

Students Grow a Garden

BY CHARLY OWEN

Granger School students are in the process of making a new addition to the landscape. That new addition is going to be a student-friendly garden.

"I'm very excited," said school nurse Jenifer Hernandez. "I think this will be a great opportunity for the students to learn about healthy foods by using a more hands-on method."



"It's a good project. And, as long as everyone does their part, it will be a really good thing for the school," said Principal Hammond.

The building process has already begun. The garden is located behind the elementary building, next to the bus driveway.

"This will be very convenient for all of the elementary school classes and the secondary organizations who choose to participate," said Mrs. Hernandez.

The garden will have 15 individual 4x6 plots for

Band Brings Christmas Cheer

BY ALEX REED

All levels of the Granger School Band participated in the Christmas Concert on Monday, December 6, including the color guard.

"It was very nice to see my girls perform on a stage," said color guard advisor Mrs. Reed. "They did a wonderful job. I felt like a proud parent."

The color guard started the show with a flag routine to Kutless' version of "Mary, Did You Know?"

"We worked really hard to put together this performance on our own," said color guard member Charly Owen. "I think it showed everyone how talented a group we are."

The show then continued with the seventh grade drum line performing a "YouTube Cadence."

"We did really well. But we will always strive to do better," said bass drum player Wayne Sweeting.

Small groups also performed,

each elementary class and participating organization.

"In each one, there will be a variety of fruits, vegetables and herbs planted," said Mrs. Hernandez.

There will be a bird bath and a picnic table for students and faculty to use as they please.

"The area will be secured by a fence. And there will be necessary rules to follow," said Mrs. Hernandez.

The School Health Advisory Council committee, along with other volunteers, will be working to make sure the garden is done in time for spring planting season.

"We will have all the necessary materials ordered no later than January 31. So that should give us plenty of time," said Mrs. Hernandez.

This garden will be dedicated to Teresa Lizardo.



such as the saxophone, low brass, clarinet, flute and trumpet players.

"Everyone was under the spotlight that night. But in our ensembles, it felt good to let our section shine by ourselves," said trumpeter Quinlan Kubacak.

The seventh grade band presented "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer."

"The seventh grade band members have really come a long way," said Band Director Eckert. "They have many reasons to be proud."

The high school band performed "Do You Hear What I Hear?" and "Sleigh Ride." The high school drum line then gave another cadence.

According to members of the Granger School Band, the Christmas Concert was a success. And they look forward to next year's performance.



Granger Basketball Conquers CTCS

BY ALYSSA WADE

The Granger Lions basketball team faced Central Texas Christian School (CTCS) on December 4 during Granger's annual tournament.

"It was a very fun and exciting game," said senior Andrew Aleman. "Coming into the game, I knew we were going to win."

They had already beaten the team once. But after two losses in the tournament, the Lions had to focus.

"We had not played our best all week. And we were not going to get swept in our own tournament by three teams we are better than," said sophomore Preston Jimenez.

The game started out in Granger's favor. By the end of the first quarter, they were leading 23-16.

"It is great when everyone on the team does his best to execute for the team," said freshman Bryce Jimenez.

During the second quarter, CTCS was able to gain back lost ground. At halftime, Granger

only led by a score of 40-39.

"We were feeling energetic and ready to go out there and give it all we had," said senior Esteban Payan.

Granger did not come out in third quarter like they hoped to. They were soon down by 16 points.

But by the end of the quarter, they started their comeback and were only down 63-57.

"Our comeback showed a lot about our teamwork," said Preston Jimenez.

Throughout the fourth quarter, Granger had a strong defense and a strong offense. Scoring 31 points and only allowing CTCS 13, Granger came out with another victory with a final score of 88-75.

"It felt great to win. And it gave us hope and showed that anything is possible," said Payan.

According to Lion coaches, the team played great defensively and offensively. They went 9 out of 14 from the free-throw line. And a few players truly stood out.

Preston Jimenez led the team

Story continued on page 8: CTCS

BAT Lands in Hands of Active Learners

Miss Sara Cooper's fifth grade class grabbed the Best Attendance Trophy with their daily appearance and readiness to learn and have not looked back.

S P O R T S

Lions Run High-Spirited at District

BY LORENA LIZARDO

On October 27, the Granger cross country team ran at the district meet in Waco.

The varsity girls ran first. They had to run a two-mile course. Lorena Lizardo placed 36th with a time of 20:20.

"She did an amazing job. She was hurt and could not practice for five weeks. She came out that day and gave it her best and still beat some girls," said senior Amanda Allen.

Allen started off strong and kept up with the top ten. In the end, she placed 15th with a time of 16:15.

"I thought Amanda could have advanced to regionals. But even though she didn't, we are proud of her because she gave it her best," said Lizardo.

The varsity boys had to run three miles. Dylan Filla was the leader of the team and also ran with the top ten runners throughout the course.

His final time was 22:21. He placed 12th out of 36 runners.

"Dylan has great senior leadership skills and is a good motivator. I am proud to participate with him in cross country," said

Kirk Dunn.

Dunn placed 33rd with a time of 27:43.

"I'm proud of Kirk. I expect him to be a third-year runner and step up to be a leader with Lorena," said Filla.

The junior high runners also ran the two-mile course.

"The course was bumpy. It wasn't one of the easiest or hardest courses. But it was a challenge," said Mario Gonzales.

There were only two girls that ran cross country this year. Quinlan Kubacak and Bergé Bassett placed 26th and 19th respectively with final times of 17:40 and 17:04.

