

Blue Ink

February

12



Garretson Weekly School Newspaper - Garretson, SD - Volume 2, Number 23

This Week's Need to Know

FACT OF THE WEEK: Today in 1809, the 16th President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, was born.

BRAIN TEASER OF THE WEEK: How many valentine's were given in Ms. Heart's class? It was more than 40 but less than 60. The sum of the digits add up to 8 and the number is odd.

Answer on back page

JOKE OF THE WEEK: What did the caveman give his wife on Valentine's day?

Answer on back page

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Thursday, February 12

- Early Release—Dismiss @ 1:30
- No PM Pre-School
- Young Hearts Cardiac Screening
- Parent-Teacher Conferences

Friday, February 13

- No School—Teacher In-Service
- GBB v. Howard
- BBB v. Howard
- Wrestling Quad @ DeSmet

Monday, February 16

- No School

Tuesday, February 17

- GBB v. Parker
- BBB @ Chester

Thursday, February 19

- Bookmobile 8:30-3:00
- GBB @ Sioux Valley

Blue Ink Student Editor: Katie Giesler



Scan for the
full upcoming
event schedule

Cabin Fever Epidemic Strikes Garretson Schools

Sylvia Larson

'cab-in fe-ver'

"irritability, listlessness, and similar symptoms resulting from long confinement or isolation indoors during the winter."

Sound familiar? After being cooped up inside since practically October this winter, some students at Garretson are itching to get outside without the threat of frostbite.

The student council met earlier this month and discussed possible dress up days, and finally decided on 'Cabin Fever Week,' a spoof of the 'I Hate Winter Week' the school has held in previous years. Dress up days included Class Color Day, Hawaiian Day, Florescent Day, and USA Day.

Monday's dress up day was seemingly taken well, with most grades decked out in their assigned color.

During class color day at lunch, there was a table set up with stacks of cards available to be written to a person of the sender's choice. The person could then either hand-deliver or have their notes delivered for them.

"It's good that students appreciate other students, and take a minute to look at their good qualities instead of their bad qualities. The notes were fun to see, if you got a note you're like 'Oh I got a note it's funny that somebody noticed me,'" quoted freshman Kristen Cordier.

Tuesday ushered in Hawaiian Day. Students dressed in their best hula attire, with some even going as far as look-alike grass skirts and leis. Many

students, though, stuck with just shorts and sunglasses.

Wednesday brought a new meaning to neon. During Fluorescent Day, students were encouraged to wear bright, neon colors and spread the love.

In the morning, teachers lingered the hallway holding stacks of brightly colored sticky-notes. When a student came up to them, the teacher wrote something nice about the student to go on their locker. The student then took five sticky-notes and wrote something nice about five other students to go on *their* locker. The middle and high school hallways were soon a brightly colored rave of compliments and doodles.

Today was USA Day, so students were encouraged to sport spirit-wear. The student council also collected all 18 of the Random Acts of Kindness Cards, which were frequently passed around between students and staff alike.

Cabin Fever Week will conclude with middle school and high school glow dodgeball before and after the basketball double header against Howard tomorrow night.

The school has rented black lights so anything neon and the white t-shirts the participating students will receive will glow.

Overall, this week has been deemed a success. Feelings about the event itself may vary, but most can agree dress up days are a great way to lead up to a four-and-a-half-day weekend.

Give Blood to Show Love

By Abriana Scholl

On Wednesday, February 11th, the Bloodmobile made a stop at the Garretson School District for high school students, staff, and community members to participate in donating blood.

Garretson has made a habit of bringing the bloodmobile around every year the Bloodmobile around the fall and spring seasons.

The qualifications it takes to donate a pint of blood requires the donor to be at least the age of 16 and weigh at least 110 pounds; it is recommended that the donor eats a full breakfast.

The benefits of donating blood to a local blood drive organization helps provide blood to those in need of it.

According to the Community Blood Bank, donations are limited and so is the supply of blood to patients.



A community member came to the Garretson School to give blood while the Bloodmobile was in town on Thursday, sponsored by the Garretson FFA.

Photo by Abriana Scholl

The blood that gets donated can be used to help individuals involved in an accident, bone marrow transplants, and different types of cancers.

