



Garretson Weekly School Newspaper - Garretson, SD - Volume 1, Number 15

This Week's Need to Know

FACT OF THE WEEK: It takes 42 muscles in your face to frown. It takes four muscles to extend your arm and hit someone in the head.

BRAIN TEASER OF THE WEEK:
How many times can you subtract 2 from 50?
Answer on back page

JOKE OF THE WEEK: What do you call a cow with no legs?
Answer on back page

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Saturday, December 7

- Wrestling @ Flandreau—10:00
- 7/8 GBB Big East Conference Tournament @ Montrose—9:00
- 5/6 GBB vs. Colman-Egan—9:00
- 5/6 BBB @ Colman-Egan—9:00

Sunday, December 8

- FFA State Leadership Conference @ Pierre

Monday, December 9

- FFA State Leadership Conference @ Pierre

Tuesday, December 10

- Wrestling Dual @ Fulda—6:00
- GBB @ Dell Rapids St. Mary—(7/8/JV/V) - 4:00

Wednesday, December 11

- Middle School Spelling Bee @ 2:00 in the New Gym

Thursday, December 12

- GBB @ Tri-Valley—6:15

Friday, December 13

East, Sleep, Study

By Jennie Hegge

The countdown until Christmas break is receding! That means only one thing, semester tests are just around the corner.

This is usually about the time students start cramming and trying to refresh their memory of everything they have learned over the semester. It's always a challenge especially since it's right after Thanksgiving break!

"Start early, don't cram," said Mr. Lynch.

Cramming and waiting until last minute is the number one reason students get overwhelmed with semester tests. Never wait until the last minute! When December hits, that is usually a hint to start refreshing your memory and doing a little studying each night.

By studying every day, the material will stay in your memory longer than if you were to try and study at the last minute. The material will only reside in your memory for a short period of time and you'll easily forget it.

Studying each night also helps one out when it comes the night before the test. If you don't have to stay up all night and review, you can get a good night sleep! That is essential to doing well on your tests! A good breakfast in



the morning is also a must!

If you're anything like senior, Conner Blossmo, you won't have to even worry about all of that. "I rarely study, I skim over maybe once," said Blossmo. He suggests looking over the materials right before the test because that has always helped him.

Note cards can also be used as a study technique for those that need to study. They help with the memorization of terms and other important information one may need to know for their test. It may take some time to fill out, but it will all be worth it when you get that A!

However, Blossmo believes students who consistently perform well throughout the school year should have other privileges. "I think if kids have above a 3.5 GPA, they should be exempt from testing."

That sure would be nice, especially when you take into account what Mr. Lynch thinks. "I believe semester tests are just a culmination of what you've learned during the year. If you've learned, semester tests are just putting down what you know."

So just remember these easy study tips for success on your upcoming semester tests!

Implementing New Technology Hopes to Advance Learning

By Teila Carnicle

A particular set of the faculty members at Garretson High School have favored implementing iPads into the eighth grade classrooms in an effort to increase their learning. They feel it will increase hands on learning and help develop beneficial skills.

Mr. Long, Principal of Garretson High School and Middle School, is one of the faculty members that find this to be a positive addition to our school. Long is hopeful that the iPads will help a lot. "Any time you add technology to the classroom it opens up the ability for students to find information themselves, to do things that are more interactive, and to learn skills that would help them in the future."

Long feels the new iPads will be put to practical use. "I think that anytime we implement new technology we need to make sure we give

our teachers time to get comfortable with the iPads and allow them to successfully apply them into their classrooms," said Long.

Long had stated his thoughts on why they had chosen to go with the eighth graders as guinea pigs for the new iPads. "We felt like the middle school showed a lot of interest in implementing these and we felt it was easier to monitor using them; plus they're all in the same classes all day long."

Long added that there are a few reasons why they chose to go with iPads instead of laptops. "I think the biggest reason we're looking at iPads is because they're half the price; they still offer many of the features we would get with a more expensive computer; they have also shown to be a useful tool for other schools."

Gobble Gobble Gone Again

By Morgan Frewaldt

Thanksgiving has come and gone once again! The break was short, but definitely a refreshing breather away from the stress of school to spend time with family, friends, and of course food!

What is the best part of Thanksgiving? Well like most people, sophomores Emma Nelson and Brianna Callsen enjoy all of the food! "Because it's all real food, not just frozen pizza," said Nelson. "It's the one day you can eat all you want and not feel bad about yourself," said Callsen.

