

Left of Center

Volume 2, Issue 3

December 2012

Top 10 New Year's Resolutions for 2013

From: FranklinCovey
Co.brand who polled
more than 1,000 adults
in October 2012 and
these were the results.

1. Become more physically fit
2. Improve financial condition
3. Improve health
4. Lose weight
5. Read more -Become more educated
6. Improve work habits/career situation
7. Travel more
8. Improve family relationships
9. Do more volunteer work
10. Change overall attitude: be more positive

Found at: <http://www.prweb.com/releases/2012/10/prweb10043254.html>

Unveiling of Sherman County School District's New Websites

By: Devyn Roberts

2012 has been the year of change for Sherman Jr./Sr. High School. Not only have the additions of new windows, a new heating system, and the integration of iPads all made the school a more improved and high-tech facility, but also the addition of updated and facelifted websites. Weebly, Inc, the online website and blog creating company is being used to host our new online life.

Online you will find four unique, individual websites for Sherman County School District. One each for the District, the elementary school, the Jr./Sr. High School, and our new on-line academy.

Gerald Casper, our new webmaster and brains behind the scene, has reshaped and altered the look

and feel, from a simple layout, to a complex pull down menu format with the amusing addition of an animated running Husky. He chose the layout for the website because he was "looking for drop down menus which allowed people to see all the links from which ever page they were on" allowing ease of access; "Weebly has a 'drag and drop' format," which allows the staff and Mr. Casper to work with ease when creating their websites.

Almost all teachers have their own website to help students. As Mr. Casper adds, he wanted to help his students by including "access to weekly assignments, links to daily lessons, links to online textbooks, and tutors" on his teaching website to make it

easier for absentees to regain momentum.

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Can you find the 5 hidden snowflakes?



Sports Center

By: Katie Poirier



With winter rapidly approaching, the students at SJSHS are preparing for a great basketball season. Starting off the season was a Sherman Invitational tournament on November 30th and December 1st. The teams included in this tournament were: Weston-McEwen, Southwest Christian, and Culver. Our lady Huskies, under the coaching staff of Steve Kaseberg and Steve Bird, played Culver, but were unsuccessful in winning, with a score of 37-45. One of the highlights of the game was at the buzzer of the end of the second quarter when

Brooklyn Sandquist shot, and made, a three pointer, tying the game at halftime. The boys' team, directed by Head Coach Mike Somins and assistant coaches Tracy Fields, Austen Justesen, and Clint Moore, also played and lost to Culver, their score was 57-71. On Saturday, December 1st both basketball teams played and defeated Southwest Christian. The Lady Huskies played hard and the final score was 45-38. The boys, also with a win, scored 64 points, while Southwest Christian scored only 57.

The Huskies traveled to Glenwood, Washington, on December 4th to battle against the Eagles. Both teams, boys and girls, won. The girls played hard and the outcome was a 55-37 victory. The boys also gave it their all and won, 67-50.

On December 7th and 8th, both of the Sherman basketball teams traveled to Condon for the Condon Christmas Tournament. On Friday, the girls played Irrigon and started out with a lead, but ended up with a loss and a score of 30-50. The boys' team also played against Irrigon and they tried their best,

but lost 58-78. One of the highlights of the game was Alex Riggs and his miraculous luck with scoring 3 pointers. He scored a whopping three 3-pointers in a row! It's safe to say that Alex is a 3-point King.

On Saturday, December 8th, our Husky basketball teams played Powder Valley and both teams lost. The girls with a score of 31-61 and the boys with 52-72, even though this last weekend was unsuccessful we are all proud of our Dawgs and will continue to support them throughout what we hope will be a long season.

The 2012-2013 Husky Varsity basketball teams are:

GIRLS

Player	Number	Player	Number
Samantha Coons	#10	Riley Brown	#3
Audrey Kaseberg	#11	Wyatt Stutzman	#5
Andie Harrison	#14	Alex Riggs	#10
Megan McKinney	#15	Brian Simantel	#11
Kali Busler	#21	Austin Kaseberg	#12
Brooklyn Sandquist	#22	Alex Fields	#13
Katie Asher	#23	Shaun Casper	#14
Janet Guzman	#24	Jailin Conboy	#15
Katie Poirier	#30	Nick Coleman	#20
Makenzie Blaylock	#32	Luke Lawrence	#30
Shelby Kaseberg	#35	Isaac McAllister	#40

BOYS

Husky Happenings

By: Devyn Roberts

December has kick started winter weather into gear. The transformation from autumn to winter sparks the interchange between football/volleyball to basketball season. The annual food drive and Bazaar were more successful than ever. The school has also added a new fundraiser and a Junior High dance.