Donating blood is a quick and easy process that takes about 20-30 minutes for each person. Donating is open to anyone who meets these requirements and just one could save a life.



Wrestling Sees Success over Weekend, Takes One on Tuesday

The Garretson wrestlers traveled to Montrose on Saturday for the Big East Conference tournament.

Of the eleven wrestlers that competed, eight of them placed, with the team finishing fourth overall. Region foes McCook Central-Montrose, Flandreau, and Howard all placed above the Blue Dragons.

The BEC wrestling tourney was a great preview of the upcoming region meet as they faced many opponents they will likely see during the region tournament next weekend.

On Tuesday the Blue Dragon grapplers made up a quadrangular that was postponed from early January,

seeing some of the same teams they did the prior Saturday: Howard, McCook Central-Montrose, and Parker.

The Garretson dropped a close dual with the Howard Tigers due to open slots. The Fighting Cougars of MCM doubled their efforts, defeating the Blue Dragons.

However The Blue Dragons were not going to come away empty handed at their own meet, solidly beating the Parker Pheasants.

The Blue Dragons are in action tomorrow at a quadrangular in DeSmet versus Flandreau, Kingsbury County, and Tri-Valley.



Brady Schleuter awaits the referees signal before breaking free of his opponent.

Garretson Blue Dragon Boys Fall to MCM Cougars

By Beth Schmidt

On Friday February 6th, the boys basketball team traveled to McCook Central/Montrose, home to the Fighting Cougars. The boys lost to the Cougars 54-67, a team which has been voted to be ranked in the top five for state but is not ranked at this moment.

Head Coach Matt Shrank noted about Friday's performance, "I thought we competed very well on Friday, we just ran into a buzz-saw in a good MCM team. They shot well late in the game, but we couldn't overcome that good shooting. This was definitely a game that we can look back at on film, and see the things we did well versus the things we didn't."

Senior forward Tanner Gutzmer stated, "We work together very well, it's a lot better than it was in the beginning of the year."

Guard Shay Gibson lead the team with 21 points and Gutzmer had 11 that night. As a team they had 24 rebounds, 14 assist, seven steals, and six blocks.

There is still a few games left before regions and improvements need to be made. Coach Schrank stated, "We always look at improving from game to game, week to week. One thing we want to improve on by Friday is our commitment on defense. Whether we are in man or zone, we want better rotation from spot to spot."

Gutzmer also noted on what they have improved on, "A lot of ball movement and just learning to play with each other."

"Our biggest strength is that every night we will give someone a real challenge. The boys play really hard, and are a coachable group," said Coach Schrank.

As the boys keep on making those little improvements, they get to show what they got on Friday night with a double header against the Howard Tigers. Then the boys head to Chester on Tuesday, February 17 to face against the Fliers, who they already played against in the BEC Tournament.

Emily Erickson Receives PRIDE Award

Emily Erickson was presented the PRIDE award for January. Below is her nomination.

We as a staff have witnessed "unconditional" friendship and compassion from Emily Erickson during the course of her middle school years. One adult within the school even commented, "If we could all be a friend like Emily, what

a better world we'd live in." In what could be viewed as a "me" society, Emily is selfless – concerned more about the needs of others than her own. She offers true friendship to those in need of a friend and willingly gives of her free time to serve others. With that in mind, we nominate Emily for the Pride Award.



Compatibility Cards

By Tabi Klingenberg

As of the late '90s T.A.T.U. (Teens Against Tobacco Use) has been selling compatibility cards to the Garretson middle and high school as a positive Valentine's day event.

How it works is any student from sixth to twelfth grade can stop into Mrs. Mueller's room and buy the cards for two dollars each. Within two pages, the compatibility cards will show who is the least and most compatible boys and girls in all grades.

These results are based on a ques-

tionnaire the students fill out earlier in the year

For the past fifteen years, the compatibility cards have not only been a great opportunity for students to find out their best match but also a has been fundraiser for T.A.T.U.

"[Compatibility card sales] help us sponsor our middle school lock-in and our fourth and fifth grade lock-in, they're also going to help us fund our activities that we do for Relay For Life," Mueller remarked.