Most people on Thanksgiving eat the traditional meal, being turkey, stuffing, and mashed potatoes all smothered in

gravy. But Callsen's favorite thing to eat is "yams with marshmallows." Though that sounds really weird, the wrestlers would die for just about anything.

What is Thanksgiving like for a wrestler? "Terrible! But I am still thankful for things," senior wrestler Tyler Willems responded. During Thanksgiving Willems doesn't eat at all, instead he visits his family and runs while they eat.

Part of the newer Thanksgiving tradition is Black Friday shopping. Many people would wake up at the crack of dawn to get good shopping deals the day after Thanksgiving. This has become such a

growing trend that stores now start to open up their Black Friday deals on Thanksgiving Thursday.

Callsen was one of the participants in this ordeal, leaving to go shopping at 5:30 p.m. and shopping until midnight. Finishing all of her Black Friday shopping before Black Friday had even begun!

Others still hold the old tradition though like the Nelsons do! The day after Thanksgiving their whole family goes out together, picks out their tree and cuts it down in preparation for Christmas.

Hold on kids we only have 11 school days left until Christmas break!

Baby Boom!

By Joshua Liester

Several Garretson teachers have had exciting new additions to their families in the recent weeks and months!

Music director, Mrs. Roskamp, was the first teacher to become a new parent this school year. On September 16th, she welcomed her son, Liam Koert Roskamp, into the world. Since then, Roskamp says, "Liam is doing great. He is growing and becoming more active and more aware of his surroundings every day."

She said the most enjoyable part of being a parent is watching her son grow and learn new things. She also likes to see him smile and get excited over things he likes and snuggle time.

One of the hardest parts of being a parent is, according to Roskamp, getting ready to go somewhere. "It takes much longer than it did before and you have to

take much more with you so you are prepared for any situation."

Science teacher, Mr. Furness, is also an excited new parent. His wife gave birth to Kenlie Neva on November 22nd at 5:13 p.m. Furness says his new daughter is doing very well, isn't whining or fussing. He says the most enjoyable part of parenting is, "watching your child grow up."

Having a new baby does take some getting used to though, as Furness said the hardest part is "getting back into the flow of having a young one in the house."

The most recent arrival is Kendall June, whose mother, third grade teacher Mrs. Anderson, had him on November 26th.

It isn't just new parents in the school though. Social studies teacher Mr. Steckler is a new grandpa! His daughter, Amber, had a baby boy, Sutton Jared, on No-



vember 15th at 2:47 p.m. "He is doing outstanding. He's healthy and changing every day," said Steckler. "Words can't describe how precious and wonderful our new addition has been."

Computer teacher, Mrs. Kusser, is another Garretson staff member who plans on expanding her family. She is expecting a child due on May 18th.

Kusser doesn't plan on finding out the gender of the baby, but is still excited about painting the baby room and getting baby furniture before the big day. She did admit that she is a bit nervous for the birth, but has been exercising and eating healthy in preparation.

Congratulations to all of the new mothers, fathers, and grandpas! What an exciting time!



Technology

Bennett reiterated Long's thoughts about laptops vs. iPads; "The Technology committee has been working on a 1:1 initiative for many years. Budget constraints have put off implementation, but with the iPad, we are able to put a quality device in the student's hands for half the cost of a quality laptop."

When it comes to the iPad, the benefits are numerous! "Students have the ability to create and present content in a multimedia manner-- sound, video, graphics are easy to integrate. The 10 hour battery life means students can use the device the

entire day before needing to recharge. Students can collaborate and share information in the cloud--ie google docs, drop box, office 365, notability, edmodo, which make idea sharing and group work easy and paper free. There are endless apps to help students with any areas they are needing extra help. The ability to annotate on assignments and send back to a teacher, the ability to record the teacher's lecture, the ability to have the device read to you--the possibilities are endless!" Mrs. Bennett noted enthusiastically.

As of the rules for the iPads, Bennett

had mentioned that, "The students using iPads this year have signed an acceptable use policy that has many guidelines outlined in it."

With all the information about the iPads shared by Mr. Long and Mrs. Bennett, they appear to be a positive thing.

As it is the first year using these, people are excited to see how implementing these into eighth grade classrooms will affect their grades, how well and thorough their homework assignments will be, and how much hands on activities the students will be able to participate in.