"They have a lot of potential for running cross country. And they always have a great attitude," said Coach Valdez.

There were six junior high boys that ran the two-mile course as well: Ryan Filla, Blake Bilbrey, Jesse Dews, Deuce Krueger, Mario Gonzales and Jordan Dickerson.

"I had a fun year running with my brothers. I like to run to stay in shape," said Bilbrey.

Coach Valdez says he is proud of his runners for finishing the race with their best runs and is looking forward to next year.

Lions Fight to Football Finish

BY LORENA LIZARDO

On November 5, the Lions battled with the Milano Eagles to make it to the playoffs. Unfortunately the final score was 40-30 in favor of the Eagles.

"I thought they played hard and did their best. And as a coach, I definitely can't ask for more than that," said Head Coach Wisdom.

Milano scored the first touchdown of the game. Luckily Nels Scott came to the rescue and evened the score with a 59-yard run.

"Blocking is what helped me score my touchdown," said Scott.

The Granger Lions had 260 yards rushing and 64 yards passing.

"We played well, but we had lots of mistakes. Overall, we gave it our best. And that is all that matters," said junior Colton Mazoch.

At the beginning of the third quarter, Milano scored a touchdown. Right after that, the Lions answered back with a touchdown.

"Alex had a great run to make that touchdown. During that quarter, we did not give up," said outside linebacker David Torres.

Quarterback Andrew Aleman threw a pass to wide receiver Preston Jimenez for the final

touchdown of the game.

"I was so glad that I did not get tackled. I'm also glad we have an awesome quarterback," said Jimenez.

Aleman is the team leader. He had 83 rushing yards, which was the most of any player on his team.

"I wish it wasn't Andrew's last year because he is my best friend. And he is fun to play with," said Clayton Moore.

The Lions finished district with a 4-6 record. Although this result was not what the team was hoping for, they still played great throughout the season, according to Lion fans.



Athletes of the Months of November & December



Derning Shoots Big

BY ALYSSA WADE

This issue's girl's basketball athlete of the month is junior Julia Derning.

"Julia, being a returner, brings varsity experience to the team," said Coach Abbott.

She has been playing basketball since her seventh grade year. Although she plays many sports, basketball is one of her favorites.

"Basketball is a physical sport that I can take my anger out on and still have fun," said Derning.

Derning is one of two returners from last year's varsity team. This year she is the team's starting point guard.

"As point guard, Julia's just going to continue to get better and start seeing the court and get the offense rolling," said Coach Abbott.

The team this year consists of mostly newcomers. But Derning contributes her knowledge and experience on varsity to the team.

"Julia's really confident with herself and her shooting ability,"

said teammate Kelly Johnson.

Being one of the only returners, she holds responsibility for being one of the team's leaders.

"This is a place of leadership that I'm excited about," said Derning.

Derning looks forward to practices each day but is even more anxious for game days. "Julia knows how to take charge on the court," said teammate Ande Scott.

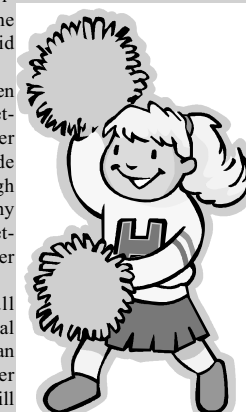
She loves Head Coach Abbott and Assistant Coach Hood. She looks to them for inspiration.

"The coaches have great experiences and know exactly what they're talking about," said Derning. "It'll be a great year with them leading us."

Although the season hasn't started the way the team would like, Derning is confident they will improve.

"She knows how to keep her head up in the game and not let anything bring her or her teammates down no matter what the score is," said teammate Brooke Cole.

As for the rest of the season, she plans to continue to work hard and motivate the team to improve.



SENIOR HIGHLIGHTS

Scott Shines Brightly

BY ALYSSA WADE

Brightening Granger School with her smile and attitude is senior Ande Scott. Full of spirit and joy, Scott is following her dreams.

Scott was born in 1992 to parents Nels and Susanna Scott. She has one younger brother, Nels, "Nelsie," who also attends Granger School.

"I can see how God works in her life," said Nels Scott. "And He's the one that always makes her smile."

Scott has been at Granger School since her sophomore year. She has participated in many sports, including volleyball, basketball, softball, cheerleading and track. She was also one of this year's football trainers.

Her favorite coach is Natalie Enderlin, the head softball coach and assistant volleyball coach.

"Coach E. is a really good coach and knows what she's doing," said Scott. "She's serious, but not too serious."

Scott also participates in UIL, One-Act Play and FCCLA. She is the senior class president, NHS president and FCA vice president.

"Ande's a great leader who's always smiling and is very enthusiastic. She does anything I ask her to do," said Coach Hood.

Her favorite class this year is speech with Mr. Bassett. She enjoys having fun and laughing with her classmates, especially Nick Schwertner.

Outside of school, Scott enjoys roller skating and spending time with her brother and friends.

"Ande's awesome," said Samantha Peeples. "She never tries to be someone she isn't."

Scott has earned many awards while attending Granger School. Her sophomore year, she received the Lion Spirit Award. And she received the Lady Lion Newcomer of the Year Award her junior year.

"Ande jumped right in and became not only a part of the team, but a part of the school," said Coach Abbott. "She has lots of team spirit, loyalty to the team and always participates and gives one hundred percent."

During Scott's junior year, she was homecoming duchess, winter formal queen and was awarded Granger High School's Most Spirited and Friendliest Award. This year, she was the Agriculture and Football Sweetheart.