The annual food drive, was successfully held at Sherman Jr./Sr. High School. On the 29th and 30th of November, students, faculty and staff competed for the reward of a pizza and soda party given to the winning class. All food was donated to the Sherman County Food Bank. Students donated food or money, where one dollar equaled 3 lbs. of food. A total of 3,193 pounds of food was raised by the end of Friday. All food was placed on one of the small buses provided by the Mid-Columbia Bus Company. Dedicated students Samantha Coons, Hannah Hays, and Devyn Roberts were determined to gain class victory and help the community. The three students went to Wasco, going from house to house to obtain as much non-perishable food as possible.

Coming in first, faculty/staff raised \$268 (804

lbs.) and 218 lbs. for a total of 1,022 lbs. and in second place, the Seniors raised \$128 (384 lbs.) and 402 lbs. for a total of 786 lbs. Next, the Junior class raised \$155 (465 lbs.) and 34 lbs. for a total of 499 lbs., the Sophomore class raised \$70.27 (211 lbs.) and 85 lbs. for a total of 296 lbs., and finally, the Freshman class raised \$111 (333 lbs.) and 51 lbs. for a total of 384 lbs. Eighth grade raised \$2 (6 lbs.) and 42 lbs. for a total of 49 lbs., and 7th grade with \$75 (225 lbs.) and 32 lbs. for a total of 257 lbs. The faculty/staff won as far as money, but the Seniors won by amount of actual food gathered, therefor the pizza and soda party was enjoyed by both faculty and staff and the Seniors. Remember to not throw your unwanted cans away, give them to the food bank to brighten someone else's day.

An elf, a candy cane woman, puppets, and Santa brought great cheer to Sherman County on the first of December. The Sherman County Scholarship Committee's yearly Bazaar is one of their main fund-raising opportunities to raise scholarship money. Many booths were arranged in the high school cafeteria to sell different types of Holiday inspired items. Many ate lunch and got their pictures with Santa,

while an elf – Devyn Roberts – and a candy cane woman – Audrey Kaseberg – handed out candy canes bringing smiles to young children's faces. The Bazaar held at Sherman Jr./Sr. High School is a great opportunity to jump start Holiday shopping and to acquire great deals on Holiday gifts.

A new fundraiser has sparked the attention of all Sherman Jr./Sr. High students. Leo Baptiste and previous Husky Helper, Gail Macnab, have proposed the selling of Italian Sodas every other Wednesday at school. Baptiste detailed that the majority of the money raised from each Italian Soda sale will be "used to purchase archery equipment such as bows, arrows, repair kits, a drop net, and bow stand" for an Outdoor Education Class that Baptiste is incorporating into his PE classes. "The Outdoor Unit is being designed to not only expose students to what the great outdoors have to offer us, but also how to take care of our environment and basic survival skills if presented with a bad situation" stated Baptiste. It is said that there will also be a "soda shop" at a few basketball games to make more profit.

On November 30th, the Junior High Held a dance.



Anticipated DJ's Devyn Roberts and Hannah Hays provided a strobe light, fog machine, backlight, and their upbeat enthusiasm to create a fun and entertaining memory for all the Junior High students who attended. Thanks are shouted out to Devyn Roberts and Hannah Hays for DJing, Kori Bates and Bridget Poirier for chaperoning, Jeanie Pehlke for providing the fog machine, and Gail Macnab for helping with the initial setup and planning.

Winter break, one of students' most anticipated weeks of school, is approaching quickly. As a reminder, the vacation days for students are from the December 20 to January 1. Enjoy a chilly and cheerful Holiday break!