Catching Fire Catches Attention

By Katie Giesler

If you're a fan of *The Hunger Games* book series, then you're probably a fan of the movies, too. At least, I would hope so! I can't say that the books are good (because I haven't read them), but I can say that I think the movies (especially the second one) are pretty awesome.

Catching Fire has been garnering a lot of attention since its release on November 22nd—and with good reason!

Peeta—That's all I'm going to say. The popularity of the film is all because of Peeta—the best character, in case you didn't know.

But seriously, come on. Josh Hutcherson is a babe and a half. Obviously any character he plays is going to be a good one; he portrays Peeta Mellark of District 12 unfathomably well.

Aside from the fact that Hutcherson is Hottie McHotHot Hot Stuff (yet still has a ridiculously cute face and sweet brown eyes), I thought that the movie itself, in general, was pretty good.

The plot line kept my attention and interest, I thought the graphics and special effects in both films were pretty cool, and, let's be honest.

Jennifer Lawrence is now, I'm almost certain, everyone's #WomanCrushWednesday.

Jacob Fitzgerald, sophomore, is a fan of

the book series. He went to see both films in theaters. Fitzgerald expressed his excitement after seeing *Catching Fire*, and his eagerness to see the next two as well as they are splitting the final book into two movies.

Fitzgerald suggests going to see sequel because, "It's a good movie!" However, he does recommend that you do watch the first film, *The Hunger Games*, beforehand.

TJ Boland, senior, added onto this and stated, "There was a lot of character development in the first one that's very crucial for the second movie." Boland, too, has read the whole trilogy, and expressed his own satisfaction with the outcomes of both films. In regards to *Catching Fire* alone, he said, "It really impressed me."

I totally agree with both of them. Both *The Hunger Games* and *Catching Fire* had Hutcherson strutting off in them, so obviously I enjoyed it.

But in all seriousness: the movies were casted and crafted wonderfully. There are some pretty sweet trippy, dramatic, and serene moments in the films that keep you on your toes and guessing, so things are always definitely interesting.

Quite honestly, I think the second film toys with your emotions a lot more than the first one does; and I'm pretty sure that's what the directors were going for.

I don't want to give any spoilers, but I'm sure if you have Twitter, Instagram or Facebook, you've most likely already seen some in your feed. So I'm sure you know who I'm talking about when I say it's pretty troubling when the old lady dies when and how she does...

Poor Finnick.

But that reminds me! Seriously, were some parts really sad enough to bring tears to some people? I didn't cry--or even tear up--once through the entire movie. Yet other people at the movie were balling their eyes out every five minutes.

I didn't think any parts were worth crying over; yeah, there were definitely some shocking or really emotional scenes, but seriously? Enough to cry over?

As I see it, the whole point of the series is about people being put up to killing each other for the amusement of others. Pretty sadistic and barbarous, and definitely intensely inhumane.

...Yet it still makes for a ridiculously cool movie.

I have to give some major props to the directors and scriptwriters for (apparently) sticking to the books to base the movies off of.

I might just have to read the series, too, by the sounds of it.

Bottom line, if you haven't seen *Catching Fire* yet, do. Just do. I don't think you'll be left disappointed.



November Students of the Month Honored



12th Grade: Haley continues to put academics as a priority; she's focused and meticulous when it comes to her education and preparing for her future.

11th Grade: Mara comes to class well prepared. She gets work in on time, participates in class discussions and works well with peers. Mara is always willing to lend a helping hand.

10th Grade: Kristen is an active participant in all her classes. Many teachers have noticed her hard work and positive attitude. She is enjoyable to have in class and shown great growth this year.

9th Grade: Kelsie works well in class and is willing to participate and help others in the academic setting. She is concerned about her grades and puts forth her best efforts on a daily basis.

8th Grade: Nick is off to a good start this school year and has made steady progress through middle school. He enjoys many aspects of his classes and works well with classmates.

7th Grade: Rakell is a very hardworking student that does well in school. She has shown improvement throughout middle school and that continued effort is a good example.

6th Grade: Riley displays hard work daily and has a good understanding of the material presented. She is engaged in her education and prepared to learn when she comes into the classroom.

Time to Get in the Spirit!