"Ande was always helping us out during practices," said Esteban Payan. "She also cheered for us during the games."

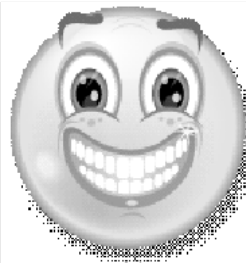
To go along with these memories, Scott has other favorite high school memories. Jumping off Morgan Repa's roof into a pool and Scott's first day of her junior year are unforgettable for her.

"Ande is nice to everyone and is very respectful. She's someone I can always count on," said Peeples.

After high school, Scott hopes to attend New York University or Florida State University.

"I like change and I want to see what's out there," said Scott.

She plans to major in business and become an entrepreneur. Scott's dream is to own a roller skating rink and bakery and maybe one day a hotel.



BAND MEMBER OF THE MONTH: J. D. VARGAS

Vargas Trumpets Success

BY CHARLY OWEN

This month's band member of the month is junior J.D. Vargas. He is one of the four trumpets for the Granger high school band.

"He deserves this recognition for his willingness to help and his good example of leadership for the band," said Band Director Eckert.

This will be Vargas' sixth year in band. He has been playing the trumpet for just as long.

"I really enjoy playing the trumpet. Also, I like finally being an upperclassman, so I'm able to help my younger bandmates," said Vargas.

Vargas has excelled in band, both in marching and concert seasons. He has competed in the UIL Solo and Ensemble contest and done well.

"J.D. always works very hard and puts his best foot forward," said Drum Major Nick Schwertner.

The band has been very

thankful for all Vargas' help during marching season when it comes to the transportation of the instruments.

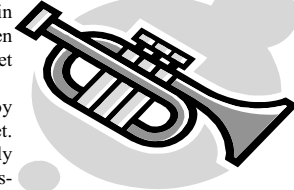
"He is our 'loading crew' and always makes sure everything gets from point A to point B successfully," said Ms. Eckert.

With Vargas' musical talent and sense of authority, he has a definite impact on the younger band members.

"I can always count on J.D. to help me or just be there to provide a good joke," said Quinlan Kubacak.

As the band members look forward to concert season, they will also look forward to having Vargas's participation.

"I have seen J.D. grow so much as a musician. And he continues to do that every day," said Ms. Eckert.



Additional senior highlights on page 4.

Bears and Dragons Encourage Reading

BY ALYSSA WADE

In Granger Elementary School, students are getting motivated to read more. Mrs. Griffis, Granger School's librarian, has provided activities to encourage all elementary students to get excited about reading.

"We wanted to find ways to get all elementary students reading more," said Mrs. Griffis.

For the pre-kindergarten class, students are getting an opportunity to take home Ty, the school library reading bear.

Each week, a pre-kindergarten

student is selected based on classroom and library behavior. The student is sent home with a bag containing Ty, a journal and a book to read.



the titles of the books they read and the activities the student did with Ty. The student can even

draw pictures showing what they did together.

The purpose of this activity is to encourage pre-kindergarten students to read more outside of school. They will continue this activity throughout the year.

"So far the pre-kindergarten students are getting excited about this project," said Mrs. Griffis.

Pre-kindergarten students are not the only ones being encouraged to read.

Kindergarten through fifth grade students are participating in Get Fired Up for Reading! This is a program that rewards students who pass an Accelerated Reading test with a dragon scale.

"I like reading because you learn something new," said second

grade student Alexi Wade.

Each scale a student earns gets added to the dragon which is located in the elementary hallway. The students will watch the dragon grow. When it reaches their goal of 1,000 scales, it has reached fire-breathing status.

"Many of the competitive students are getting involved and are excited about this program," said Mrs. Griffis.

At the end of the six-weeks, the student from each grade with the most scales will earn a special prize and eat a picnic lunch in the library with Mrs. Griffis.

"I liked this program because I won a prize. And I got to read a lot," said second grade winner Rhett Huebner.



The first winners were Rhett Huebner, Travis Miller, Caleb Filla and Mackenzie Towers.

According to Mrs. Griffis, these programs have been successful so far.

SENIOR HIGHLIGHTS

Peeples Raises Motivation

BY LORENA LIZARDO

Samantha Peeples is a 17-year-old senior who is known as a great motivator on and off the court.

Peeples is the daughter of Wanda and Mark Peeples. She has two older sisters, Chelsea and Ginger Peeples.

"I love having older sisters, especially now that my sister is having a baby. I get to be an aunt," said Peeples.

Peeples has been attending Granger School since she was in the fourth grade.

"It's a good school. But I really don't like the rules. And I think we need more school spirit," said Peeples.

Peeples is a member of the FCA and enjoys playing volleyball and basketball.

"I love playing both sports because of their intensity and aggressiveness. And I love playing with a team," said Peeples.

In volleyball, Peeples' position is outside hitter. And in basketball, she is a post and a wing.

"I always still see Samantha as the little tiny child in my sixth grade science class. But now she is a leader by example. And I love her attitude for sports," said Coach Abbott.

During school, Peeples'

favorite time of the day is lunch.

"I love lunch because I can talk as loud as I want. And I don't have anyone telling me to be quiet," said Peeples.

Outside of school, Peeples loves having a good time with her friends by going to parties.

"Samantha is an amazing role model. And I know when someone is down, that girl can always brighten my day," said Janet Gonzales.

Peeples' favorite high school memory is last year's prom.

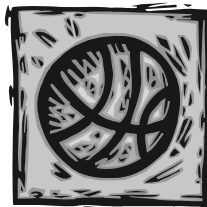
"It was fun. That's all I can say about it because it was an amazing and indescribable night," said Peeples.