Every year, the fundraisers profits usually range between \$250-300 dollars for T.A.T.U. This year it has continued to succeed, bringing in approximately \$270. As a result, an average of one hundred and thirty five students will come in and buy these cards around Valentine's Day.

It's been one week since they began and they will continue until next Tuesday. So if you are still wondering who you are most compatible with, stop in Mrs. Mueller's room when school resumes.

Legislators Meet with Administrators

By Zeb Johnson

Last week, three of Garretson's administrators traveled to Pierre to meet with our state's legislators, specifically the House of Representatives' education committee. The committee oversees all bills related to education, this includes funding and regulations for schools in South Dakota. Superintendent Guy Johnson, middle and high school principal Chris Long, and business manager Rod Fischer traveled to Pierre to discuss education policy in South Dakota.

One bill that was killed would require schools to provide special education services to homeschooled students with no extra funding. This would cause schools to divert money and personnel to homeschooled students,

which takes those things away from students in the actual school.

A group of superintendents met with the education committee to discuss the proposed bills and their effects on schools.

Superintendent Guy Johnson had this to say about the meeting, "The education committee made some good decisions in regard to the bills being presented that day, and they were relatively open to our suggestions. But like always, it is a bit of an uphill battle when it comes to dealing with the legislators."

Perhaps the bill with the greatest effect is one that will limit the growth of school's capital outlay fund. The capital outlay fund is the area of the budget that deals with textbooks, technology, and all the

resources the school may need over the course of a year.

The change to the capital outlay fund will change the way the fund grows over a year. Currently, that part of the budget grows at a rate of about 6% a year in Garretson, but the proposed bill would restrict that growth to about 3%.

This year will see changes in the regulations and funding of schools, hopefully for the better, but who knows. Perhaps we will see another year of legislators cutting funding and not listening to people who work in schools, but maybe our representatives will finally listen to people whose lives revolve around education.

Senior Spotlight

NAME: Mikayla Nelson

SENIOR PROJECT: Learning to drive a team of horses

ACTIVITIES INVOLVED IN: FFA

WHO/WHAT WILL YOU MISS THE MOST: Some classmates and teachers. My sister

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR: Attend SDSU at University Center for Nursing

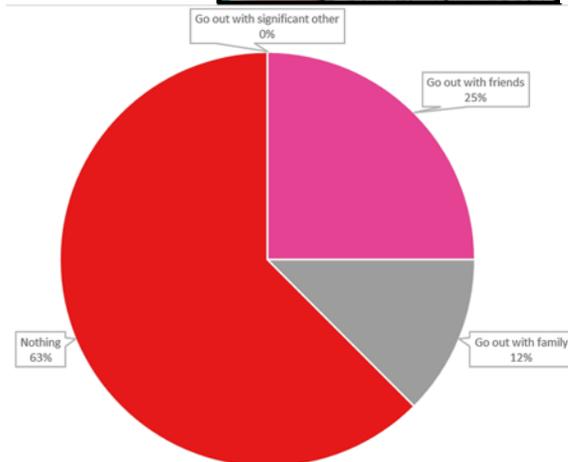


Student Opinion Poll

This week students were asked what their plans were for Valentine's Day.



Take a moment to vote on the student opinion poll for next week's *Blue Ink*. Polls are located inside Mr. Hughes' room and Mrs. Buchholz's room.



Scholarship Corner

- Garretson Community Scholarship Foundation—Due **Feb 27**
- Buick Achievers Scholarship—Due **Feb 27**
- Michael J. Entringer Scholarship—Due **Mar 1**
- South Dakota Agri-Business Association Scholarship—Due **Mar 1**
- Foundation for Rural Service Scholarship—Due **Mar 2**
- Minnehaha Funeral Home Scholarship—Due **Mar 6**
- Alliance Communications Scholarship—Due **Mar 13**
- Home Builders Association of the Sioux Empire Scholarship—Due **Apr 1**

Please check your email for links to these scholarships along with more information.



Joke: Ughs and Kisses (Hugs and Kisses)

ANSWERS: Brain Teaser: 53