

## SWHS hosts two foreign exchange students

By Clarice Riniker & Staci Reynolds

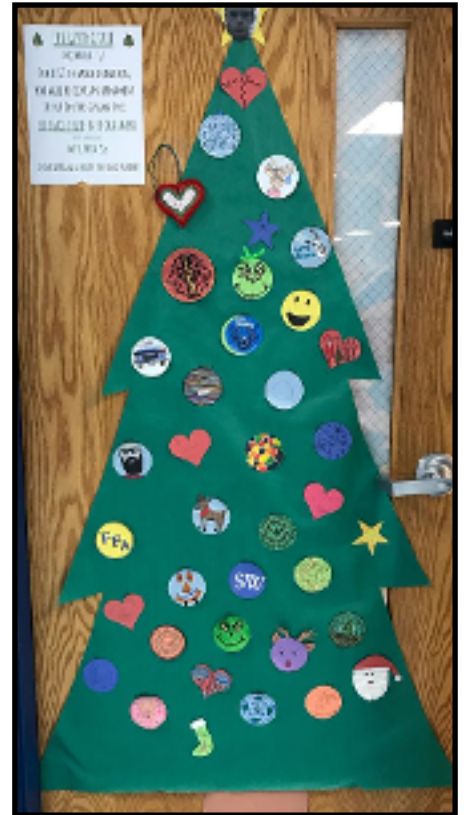
This year, Southwestern is host to two foreign exchange students. The Birkett family (hosting Liza) and the Hinderman family (hosting Nim) decided to take them in and be their families for the year.



Junior Zvigintseva (Liza) Yelizaveta Sergeyevna, is a 17 year old student from Kazakhstan which is right by Russia. Back home she has one older sister named Katya and hopes to own a dog one day. Liza talked about her school back home and said, "We have only 11 years school. So it's my graduation year." She also said that at her school they have a lot of language and science classes. She said that one of her favorite things about the United States is school.

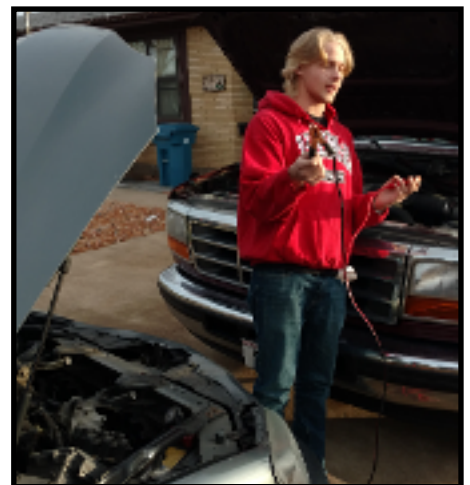


Sophomore Hathaipat (Nim) Chunhaliang, is a sixteen year old student from Thailand. One of the things Nim said was that one huge change here in America from Thailand is the weather. As her home country is a little way from the equator, the weather can be very warm compared to the freezing temperatures that Wisconsin offers here in America. Another difference is the food. "I always eat spicy food and rice, but I came here, I always eat bread," said Nim. Some of Nim's favorite things here is snow, skiing, and school. The reason that she likes school here is because that back home in Thailand there are more rules. The reason that Nim wanted to come to America is to improve her English skills, primarily with her speaking.



### LEO Club giving tree

The LEO Club raised money for the food pantry by selling blank paper ornaments for a donation of \$1 or more. Participants then decorated the ornaments for a chance to win \$5 for the best looking ornament as judged by the staff.



Isaac Lucas explains how to jump-start a car as part of the demonstration speeches recently presented in Career English.





# Music fills the air at Christmas concerts

*By Jordan Banfield*

The fifth grade band and middle school music department hosted their Christmas concert on Sunday, December 3rd. Congratulations to David Iserman for a great performance by the fifth grade and middle school bands. Also to Theresa Brown for a wonderful performance by the middle school chorus.

The following Sunday, December 10th, the high school music department hosted their Christmas concert. For the first time in several years, students organized a jazz band with the help of Erin Feldman. Students had the option to partake in jazz band practices during RTI on Tuesdays every week. The jazz band worked very hard on their music and were a great addition to the concert.