Husky Helper

By Katherine Shafer

Mrs. Thompson, a science teacher at SJSHS, has been chosen to be this month's Husky Helper. Everyday Mrs. Thompson can be found with a cheerful smile and bubbly attitude. She is always striving to help kids learn and pushes her students to do their best. Her classroom is a fun environment and the experiments and projects her students participate in are very noteworthy. Some of the events she hosts include Invention Convention and the World's

Fair. Her students also get the chance to make castles and compete in class competitions. All these things are amazing memories students will have forever. "I really enjoyed her class," says former student, Shayne Holmes, of Mrs. Thompson, "and I wish I could be in it again."

Mrs. Thompson is also a big contributor to making sure the Senior's graduation runs smoothly. She does an amazing

job! Thank you Mrs. Thompson for all that you have contributed to the school and its students!



Principal's Corner: Mike Somnis

By: Mike Somnis

As we move ever closer to the winter season, (even though the weather feels like spring) it's great to see many of our students active and involved in so many extra-curricular and club opportunities that we offer here at the Jr./Sr. High School.

Students who choose to become involved in activities outside of the classroom tend to achieve at a higher rate than those who do not become involved. A 2009 study by Jing Wang at the University of California State-Sacramento, showed that students who were involved in at least one or two extra-curricular activities not only earned higher GPA's on average than their peers, but also were more prepared for College.

The Husky Times

Extra-curricular opportunities provide students with the ability to learn, refine and reform certain traits that help students become successful in school and in life out of school. The development of leadership skills, strong work ethic, commitment, discipline, time management, respect, teamwork, focus, integrity and many more traits will directly apply to anything that a student wants to do with their life. Many students enjoy getting involved for the social aspects or out of curiosity. These are great reasons to get involved because one never knows when a student finds something s/he is passionate about unless s/he tries.

There are many opportunities for students to get involved in an activity. Some of the many activities that

we offer for students include, robotics, pep band, drama, The Pack, Student Leadership, Missoula Children's Theatre, FFA, National Honor Society, Intramurals, Husky Helping Hands, football, volleyball, basketball, track, tennis, baseball, equestrian club, and more.

Here at Sherman Jr./Sr. High School we would love to see all students get involved in at least one activity and take advantage of the opportunities that are offered. I would encourage every student to find at least one activity to get involved in outside of the classroom that our school offers that they are interested in or curious about. Like the former coach Lou Holtz once said, "Ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it."

Superintendent's Corner

By: Wes Owens



Dear Students, Parents, Staff and Community Members:

On November 20, 2012 the Sherman County School Board made a unanimous decision to develop a comprehensive plan to consolidate the District to one campus in Moro. This decision was made after a considerable amount of thought, community input and analysis. From the very beginning of this process, that has spanned many years, the Board has focused on the educational and financial benefits for students, staff, and the entire Sherman County Community. The School Board carefully considered future cost savings, efficiency of staff and educational benefits for all students.

The role of a Board Member, no matter what Board, is not an easy position. All communities and organizations need committed volunteer Board Members to function properly and effectively. Occasionally decisions by Boards are unpopular with some constituents; that is a fact of life and a perfect example of the

democratic society in which we are so fortunate to live. This particular decision is obviously one that has seen some differences of opinions. I can assure you that these five dedicated School Board Members consider the best interest of every student in Sherman County each time they make a decision. With that being said, change can sometimes be difficult, but Sherman County is resilient and I am confident this will be another example of a successful and productive consolidation.

With this decision the work now begins. The Board will start the process of forming a Facilities Planning Committee consisting of Staff, Parents, Community Members, Board Members, and Administration. The first task will be to formulate answers to a variety of questions which include, but are not limited to:

1. How will the consolidation be funded?
2. What will the new configuration and K-6 structure look like in Moro?
3. What will be done with the current Elementary School in Grass Valley?

This consolidated plan will take

time and I am confident that the Sherman County School Board will ensure that the best interests of every student, parent, community member, and staff member are considered along the way so we can all be proud of the outcome. The reality of moving all students to Moro could take from one to three years to successfully complete.

In the coming months, we will keep the community informed on the progress of the consolidated plan development. It is exciting to know that we are working together, as a district and community, to prepare students for the future. If I can answer questions, please give me a call at 541-565-3500 or send me an email at wowens@sherman.k12.or.us. Best wishes for a wonderful Holiday Season!