After high school, Peeples plans to go to a junior college to get a degree in business management.

"I want to open up my own tanning salon and sell jewelry. I would call it 'Peeples Tan,'" said Peeples.

Peeples is going to miss her underclassmen friends after graduation.

"I think we are going to miss her more. I know I'm going to miss her a lot in sports because she always influences me to do my best," said sophomore Cecily Gonzales.



Muñoz Laughs It Up

BY BROOKE GRIFFIS

Zackry Muñoz is a man with a constant stream of laughter and jokes.

Muñoz was born in 1992 to loving parents Jesse Muñoz and Lila Florez. He also has an older brother named Victor and a younger sister named Vicky.

Muñoz's biggest supporters are his family and good friend, Allie Aguilar.

"They support me and always push me to be my best. If it wasn't for them, I probably wouldn't really care about my academics," said Muñoz.

In school, Muñoz's favorite teacher is Mrs. Reed because she teaches in a way that he can understand.

"I really miss having Zack in my class this year. He always made me smile, even when he told me I was fluffly. I will miss him dearly next year," said Mrs.

Reed.

Muñoz is comical, but he knows when to get serious in his favorite class, which is athletics. He enjoys this class with his favorite coach, Todd Grandjean.

"He pushes me past my limit and gets me stronger both mentally and physically," said Muñoz.

Muñoz has participated in tennis, football and FCA. Football is Muñoz's favorite activity.

"If I'm mad and something's bothering me, I take my anger out on the field. After the game, I feel relieved," said Muñoz.

Muñoz is graduating early with the seniors this year and has planned his future out of high school. He wants to attend a police academy or become part of the border patrol.

If all else fails, he says he will follow in his father's footsteps.

"I want to protect and serve the citizens of the United States," said Muñoz.



Martin Soars High

BY ALYSSA WADE

James "Tanner" Martin is a senior at a small school and is working to accomplish big dreams.

Martin was born in 1992 to parents Sherlyn Townzen and Jacky Martin. He lives with his mother, Sherlyn, and his younger brother, Jordan Dickerson, 12, who also attends Granger School.

Martin also has two older brothers, Nick Martin, 21, and Joey Stevens, 25.

"My oldest brother has influenced me by showing me that if I really love something, then I should go for it and not give up on it," said Martin.

After high school, Martin wants to earn his pilot's license and become a commercial airline pilot.

He has already had the experience of flying a plane. Martin received a flying lesson for his 18th birthday.

"Flying was unforgettable," said Martin. "I felt like I was on top of the world."

In school, Martin participates in FCCLA and was in band from

fifth grade through eleventh grade.

"Tanner's so sweet and friendly," said classmate Ande Scott. "He is always saying hi and giving hugs."

His favorite teacher is his environmental science teacher, Coach Abbott. Martin enjoys Abbott's sense of humor.

"I've gotten to see Tanner grow up from a little 'punk' to a good and polite young man," said Coach Abbott.

When not in school, Martin works at Chicken Express. On weekends, he enjoys spending time with his girlfriend, Becky Mayer, his friends, and his family.

"Tanner is the kind of person that can make anyone's day better just with his presence," said Mayer. "It is his kind heart and youthful, carefree take on life that makes him who he is."

His favorite senior year memories so far are his lunch table conversations with Nick Schwertner, Trevor Schwitzer and Elliot Moore.

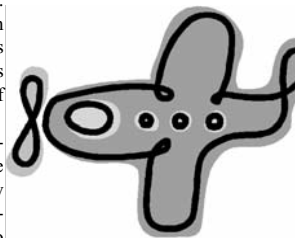
"Tanner is a great friend," said Schwertner. "And lunch gets a little crazy sometimes."

Martin plans to attend Texas State Technical College after high school. He wants to major in aircraft pilot training so he can accomplish his goal of

becoming a pilot.

"I really want to be a pilot because it is very fun and exciting," said Martin.

Although his head might be in the clouds, Martin plans to make his senior year one of his best.



Leo's Lil Pals: First Grade

Ryder and Perez Race Through School

BY LORENA LIZARDO

Johnny Ryder and Kylee Perez are this month's Leo's Lil Pals. They were chosen by their first grade teachers.

"I chose Johnny because he is a good leader and has good manners. And he also shows that he cares about his classmates and friends by helping them out," said first grade teacher Mrs. Marek.

Ryder has been attending Granger School for two years now. And he likes it more than the Catholic school he went to before. "It is way more fun," said Ryder.

Ryder likes school, especially when he is learning about math.

"I like math because I learn about numbers and stuff," said Ryder.

Ryder enjoys having Mrs. Marek as a teacher because he thinks she does a great job

explaining concepts.

"Mrs. Marek always gives out great information about stuff so we don't get confused," said Ryder.

During school, Ryder likes to play with his friends.

"My favorite place to play is out on the playground," said Ryder.

He plans to be a paleontologist with his older brother, Lee, when he grows up.

"I want to be a paleontologist so that I can be really smart about dinosaur fossils," said Ryder.

When Ryder is not at school, he likes to play with his siblings, especially his younger brother, Brooks.

"We like to build little ramps and tracks for our cars. And I like playing with Brooks because my older brothers won't play with me," said Ryder.

Ryder is not the only one who builds tracks to play with cars. His friend and classmate, Kylee Perez, also loves playing with cars. She



is Mrs. Perrin's choice to be Leo's

Lil Pal.

