sleep.”  
“I like guacamole rubbed on my face.”  
“I hate when people slam their lockers on their hams.”  
“My pig broke my bed.”  
“Milk is good for your spine.”  
“I have 1, 2, 3, 4, and five. I don’t do JOURNALISM.”  
“Peel an avocado.”  
“I have exotic butters.”  
“It’s not water it’s water.”  
“I’m so tall I step on short people and I don’t even know it.”  
“I want a creepy.”



# Christmas Mad Libs

By Cloey Followell

Chestnuts \_\_\_\_\_ on an open fire,  
(ing verb)  
\_\_\_\_\_ nipping at your \_\_\_\_\_,  
(famous person) (body part)  
Yule-tide \_\_\_\_\_ being sung by a \_\_\_\_\_,  
(plural noun) (favorite band)  
and folks dressed up like \_\_\_\_\_.  
(plural noun)  
Everybody knows a/an \_\_\_\_\_ and some \_\_\_\_\_,  
(bird) (noun)  
help to make the season \_\_\_\_\_,  
(adjective)  
tiny \_\_\_\_\_ with their \_\_\_\_\_ all aglow,  
(plural noun) (plural body part)  
will find it hard to \_\_\_\_\_ tonight.  
(verb)  
They know that \_\_\_\_\_ is on his way,  
(person)  
he’s loaded lots of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ on his sleigh,  
(plural noun) (plural noun)  
and every mother’s \_\_\_\_\_ is gonna \_\_\_\_\_,  
(noun) (verb)  
to see if \_\_\_\_\_ really know how to \_\_\_\_\_.  
(plural noun) (verb)  
And so I’m offering this \_\_\_\_\_ phrase,  
(adjective)  
to kids from one to \_\_\_\_\_, although it’s been said  
(number)  
many times, many ways, \_\_\_\_\_ to you.  
(adjective) (holiday)



Happy Holidays &  
Happy New Year  
from all the KMS

*Purple Pages* reporters!

# Purple Pages Reporters

By Mrs. Nabholz



With 17 reporters in class this semester, journalism was sort of like visiting a very unusual theme park, zoo, and carnival all rolled into one, complete with rollercoaster rides, wild animals, a bouncy house, costumes, freak show exhibits, and snack vendors (sorry, we only serve gum, but we have lots of flavors, provided mint is available). Certain unnamed reporters (all not-so-secretly disguised as 7<sup>th</sup> grade boys) were rather attached to their teddy bear companions; fortunately, Bearliose survived the experience. And who knew that some of the boys' faces were actually made of rubber whenever Mrs. N tried to take pictures in class?

It was pretty crazy in the journalism classroom some days, but mostly a *good* kind of crazy, with everyone madly working on their original articles, helping each other track down information, rushing to meet deadlines, and having lots of fun making memories and sharing wonderful and insightful stories about everyone and everything going on at KMS. Distribution day for each issue was always lots of fun!

If you read all of our issues this fall (and boy, did we have *issues*), then you learned about everything

from broken bones to broken hearts, from skating hawks to dog-riding monkeys, from slimy salmon to a certain secretive staff member, and from serious news to silly overheard comments. We flashed back to teachers' pasts when they were KMS students and peaked into the futures of former KMS students now enlisted in the military or attending college. Overall, we did our best to highlight and celebrate the students, staff, sports teams, and scholars at our school. Thanks to the entire KMS community for being so newsworthy!

To learn a bit more about all 17 reporters, keep reading . . .

Samuel Baisden was our master cartoonist this semester, and his favorite article to write was about the Kenai River Marathon. He enjoyed naming Bearliose, and he learned how to format writing for the paper. He loves to draw comics, and he hopes to play major league soccer in the future.

Jacob Begich's favorite memory from class was looking at all the pictures on the Smartboard of misspelled words on signs. He learned that if you stay on task you can get more work done, and his favorite

article to write was about the KPHA hockey team. In his free time he enjoys skating and drawing.

Andrea Beile enjoys sleeping, eating, and bugging her friends. She got to do the third one in class often, especially with Aria and Rocky; her favorite memory was when Aria “accidentally” got hurt. She learned how to work with others, and her favorite article to write was the sarcastic Life Alert advertisement.

Brandiee Bowers liked writing the Senshi-Con article the most because she was able to write about a topic that she really enjoys. One of her hobbies is Cosplay, which is dressing up as characters from video games, cartoons, or books, and she really hopes to be able to wing her eyeliner successfully in the future. She learned that formatting articles is very important, and her best memory is helping with the Overheard columns.

Caitlin Crabb loves running X-country and track, and she had the most fun writing articles about the X-country team. She enjoys being outdoors in nature, especially near the ocean where she can see marine life. She also likes to draw, and she will remember folding the paper while listening to music and chewing gum. She learned that time management is very important.

Angelina DiLucchio enjoyed folding the papers and writing various articles, especially the ghost DIY and interviewing new 6<sup>th</sup> graders for a feature article. She learning how to type articles and really improved her typing skills. She loves soccer, basketball, and field hockey. She also loves cooking and eating, and her goal (even though she has already) is to make the best dinner ever.

Aria Fabiano learned how to write a good quality article, and her favorite article to write was about B-team soccer. Her best memory from class is making Andrea mad. Aria likes to draw and play sports.

Kordell Flecha enjoys school, video games, and sports. His favorite article was about the summer baseball league. He learned how humorous his classmates are, and his favorite memory was reading and selecting jokes for the paper with Joe.

Cloey Followell loved creating the turkey scavenger hunt with Karley and hiding the turkeys around the school. Another favorite memory is folding and distributing the papers, along with the gum and music. She learned that it can take a really long time to produce an article that’s actually good. She loves hanging out with friends and watching movies.

Joe Hamilton enjoyed writing about soccer, and he also liked the paper-folding days. In class he learned about the Bill of Rights. Joe likes to play soccer, read Harry Potter books, and spend time with his friends and family.

Karley Harden liked working with Cloey on the turkey scavenger hunt. She learned that it takes a lot of drafts to make an article perfect. She plans to earn a 4.0 GPA this year, and so far she has kept up her A grades for two quarters.

Kaylee Jones loves swimming, collecting Starbucks mocha jars, and hanging out with friends. Her favorite article to write was the student feature about her friend Elora. Kaylee learned some better grammar for her writing, and like many other reporters, she enjoyed the folding and distributing days.

Raelynn Passe likes taking pictures, baking, and listening to music. She learned to never underestimate the power of laughing, which really fits with her favorite memory from class of Mrs. N dabbing, and her favorite article to write about the secretive Mr. Summer.

Owen Plumridge’s favorite article to write was the “Breaking News” article about all of the students with broken bones. His best memory from class is gum, and apparently he learned that gum is extremely good. In his free time he likes to play basketball.

Rocky Sherbahn learned to type faster, which was probably helpful for his lengthy favorite article about college freshmen. He will remember Mrs. N’s sign on the journalism bulletin board: “I disgust Rocky.” For fun he enjoys wrestling, fishing, and playing chess and checkers.

Tucker Vann loved folding the newspapers, and his group really had great teamwork. His favorite articles to write were about wrestling and the election. When he was doing research for his election article, he learned about the electoral college. He likes to go hunting, build with Legos, and spend time with his family.

Haven Walluk loves cats, music, crafts, drawing, and painting. She learned how to be less socially awkward when interviewing people, and when it was the day for folding and distributing the paper, she felt relaxed, knowing that the paper was totally finished. Haven loved writing the Overheard column because it was always hilarious listening to people and writing down all the new comments.