Sincerely,

Wes Owens

Wes Owens

Principal's Corner: Brandon Hammond

By: Brandon Hammond

The staff at Sherman Elementary School works tirelessly on helping their students to achieve higher heights. They have also strived to communicate these efforts and the happenings in their classrooms on a regular basis with parents and guardians. I thought that this was an appropriate time to share some of the learning highlights that have occurred this past month.

Kindergarteners have reading logs that students maintain on a regular basis. These reading logs track books that the students are reading at home. They are also learning and adding words to their "Word Wall". Some of the words learned thus far have been **we**, **the**, and **like**. The students also focus on various letters and its sound throughout the day. This month the letters were **k, m, u, w, a, j, n, x, p, s, v**. Math is also an area of emphasis. Students have played a game that taught shapes, practiced writing various numbers, learned about probability, made patterns, counted by 5's & 10's, learned about tally marks, and focused on counting and identifying objects to ten.

First graders have been doing a myriad of learning activities that focus on all aspects of education. In math students have learned about subtraction, understanding time to the hour, arranged and counted coins, domino addition, 5's & 10's counting, used tally marks to express numbers, learned about "flip-a-roo's" and fact families, measured gourds and were taught the ones and tens place values. The class also does extensive reading. Mrs. Sharp has shared *Where's My Mummy?*; *Giggle, Giggle, Quack*; *The Biggest Pumpkin Ever*; *The*

Very Busy Spider; *Raccoons and Ripe Corn*; *Don't Need Friends*; *LMNO Peas*; *A Pocketful of Kisses*; read about Christopher Columbus; *Dem Bones*; *Clifford's Halloween*; *Stellaluna*, *A Whisper is Quiet*; *Haunted House*; *Bat Helps Out*; *Halloween Fun*; *Who Took the Farmer's Hat?*; *Franklin in the Dark*; *Walking Through the Jungle*; *Room on a Broom*; *A Baby Koala*; *Mouse's First Halloween*; and *Always in Trouble*.

Second graders recently were able to put their learning into action. They had been studying about primary elections and the process that is involved with elections, even a lesson on the Electoral College. As part of the unit taught by Ms. Barnes students were able to register to vote, cast their vote regarding which candy bar was their favorite, and then receive a voter's sticker. The class has also been learning about "Hungry Ants" as part of a math unit and are constructing their own story problems. Writing is also a focal point within second grade. One way in which Mrs. Huffman has helped to create a classroom of writers has been through the teaching of transitional and sequencing words. Some of the examples shared by Mrs. Huffman are: first, next, then, finally, eventually, in the beginning, in the end, now, last, next, after, during, later, suddenly and meanwhile. At school students are instructed to "practice, practice, practice!!!"

Mrs. Huffman has developed a classroom environment where students are able to work collaboratively and independently. The standards set are helping second grade students become successful and productive.

Third graders have an excellent opportunity to get up and move throughout the day. Mrs. Hansen has implemented several kinesthetic learn-

ing opportunities throughout the day. One particular activity involves mathematics in a program called *Move to Achieve*. This year students have worked on using their whole body to learn and understand place value, multiplication facts and directionality. They also have an opportunity to practice rhythm and beat. Along with movement Mrs. Hansen has incorporated The Arts to inform students of mathematics in geometry and measurement. The program uses team building skills, science and the history of art.

When the students are not working in math they are focused on their reading. Twice a week third graders visit the first grade class to read with them. During this time Mrs. Hansen's class are working at reading with expression to help the "words jump out of the page". This time is invaluable as our younger students learn from their older peers. These examples are just a few of the wonderful techniques and skills that are being taught within the third grade classroom.

Fourth graders are held to high standards as Mrs. King works endlessly helping her students raise the bar. Each quarter students are asked to set their own reading goal, with the knowledge that their target should be set high or Mrs. King will assist them in their decision. As students meet these marks they are filled with a sense of accomplishment, and then food. Once a quarter those who meet or exceed their goals are invited to attend "Read N' Rec" night. This is a family night devoted to reading and fun. At the past event, students showcased PowerPoint's they created from a non-fiction reading series, "Read Naturally". Stories included *Babe Ruth*, *The Loch Ness Monster*, and Neil Armstrong, to name a few. Reading is not the only area where the fourth graders are stretched. Recently, the State of Oregon invited our

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"I love the Christmas season and all it brings," says Christmas enthusiast Sabrina Green-Hite, "Though I wish I knew more about Santa's original reindeer." Although Rudolph is probably the most famous reindeer around the world, there are also eight other reindeer keeping Santa's sleigh in the sky that aren't as well known.