"Kylee is one of my best friends because she always looks cute. My favorite outfit is the one she is wearing right now," said classmate Alyssa Mitchell.

Kylee is a six-year-old first grader who is the daughter of Joanna Rodriguez and Michael Luna.

"I also have two brothers and two sisters," said Perez.

When Perez grows up, she wants to be a doctor in a hospital.

"I want to be a doctor to help people out. And I will do that by playing with them," said Perez.

Perez likes to have Mrs. Perrin as a teacher because she helps people with math, which is her favorite subject.

"I like it because it helps my brain and makes it smarter," said Perez.

Perez's favorite time of the day is recess because she gets to play with toys.

"I like toys. My favorite one is the one that spins around," said Perez.

Having siblings around makes it easier for her to enjoy playtime.

"My little brother, Anthony, is my best friend because we always play with cars," said Perez.

When Perez gets older, she wants to have a blue convertible to drive and race.

"I love playing with cars, especially when Anthony and I make roads for our cars," said Perez.

Ryder and Perez are two first graders that are off to a great start in their race through life.

Academic Standouts: Sophomores

Sophomores Soar for Academic Greatness

BY DANIEL GRAVES

Alyssa Wade and Kirk Dunn are two active and successful sophomores at Granger School. For this reason, teachers have voted them the academic standouts of the month.

Wade's long list of activities include FCCLA, FCA, UIL, volleyball, basketball, softball, cheerleading and Upward Bound.

Out of all these activities, among Wade's favorite is definitely softball.

"Softball has been in my family since I was born. And my brother, Alec, has encouraged me to play softball since he played baseball also," said Wade.

Arguably the most successful is FCCLA.

"I won a national gold medal in FCCLA my seventh grade year. And I'm happy to be a regional officer this year," said Wade.

In light of all the clubs and sports Wade participates in, one may not think she can handle the academic pressures in the classroom. However, Wade's academic

pursuits are just as impressive as her athletic ones.

"I made the All-A Honor Roll last six weeks," said Wade. "I don't think I've ever gotten a 'B.'"

Wade's favorite teacher is the recently retired high school science teacher, Ms. Drosche.

"Ms. Drosche actually made me think in class. She knew so much. We could ask her anything. And she'd know the answer," said Wade.

But Wade's favorite subject is math.

"I love having Mrs. Drosche in class. She is the quickest learning I have ever had," said Wade.

Wade's favorite subject is math. And she enjoys Mrs. Drosche's math class because it challenges her onto concepts she has never learned before.

"I love having Mrs. Drosche in class. She is the quickest learning I have ever had," said Wade. "I love having Mrs. Drosche in class. She is the quickest learning I have ever had," said Wade.

Wade's favorite subject is math. And she enjoys Mrs. Drosche's math class because it challenges her onto concepts she has never learned before.

"My parents definitely motivate me and expect me to do well," said Wade. "And I don't want to let them down."

After high school, Wade plans to attend a four-year college. She is certain that she wants to become a math or special education teacher and coach high school softball.

Another sophomore that has successfully balanced athletics and academics is Kirk Dunn.

Dunn is a devoted member of many clubs and organizations: FCCLA, Skills USA, FCA, cross country, basketball, powerlifting and tennis.

"My favorite organization out of all of those is cross country," said Dunn. "I just really enjoy running."

Dunn is particularly proud of being *Paw Prints*' cross country athlete of the month earlier this year.

"Kirk's excitement for running stood out to me. He never missed morning practices and gave all he had," said Coach Valdez. "His time improved constantly throughout the year."

Dunn's exploits in FCCLA are equally impressive as Wade's. He also advanced to the national competition in Orlando, Florida, and won a gold medal.

"They told us that we had the highest score in our [Southwest] region," said Dunn. "Staying in

Orlando for a week is my favorite school memory."

Dunn never fails to impress teachers in the classroom. He was a member of the A-B Honor Roll last six weeks.

"Kirk's writing style is distinctly his. He manages to pile quite a bit into his succinct writings," said English teacher Mrs. Bassett. "He has lots of energy. And he does everything at full alert."

Mrs. Reed is Dunn's favorite teacher because she lets him work at his own pace and gives high-quality instruction.

"Kirk is a great student. He picks up everything very quickly and always does his best," said Mrs. Reed.

Dunn's favorite subject is history.

"I have always loved watching the History Channel and anything that has to do with history," said Dunn. "I mostly like world history."

Dunn's plans after high school



FICTION CORNER

A Christmas Wish

BY BROOKE GRIFFIS

The mall smelled of Christmas trees, creamy coffee and warm cookies. It was the day before Christmas Eve, and Santa Claus sat on his throne in the middle of it all.

His elves helped parents corral the naughty or nice children in a line. Each child had a wish in mind varying from a Barbie doll to a pony.

One little girl named Katie clung to her mother's hand, excited for her turn to tell Santa of her very special wish. Of all things, she wanted her very own cell phone. She was eight years old and practically a teenager. She wanted to feel grown up, especially since she had a three-year-old little brother to watch out for.

Katie was tenth in line when her mother put her brother, Jeremy, down. Her mother had to answer her cell phone. Jeremy was not one to wander off, so Katie didn't worry about him. Instead, she watched happily as the line shortened.

She was second in line when her mother gasped and started to look around frantically.

"What's wrong mommy?" Katie asked.

"Jeremy, where's Jeremy?" her mother replied.

Katie momentarily forgot about Santa and her much wanted cell phone. She looked up and down the line for her blonde-haired little brother. While she was looking away, an elf put her hand on Katie's shoulder.