By Aaron Dunn

With Thanksgiving now over, we have to focus on one more thing, Christmas! One major question about the joyful holiday is when to start putting up decorations. With Thanksgiving later than ever this year, falling on November 28th, some people have to hustle to get their trees and lights up.

But when should you put your décor up? The day after Thanksgiving? The day before Christmas? Early November? You can put up your holiday decorations whenever you want but some people may think your crazy for doing it on a certain day.

When people first started putting Christmas trees up in their homes was way

back when the holiday started. But they however, would put up all their candles, wreaths, and trees up at noon on Christmas Eve.

Nowadays some people put up decorations around the middle or even in early November! Mr. Hughes believes people should put up decorations on "December 1st". Hughes also went on to say that he will, "Enjoy putting up decorations even though I don't".

A lot of people may say that their favorite part of Christmas is the presents, but



not Mr. Hughes. Being the family man that he is he stated, "As a kid the presents were my favorite, but as an adult, it's being with my family".

Hughes also had an input on the Christmas music debate on whether he enjoys the festive tunes or not. He said "It's cool, but when it's in season."

Remember to check out the student opinion poll to see what you guys picked as the best Christmas jingle is.

Whetham Honored with PRIDE Award

Lori Whetham is very dedicated to the Garretson School District and our kids. She volunteers her time to help with the beginning of the year paperwork, forms, and health checks, making copies for teachers, or making activities for a subject.

Whetham is a regular substitute who is

very much sought after. She will substitute on short notice and easily adapts to whichever classroom she is assigned to. She is willing to accept long term positions and to come in on her own time to observe/learn the classroom to make the transition go as smoothly as possible. She is eager to learn

how new concepts are taught. Whetham is very conscientious of classroom rules, expectations, and discipline and will follow them accurately.



Senior Spotlight

DEREK McCLAFLIN

Activities: Working on my car

Favorite Memory: Fishing with my dad

What are you going to miss the most?

Friends

Future plans: Become an auto mechanic

Senior Project: Reconditioning my car engine



BRIANNA DUERR

Activities: Volleyball year round

Favorite Memory: Getting first place in JO volleyball 2 years ago

What are you going to miss the most? Miss playing High School volleyball

Future plans: Going to college for nursing

Senior Project: Horse reining



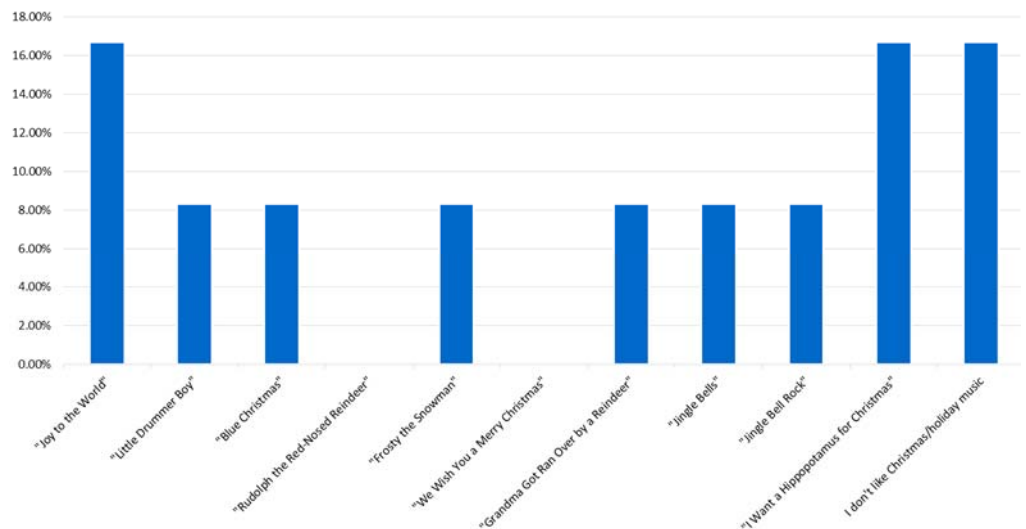
Student Opinion Poll

This week students were asked what their favorite holiday song was.



Stop by Mrs. Buchholz's or Mr. Hughes' rooms on Monday to vote in next week's student opinion poll. The polls will be located inside the rooms.

Favorite Holiday Songs



ANSWERS:

Brain Teaser: Once because once you subtract it, it becomes 48.

Joke: Ground Beef