Aside from Rudolph, Donner and Blitzen have shown to be extremely popular reindeer, both at the North Pole and on the Internet. Perhaps this is due to their names and the changes they have undergone throughout the years. When the story *A Visit from St. Nicholas*

Santa's Reindeer

By: Katherine Shafer

was first published in 1823 their names were printed as Dunder and Blixem, the Dutch terms for thunder and lightning. However, as it was, Edmund Stedman decided while writing his book *An American Anthology: 1787-1900* that changing their names to Donner and Blitzen would make the story flow better. No one ever changed their names back. One more alteration was made in 1949 when Johnny Marks changed the story about Rudolph into a song. Marks changed Donner to Donner and, because of the song's catchy tune, the name Donner became popular. It has also been reported on

numerous occasions that Donner is Rudolph's father.

Not much else is known about the other reindeer. Though there are always rumors about them – their histories and their personalities – they are all still quite mysterious. Because of their names, Cupid is almost always considered a loving creature, Dasher is thought to be quick on his feet, and Dancer and Prancer are both made out to be graceful animals. Though it's not confirmed, many believe that Vixen is a girl and that Comet is, for whatever reason, very stubborn.



Holiday Top Tens!!

By: Katie Poirier

Student's Top Ten:

Movies	Songs:
1. <i>The Grinch</i>	1. "Santa Baby"
2. <i>A Christmas Story</i>	2. "Jingle Bells"
3. <i>The Nightmare before Christmas</i>	3. "Frosty the Snowman"
4. <i>Elf</i>	4. "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas"
5. <i>Home Alone</i>	5. "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer"
6. <i>Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer</i>	6. "The 12 Days of Christmas"
7. <i>The Santa Clause</i>	7. "Walking in a Winter Wonderland"
8. <i>Jack Frost</i>	8. "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer"
9. <i>A Christmas Carol</i>	9. "Santa Claus"
10. <i>Fred Clause</i>	10. "Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel"

Teacher's Top Ten:

Movies	Songs:
1. <i>Christmas Vacation</i>	1. "Baby It's Cold Outside"
2. <i>Miracle on 34th Street</i>	2. "Silver Bells"
3. <i>Holiday Inn</i>	3. "All I Want for Christmas is You"
4. <i>White Christmas</i>	4. "Oh Christmas Tree"
5. <i>Muppet Christmas Carol</i>	5. "Jingle Bell Rock"
6. <i>The Grinch</i>	6. "Walking in a Winter Wonderland"
7. <i>A Christmas Story</i>	7. "Silent Night"
8. <i>It's a Wonderful Life</i>	8. "Merry Christmas to You"
9. <i>Prancer</i>	9. "Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel"
10. <i>A Charlie Brown Christmas</i>	10. "Dreaming of a White Christmas"

All About Mrs. Clause

By: Holle Kaseberg

Santa Claus is a well-known name, especially during the holiday season, he is the jolly heavy-set man who delivers gifts on Christmas, but who is Mrs. Claus?

Mrs. Claus is a calm, kind and patient elderly woman. Her first and maiden names are unknown, although some claim that her first name is Gertrude or Jessica. In North American and European Christmas tradition, Mrs. Claus is most famous for being Santa's wife, but many books and movies give her more of a personality.

Mrs. Claus first appeared in *A Christmas Legend*, written in 1849 by James Rees. In the story an old man and woman, carrying bundles over their shoulders, are invited into the shelter of a home on Christmas Eve. The pair appear to be exhausted travelers, but the next morning the children find numerous gifts left behind for them.

Mrs. Santa Claus by Penny Ives tells the story of when Santa and his entire herd of reindeer wake up the morning before Christmas with a strange rash. Mrs. Claus, without wasting time, put the final touches on the toys and designed a flying machine to deliver the toys to all of the children.