"It's your turn to see Santa," the red-haired elf said with a smile.

Katie turned to her mother. She didn't know what to do. She had waited this long to see Santa, but now her brother was gone.

"Go ahead, honey. I'll be looking for Jeremy, but I will stay close. You're a big girl, and I trust you not to run off like your little brother," said Katie's mother with half a smile.

Katie was excited that her mother had called her a big girl. She put on a big smile and hopped up on Santa's lap. From that view, Katie could see a little better and searched for a second for Jeremy. Still she couldn't find him.

"What do you want for Christmas sweetheart?" Santa asked. His big, white beard jiggled while he talked.

Katie thought about her cell phone and her little brother. She loved her little brother a lot, despite how annoying he got at times.

"I want to find my little brother," Katie said.

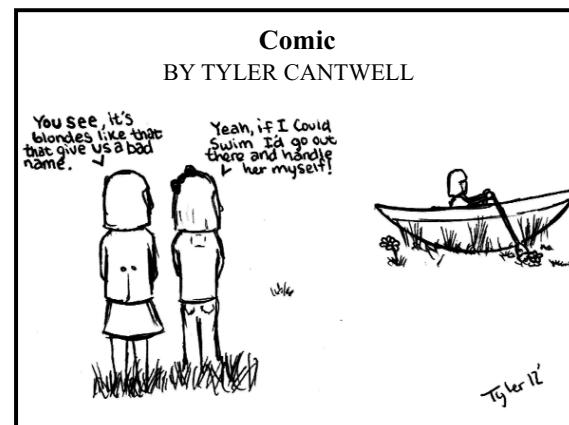
Before Santa could answer, a giggle sounded from behind his chair. A small cotton-headed boy with blue eyes poked his head out.

"Jeremy!" Katie cried. But Jeremy just smiled a mischievous grin, and his head disappeared behind the chair again.

"Jeremy, come back!" Katie yelled at him. Jeremy jumped back out from behind the chair.

"Peek a boo!" he said as he giggled and held his hands over his eyes. Katie couldn't help but laugh.

"Looks like your wish came true," said Santa through his own ho ho ho's.



Paws for Poetry

We're All the Same

BY ALYSSA WADE

I don't understand how people can stereotype. That they can just label you with a name. People are so quick to judge. But why can't they realize— We're all the same?

I don't understand how people can hate. When they hurt someone; yet feel no shame. Just to make themselves feel better. But why can't they realize— We're all the same?

I don't understand how people can be abandoned. And they believe they only have themselves to blame. In a crowded room they feel alone. But why can't they realize— We're all the same?

But I do understand how people can love. How you can meet a person and feel the instant flame. No matter what size, shape, style or color. We just need to realize— We're all the same!

Top Five Christmas Gifts

BY KIRSTEN MESSEX

With the holidays starting their crazy spiral, it is time to focus in on what is truly important: presents. This year is arguably one of the most magical and exciting years for Christmas lovers.

There are new toys for boys and girls (and their parents) that are being sold at every street corner these days.

5—While a TV probably works just as well, having a household movie projector is just plain nifty. Not only that, but it helps the family remember a simpler time.

4—ZhuZhu pets are taking over the popular vote with the ten and under crowd. They are practically a pet hamster with none of the worry of feeding or



watering it. It sounds like a good deal until one gets stuck in your hair.

3—The Kindle is the bookshelf that you can carry everywhere without throwing out your back. It also offers cheaper books and a more convenient way to look for them. So, simply put, it makes being a scholar look easy.

2—The Xbox 360 with Kinect, the most intense gaming experience available on the market today, lets the player control the game with only their body. Instead of sitting down and playing Pac Man, now you get to run around the room avoiding Iggy.

1—And with little to no surprise, Apple produces the winner. The iPhone 4 is the latest must-have gift from Apple's golden company. Opening up one of these Christmas morning would be like discovering the Holy Grail.

Editorial: What is Thanksgiving?

BY BROOKE GRIFFIS

Stuffing, cranberry sauce, pecan pie and mashed potatoes are all spread around the big ol' turkey in the center. This meal is full of delicious foods to choose from that could keep a belly full for days.

"You eat turkey and you gather around the table and get to feast," said first grader Amayah Simien.

This feast is one that many people look forward to all year. So it is hard to overlook the turkey and pies to see that Thanksgiving is not just for the food.

"It is a time to be thankful for others," said second grader Rhett Huebner.

Thanksgiving is a special day for young children who are always on the hunt for entertainment.

"I think Thanksgiving is fun," said pre-kinder-

garten student Jaila Rollie.

With family and friends all gathered around, there can be a lot of excitement. It is a cheerful time for many youngsters.

"We are thankful that we have friends. And we're nice to everybody," said first grader Katarina Leza.

Other children enjoy preparing the food with their parents. According to some elementary students, picking out the turkey is just one of the best parts.

"I like going to the store and seeing the chicken already dead," said first grade student Javier Reyna.

Many people have different opinions of their favorite part of Thanksgiving. But the meaning of the day stays the same. Thanksgiving is named just for its purpose: giving thanks.

Granger School Organizations

MAINTAINED BY ALEX REED

FFA, Future Farmers of America, is an agricultural-based organization concentrated on the importance of agriculture to real-life instances. Members must be in or have completed at least one agricultural class.

Sponsor: Eloy Perez
Skills USA is an organization made to unite in a common bond all students in trade, industrial, technical and technological careers. Students learn to foster a deep respect for the dignity of work, attain a purposeful life and create an enthusiasm for learning.