Another congratulations to directors Erin Feldman and Theresa Brown on a fantastic job preparing the high school band and chorus.



The first grade received items for their reading center that were funded by the Donor's Choose project.



Allison Kruser signs her letter of intent to attend Clarke University in Dubuque and play softball.



## Referendum construction update

- State approved plans are complete.
- Digging began on 12/14 for the addition of the middle school wing (above).
- Easements have been finalized and will be recorded to move the sewer lines.
- The multimedia room is potentially going to stay as is with upgrades depending on the cost.
- The new gymnasium will be started sometime in the next few weeks; fitness center and administration offices won't start until March.
- The district is still working with PSI on stage construction - and the finer points of that piece of the project.





## Mrs. Lacey is suspended

In addition to collecting over 100 pairs of eyeglasses, the LEO Club sold pieces of duct tape to "Suspend the Principal" as part of Diabetes Awareness Week.



## Layups for Liam raises funds

5th and 6th grade lady Wildcats and Cubans recently shot Layups for Liam, raising over \$1000 to help Liam's family this holiday season. Liam, a 4 year old SW Wildcat underwent surgery on December 11th. A half-court shooting contest was also held.



About a dozen students volunteered to help with the elementary reading night. This year's theme was "Getting Snowed In With A Good Book" where the students wore their PJ's and read snow themed books with the little ones that came through. The students were helping the younger kids see how reading can be exciting and fun!



8th grade Wildcats recently participated in fun wellness and mindfulness activities thanks to Molly Schreiber and Challenge to Change.



The Wildcat Ladies Basketball team helped out at the Dubuque Community Thanksgiving Dinner in Dubuque, Iowa.



# Calendar

## January Events

- 1/3 School resumes
- 1/4 first musical rehearsal in the choir room 7 pm
- 1/8 K-5 Elementary Winter Concert - Elem. Gym
  - Dress rehearsal - student viewing @9:00 am
  - Parents only performances:
  - K-2 @1:45
  - 3-5 @2:45
- 1/14 & 1/15 Dorian Choral Festival - Luther College, Decorah IA
- 1/19 End of 2nd Quarter
- 1/22 No School
- 1/25 SWAL Honor's Choir rehearsal 9-12 @ Iowa Grant
- 1/27 SWAL Honor's Choir Concert 4 pm @ Iowa Grant

## February Events

- 2/16 No School
- 2/19 No School
- 2/18-2/24 FFA Week



Willy the Wildcat recently joined Mrs. Barth to greet students and say hello at breakfast.



## Grades 1-12 participate in Hour of Code

The Hour of Code is a global movement reaching tens of millions of students in 180+ countries. Anyone, anywhere can organize an Hour of Code event.

According to high school math teacher Emily Herbst, Hour of Code is important for students because it exposes them to computer programming. "The high school students will be creating their own version of the Flappy Bird game that, once finished, can be downloaded onto their phones as an app," said Herbst.



Kirsten, Hannah, & Madelyn advanced to the Grant County Spelling Bee at 6 pm January 23 at UWP.



The 4th graders had a visit from a guest speaker from the Wisconsin Historical Society recently who presented replicas and artifacts from the Native American time era.



Jesse Gleason, also a high school math teacher, explained that "computer science is a rapidly growing and changing field of work and study." He pointed out that current computer science graduates cannot keep up with the ever growing demand for computer science jobs.

"For this reason the Hour of Code was created to recognize national computer science week and help foster a greater interest in the study of computer science in our schools," said Gleason

## Reilly receives 2017 WADA award

*By Allison Kruser*

Don Reilly was awarded the 2017 Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association (WADA) Distinguished Service Award for District 5. He has been taking pictures in our school district for over 30 years and recently retired after collectively photographing over

180 seasons of sports along with many other important school and community events. He created a Snapfish account where students, parents, athletes, and fans had the opportunity to see his captured shots. Over the years it is estimated that he took over 250,000 photos.



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