In other stories, Mrs. Claus stays at the North Pole while her husband delivers gifts. *What Does Mrs. Claus Do?* by Kate Wharton tells different scenarios of activities Mrs. Claus could be doing on Christmas. Of these activities it is suggested that she is hosting a Christmas Ball or overseeing the toy plant. *A Bit of Applause for Mrs. Claus* by Jeannie Schick-Jacobowitz, a re-write of *'Twas the Night before Christmas*, is about Mrs. Claus keeping everything in the North Pole running smoothly during the busiest time of the year. *Lill in Santa Claus Land and Other Stories* by Ellis Towne reveals Mrs. Claus to be a lady sitting at a golden desk, writing in a large book while Santa tells her, "Put down a good mark for Sarah Buttermilk. I see she is trying to conquer her quick temper" or "Two bad ones for Isaac Clappertounge, he'll drive his mother to the insane asylum yet." The reader can take this to mean that Mrs. Claus keeps the Naughty and Nice List updated.

Movies and musicals, too, feature Mrs. Claus as more than just Santa's wife. The 1996 musical, *Mrs. Santa Claus* takes place in December of 1910. After failing to convince Santa to take a new route, Mrs. Claus took the sleigh

out by herself and got stranded in New York when one of the reindeer (Cupid) became injured. Going by the name "Mrs. North", Mrs. Claus boards with a family of Jewish immigrants, who do not celebrate Christmas. She then becomes involved with political issues in New York such as child labor. *The Santa Clause 2*, featuring Tim Allen, is a more modern movie focused on Mrs. Claus. In this story Santa must get married to continue his role as Santa, revealing that every Santa has to have a Mrs. Claus because it is a part of the Santa Clause.



Students of the Quarter

By: Hannah Hays

Sherman Jr. /Sr. High school has already had a phenomenal first quarter. Although there were many deserving students to receive the Student of the Quarter, the staff had to narrow it down to only three students, Brett Lane, Shelby Kaseberg and Jr. High student Ryan Asher. Brett Lane was nominated by Miss Ross, "Brett is great to have in class. He is always participating and adding interesting insights to class discussions."

Shelby Kaseberg was nominated by three different staff members for this quarter—Debbie Bird, Gail Macnab, and Ms. Ross. They all had one thing in common when referring to Shelby and that was that she has a very good work ethic and is a great leader. Mrs. Bird had a lot of terrific things to say about Shelby but the one that described her perfectly was, "Her

attitude is upbeat and she is the one to step in and help whenever and where ever necessary."

Ryan Asher was nominated by Ms. Macnab, "Where Ryan really shines is in stepping up as a class leader. During homecoming he was the only boy in the 7th and 8th grade to stay and help decorate and his costumes each day were amazing."

To be a Student of the Quarter recipient the student must show leadership, hard work ethic, and improvement in everything that they do. I would like to congratulate all of the students on their great achievement and if anyone sees them around, make sure to tell them that they really do make a difference. It is a big honor being Student of the Quarter. It is important to recognize these students for their hard work and

leadership, Sherman County is a wonderful place to live and the community will continue to be a great place thanks to Brett, Shelby and Ryan.

The Students of the Quarter at Sherman Elementary were Josh Ward and Owen Christiansen. Owen Christiansen was chosen as Student of the Quarter by Ms. Wilhite for his all-around excellent work this year. Great job Owen!

Mrs. R. Smith nominated Josh stating, "I find him to be a leader in the class to whom others look for help and I appreciate, as well, his willingness to help others. To top it all off he has the most hilarious/dry sense of humor! "

Congratulations again to all of our hardworking Students of the Quarter!



Shelby Kaseberg



Brett Lane



Ryan Asher



Owen Christiansen



Josh Ward

Continued from pg. 1...

Weebly, Inc, has given the overall school website and the teachers websites a cleaner and more interesting look.

Becoming more modernized, Sherman Jr./Sr. High School is now on Facebook and they encourage everyone to "follow the Facebook links on our School Websites for up-to-date happenings at our schools."



Sherman County School
District

*Working together to put student
success first.*

Wes Owens, Superintendent
65912 High School Loop
Moro, OR 97039
5 4 1 - 5 6 5 - 3 5 0 0



Sherman County School District

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Sherman Jr./Sr. High School

www.sjshs.weebly.com

Sherman Elementary School

www.shermanelementaryk6.weebly.com

Sherman Online Academy

www.shermancounty.orved.org

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for up-to-date happenings at our schools.