Sponsor: Mike Juranek
The newspaper staff combines its skills in journalism to construct **Paw Prints**, the Granger School newspaper. **Paw Prints** articles include activities at hand, some being UIL, sports, One-Act Play, Band, NHS, cheerleading, FFA, FCCLA, FCA, yearbook, senior highlights, academic highlights and teacher highlights.

Sponsor: Michelle Bassett
Academic UIL is a whole category of academic events available to students in grades 2-12 that are willing to apply themselves mentally to a certain event.

Sponsor: Jimmie Baker
One-Act Play is an organization for those who like to act or to

be in theater. Acting, staging, lighting, and hair or make-up are some of the available positions for interested members.

Sponsors: Becky Kubacak and Lara Barbiaux—Junior High
Jimmie Baker and Amy Vargas—High School

Band is a music-centered organization open to students who are interested in playing instruments and reading music. Members of the band can be seen performing during halftime at football games, competing in UIL contests, participating in All-Region/All-State Band and taking part in solo and ensemble contests.

Sponsor: Anna-Marie Eckert
Student Council is a group of student leaders that meet throughout the year to carry out service projects and exchange ideas that will benefit the high school.

Students in this organization are usually elected or appointed to their positions. They are responsible for the homecoming parade and halftime activities as well as Red Ribbon Week, which is a drug awareness and prevention program conducted for the whole school during a week in October.

Sponsor: Jeffrey Price
NHS, National Honor Society, consists of students in grades 11 and 12 who show their honorable qualities through service work and maintained GPAs. Requirements for NHS are GPAs of 3.0 or higher and at least 15 hours of service work per semester. Inductees are accepted into the society at the end of the tenth grade.

Sponsor: Jennifer Lane

FCCLA, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America is a non-profit national career and technical student organization for young men and women in family and consumer sciences education in public and private school through grade 12.

Everyone is part of a family. And FCCLA is the only national career and technical student organization with the family as its central focus. Students in grades 7-12 that have taken at least one family and consumer science class are able to join.

Opportunities to learn through service projects are available. If interested in joining, dues are \$30.00. Dues must be paid or earned by October 1.

Sponsor: Linda Huebner
FCA, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, is a group open to everyone that is willing to express the Christian faith in school. Participating in service projects is one way that members express their faith. Dues are \$10.00. They meet for Bible Study at 7:30 a.m. on Wednesdays in Coach Hood's room and around the flagpole on Fridays at 7:45 a.m. for prayer.

Sponsor: Kelli Hood
The Yearbook committee captures moments occurring around the school at various school events in the form of photography. They then design a yearbook with all the photos taken and publish it for students.

Sponsor: Chuck Bassett

FCCLA Gives to Children

BY ALEX REED

Lorena Lizardo organized the Granger chapter of FCCLA's involvement with Operation Christmas Child, an organization that gives presents to children who do not have much during the holidays.

"I really wanted to do something with children this year. So Mrs. Huebner and I looked until we found this project," said Lizardo.

The Operation Christmas Child organization started in 1999 when volunteers began packing shoeboxes with items like small toys, educational supplies, hygiene items and certain types of clothing.

"There were a lot of members and parents at the meeting to help pack all the shoeboxes," said FCCLA member Dylan Newsom. "Everyone really helped out."

All the students in the school were asked to donate anything they could to give these less fortunate children a better Christmas.

"I am honored to be part of such a great organization as this one," said FCCLA member Kirk Dunn. "Helping these children really makes a difference in their lives. And it is great that we are doing it."

FCCLA held a meeting on Thursday, November 18, to pack all that was donated into the shoeboxes to be shipped.

"FCCLA packed 21 shoeboxes full of items," said sponsor Linda Huebner.

The members sent them on November 22 to the First Baptist Church in Taylor.

"The boxes have been registered online so we can track them and see where they go," said Mrs. Huebner.



Storyteller Spreads Kindness

BY ALYSSA WADE

Storyteller Bernadette Nason visited Granger Elementary School on November 23. She visited the library and told stories to all of the elementary students.

"Both teachers and students ask for her to visit and look forward to her each year," said Mrs. Griffis.

Nason has been telling stories all her life. She has been giving her presentation at Granger School annually for more than ten years.

"When I bring joy to others through my stories, it brings joy to me," said Nason.

Nason focused on stories of kindness. She told the story of the bean mouse and of the baker's dozen.

"My favorite was the bean mouse," said second grade student Carsyn Locklin.

She was able to get the children to interact with her throughout the story. Nason kept many students smiling and giggling.

"Seeing the audience connect with a story is one of the favorite parts of my job," said Nason.

This special visit was to give the students a little fun and a different way of hearing stories.

"I really liked her movement and changes in her voice," said second grade student Alexi Wade.

Granger Skills USA Members Participate in Leadership Conference

BY CHARLY OWEN

On October 27, 2010, Granger Skills USA members went to Seguin, Texas, for the District 10 Leadership Conference. Members attending were Jacob Bowman, Reagan Luersen, Gunner Gardner, Alyssa Blomquist, Kyle Geydos, Kendall Cunningham, Dustin Harper, Kirk Dunn and Dylan Filla.

The group learned about various ways to improve their own leadership qualities. Skills USA looks to promote career and technological education, which is essential in today's society.

Horoscope THE FUTURE LOOKS HOT

BY KIRSTEN MESSEX

This winter is starting out especially chilly. But do not let that get you down. Just think back to those warmer days. And you will make it through until spring!

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21) —Do not let the cold get to you because you have a birthday to celebrate this month!