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our fourth grade class to participate in a new math assessment. This is a great opportunity for our students to display the knowledge and skills gained during their years at Sherman Elementary School.

Fifth graders have worked on a myriad of key concepts as they've expanded their learning and horizons. In mathematics they have covered topics such as: order of operations, mean/median/mode/range, problem solving, multiple digit multiplication, division, as well as geometry and measurement. Students have also taken a walk through American history learning about ancient American civilizations and recently delving into English colonists at Jamestown. Writing continues to be a focal point as fifth graders are reminded of the writing process, from prewriting to publishing. Even with all the academics being covered, Ms. Wilhite finds time to expand the students through the instruction of art. To get a full perspective in this area just have a few minute discussion with a fifth grader regarding posi-

tive and negative space. I promise it will be an enlightening experience. Ms. Wilhite has done a tremendous job communicating with parents regarding topics and subjects being covered in class. This has allowed parents a glimpse into the classroom and a greater understanding of how to support their child at home.

Sixth graders continue to be a bustling group of learners thanks to the team of Mrs. Cranston and Mrs. Baptiste, where quitting is not an option. To ensure that parents are aware of academics and expectations, students take home the sixth grade class news. Topics shared in the articles include: learning about the rise of civilization, understanding more about the pathogens around us, becoming skilled in plots, and figurative language and summary. The editorial went on to mention the opportunity students were given to learn about the body's defense, which was then displayed through a Prezi presentation. As parents see and understand what their child is learning, they are able to continue the focus of the classroom and extend it

into the home.

Sixth graders are given many opportunities to take their instruction and apply it through hands-on application. Science is an excellent way to instruct in this way. Mrs. Cranston and Mrs. Baptiste have given their students multiple opportunities of this practice through field trips and dissections. As the year continues take the time to ask the sixth graders about the various topics learned in science like cell organelles.

These are just a few examples of the countless lessons and activities that are occurring within our primary grades. The teachers have an extreme admiration for each of their students and are doing their best to help all students achieve! My next article will mention the many contributors outside the mainstream classroom, mainly the unsung heroes of the classified staff.

Dear Ed...

Dear Ed,

I am having trouble telling my family something that is super important to me but I'm scared that if they find out they won't think of me the same and will end up hating me. I've already conquered my fears of telling my friends and I'm pretty sure nothing has changed but what should I do to tell my family?

-Secret_Keeper

Dear Secret_Keeper,

Since nothing has changed when you told your friends your secret, I think you should tell your family. Have a face to face conversation, and tell them your secret, and tell them how important it is to you that you have their support. If they see how much it means to you, and how much courage it took for you to tell them, they should accept you and your secret and nothing will change. It may be slightly awkward for a little bit, but they eventually will accept you. If it goes bad, you can always rely on your friends to help you make the situation better. Good Luck!!

-Love Ed

Dear Ed,

So I have the best friends in the world and don't ever seem to have time to hang out with them outside of school. How should I make sure to get time with them before I graduate?

-Worried Senior

Dear Worried Senior,

I think that with only 25 weeks left of school you should plan on having a weekly sleepover/hangout day. It is important to spend the rest of your year with friends, it will be the last time you will ever be this close to them.

-Ed

Dear Ed,

I feel like I can't do anything right. Whether it comes to sports, school, family, or friends. What should I do?

-Depressed

Dear Depressed,

You shouldn't let yourself feel that way! I'm sure you're just over exaggerating the situation. Maybe you should just talk to your coaches, teachers, family members, and friends and get things off your chest. That way the stress is relieved and you can go about your days feeling better!

Sincerely, Ed!



Dear Ed,

How do you keep from being bored during long breaks?

-Bored Stiff

Dear Bored Stiff,

I keep from being bored by cozying up by the fireplace with a good book and a plate full of steaming pizza. Currently I am reading *A Dog's Purpose* by W. Bruce Cameron. My favorite type of pizza is cheese.

However, when I feel the need to move about, I take myself for a little walk. And, no, I don't where a leash.

Hope this helps and have a great time off.

Sincerely, Ed!

Husky Times Staff!

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