You are the sunshine from your head to your toes. So stay smiling! Lucky days: 3rd and 10th

Capricorn (December 22-January 19) —You and a cup of coffee have a lot in common, such as the fact you can sometimes be a little bitter. Lately you have let your tongue get the best of you. Now is the time to add some sweetener to your brew. Lucky days: 8th and 11th.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18) —What you need right now is some adventure in your life! So strap on a ski hat and do something crazy! Lucky days: 25th and 29th

Pisces (February 19-March 20) —Just like the coziest sweater, you really know how to be there when someone needs you. Keep that up because right now there are people who are looking for a hug just from you. Lucky days: 1st and 22nd

Aries (March 21-April 19) —Right now you need to do some deep cleansing in your life. So embody boiling water and let the problem steam away. Lucky days: 4th and 18th

Taurus (April 20-May 20) —Usually mittens are a good thing to wear in the winter. But instead

of protecting you, they are restricting you. Break free from your fears this month. Lucky days: 13th and 17th

Gemini (May 21-June 20) —As the holidays approach, you need to sit back and relax. Like the perfect hot tub, do not think about your worries. Instead, just watch the bubbles rise. Lucky days: 19th and 30th

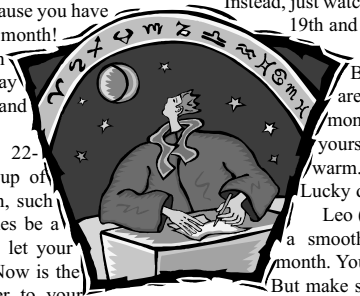
Cancer (June 21-July 22) —Because of your shyness, you are a pair of flannel pajamas this month. You do not need to cover yourself from head to foot to be warm. That comes from the inside. Lucky days: 24th and 28th

Leo (July 23-August 22) —You are a smooth cup of hot chocolate this month. You have perfected the sweet act. But make sure not to let your charm turn into smarm. Lucky Days: 7th and 25th

Virgo (August 23-September 22) —Tanning may be fun. But it is not a good way to heat up. Just like a tanning bed, you are a little fake this month. Maybe you should work on that. Lucky days: 12th and 26th

Libra (September 23-October 22) —Your maturity has been surprising, which is why you are a sauna this month. You have risen above the drama. And your life will change for the better. Lucky Days: 13th and 20th

Scorpio (October 23-November, 21) —Just like a blanket, you are the go-to person this month. You know how to get things done. And that is what people are looking for right now. Lucky days: 5th and 17th.



Continued from front page: **CTCS**

with a total of 26 points. He also had eight rebounds that game.

"I knew we needed points. And my teammates were moving well and passing great. So I was wide open every time I got the ball," said Preston Jimenez.

Following Preston was Bryce Jimenez with 18 points and Payan with 12.

"Once I get in a groove, I get confident in my shots and it is hard to slow down," said Bryce Jimenez.

Defensively, Head Coach Thomas Pickerill felt senior Andrew Aleman performed the best. He had six steals in the game along with nine assists.

"Our defense in the end was really good and really stood out," said Aleman.

Other players who stood out included sophomore Travis Tidwell. He had nine points, which included four consecutive free throws to increase their lead.

Sophomore Jorge Juarez and junior Jake Miller each had five rebounds.

"Like Coach Pick says in practice, good defense turns into good offense," said Miller.

According to Lion players, this win gave the team encouragement for the rest of the season. They plan to continue growing as a team and get better each day.

"We are going to do just fine," said Payan. "We are getting better. And when district gets here, we are going to be ready."

CALENDAR: December & January

- December 17 — Early release
- December 18 - January 2 — Christmas Break
- January 1—New Year's Day
- January 4—Junior varsity girls & varsity girls basketball game vs. Mumford, home
- Junior varsity boys & varsity boys basketball game vs. Caldwell, home
- January 6—Junior high boys & girls basketball game vs. Holland, boys away, girls home
- January 7—Everest Institute presentation, 1:00 PM in student center for seniors
- Junior varsity boys/varsity boys basketball game vs. Iola, away
- January 10—NHS meeting, 3:42 PM - 4:15 PM
- Project Celebration meeting, 7:00 PM in library
- Junior high boys basketball game vs. Gateway, home
- January 11—Junior varsity girls & varsity girls basketball game vs. Milano, away
- January 14—All teams basketball game vs. Bartlett, home
- January 17—No school
- January 18—All teams basketball game vs. Thrall, away
- January 20—Junior high boys & girls basketball game vs. Milano, boys away, girls home
- January 21—All teams basketball game vs. Holland, home
- January 24—Junior high boys & girls basketball game vs. Bartlett, boys home, girls away
- January 25—Junior varsity boys & varsity boys basketball game vs. Gateway, away
- January 28—Early release/staff in-service, 1:00 PM
- All teams basketball vs. Milano, home
- January 31 — Junior high basketball vs Thrall, boy away, girls home

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UIL Competitions Looking for Competitors

If anyone has any questions about or would like to compete in any of the following contests, please see Mrs. Baker in Room 211:

Junior high one-act play competition will be held on January 7 in Temple.

On March 21, high school one-act play will compete in zone competition in Cameron.

High school one-act play district competition will be

on March 28 in Cameron.

On March 30, high school district UIL writing competition will take place in Holland.

The high school district academic UIL meet will be held on April 2 in Riesel.

On April 15-16, the high school region academic UIL meet will be held in Nacogdoches.

The high school state academic UIL meet will take place on May 5-7 in Austin.

