**Middle School Band and Chorus Set the Tone for Holiday Season**

**Marissa Lammie, Grade 8**  
**Delta Daley, Grade 8**

The Freedom Area Middle School Band and Chorus has had a lot of success within the past couple months. With the band’s Christmas Concert, the chorus’ performance, and the hosting of County Band, the middle school has had a lot of excitement taking place in the music department.  

County Band was hosted on November 22nd, in the auditorium of the middle school. The band students who were selected to participate in County Band spent the whole school day going over their music and practicing for their performance in the evening. Students from other schools’ bands came to Freedom Middle School to participate in this event. The concert was very successful and the members of County Band enjoyed the privileged experience.

On December 7th, band students in grades 6-8 participated in the middle school Christmas concert. The students have been practicing very hard in the months before to perform their joyous music. The Christmas Concert is an annual occurrence and both parents and students look forward to seeing the kids perform on their various instruments.

The chorus performance was performed for the school on December 20th. In addition to singing holiday songs, the students involved performed a musical, *Snow White Christmas*, which was a take on Snow White adapted to fit a Christmas theme. It was directed by Mr. Kovalic with help from student directors, Renae Mohrbacher and Jordan Lizzi. The musical was very interactive with the audience, and the hard work the actors put in really shone through.

*Photo by Jacob DiCenzo*  
*The Snow White cast appears in front of the crowd.*
Lip Sync Battle, Gym Assembly Kick Off Holiday Festivities

On December 21, the middle school enjoyed a Christmas Assembly to celebrate the end of the year and get everyone in the holiday spirit. It lasted about half the day, and included several activities. The favorite by far was the teacher lip sync battle which was the first event, taking place in the auditorium. Mr. Badamo was the M.C. of the show. The winner of the battle was the second team, who sang “Shake It Off” by Taylor Swift. This team was made up of the sixth grade teachers and several eighth grade students. The first, losing team, performed “Living On a Prayer” by Bon Jovi. This team was made up of Mr. Matsook, Mr. Smith, Mr. Culler, Mr. Testa, and Mr. Miller.

Shortly after the lip sync battle, the student body relocated to the gym, where competitions between homerooms took place. Water bottle flipping, scooter races, and musical chairs were just some of the fun things to do. The favorite was the bottle flipping contest, which was a tie between Mrs. Patosky and Mr. Heisler. All in all, it was a grand holiday time!

Winter Holidays, Winter Fun

Erin Harp, Grade 7

This past December, the students were once again challenged by the Student Government to decorate their classroom doors and turn them into something jolly and fun. The December theme was “Winter Holidays, Winter Fun”. In the past, students have come up with marvelous ideas including snowy days and warm evenings by the fire. This past December was no different! There were four winning advisory groups: Mrs. Smithmyer, Mr. Heisler, Ms. Gundlach, and Mrs. Boyd. These doors were creative, fun, and original. Congratulations to the door decorating champions of 2016!

Scout Elf Monitors Student Behavior

Connor Tavern, Grade 6

This December, the students of the middle school were being watched by a scout elf. On the first day that the elf arrived, there was a box set up in the cafeteria during lunch so that the students could submit a name for it. The winning name was “Peppermint”, submitted by fifth grader, Olivia Wertz. Olivia won a candy cane bouquet and a Walmart gift card for submitting the chosen name.

All month, Peppermint watched over the students to make sure that no one misbehaved. If naughty behavior was spotted, she reported it to Santa Claus, and he made sure that they received a hearty lump of coal for Christmas. Peppermint hid in places around the school such as in the hallway or in the library courtyard. The first ten kids who found the elf each day received a pencil, an eraser, or a candy cane.
Imagine diving into the icy Beaver River at 2° Fahrenheit. Our teachers did that and more, all for a good cause. This year, like years before, Freedom Area school District participated in the Polar Plunge. The Polar Plunge is a charity event that promotes and raises money for the Special Olympics of Beaver County. For the event the participants must “plunge” into freezing cold water.

To raise money for the event, the three schools in the district each held their own fundraisers. The middle school participated in an ice bucket challenge, where students could bring in change for the teacher of their choice. The teacher who had the most money donated in their name, Mrs. Hartman, got a bucket of mini marshmallows dumped on her at the Christmas Assembly. In total the event raised $123.00.

In addition to the students’ ice bucket challenge there were things that the teachers participated in to raise money. These included a dip bakeoff and jean days. For $20 teachers got to dress down in jeans on Mondays and Fridays. The dip contest was won by Mrs. Glover. All of these things were not in vain, because our middle school raised nearly one thousand dollars for this wonderful cause. Representatives from Freedom Middle School who participated in the actual Plunge on January 7 were Mr. Smith, Miss Gundlach and Mrs. Meyer. Our district should be proud to say that in total we raised nearly six thousand dollars, and helped to fund the Special Olympics for the athletes in Beaver County.
ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT

Pictures and Interview By: Logan Bickerstaff Grade 5

NAYZETH ALBERTO-HERNANDEZ VOLLEYBALL

Q. What is your favorite class?
A. Science

Q. What are your future goals?
A. Go to college and become an architect

Q. How long have you played volleyball?
A. This is my second year.

Q. What is your favorite color?
A. Purple

Q. What is your favorite food?
A. Chicken

EMILY FRASHURE VOLLEYBALL

Q. What is your favorite color?
A. Purple

Q. What made you decide to play volleyball?
A. Motivation and it seemed fun

Q. What is your favorite color?
A. Blue

Q. What is your favorite food?
A. Chicken

Q. Who is your favorite coach?
A. Matt Klenk

Q. What is your favorite memory of playing the sport?
A. Scoring 24 Points in a game.

CARTER HUGGINS BASKETBALL

Q. What age did you start playing basketball?
A. 9 Years Old

Q. What is your favorite color?
A. Blue

Q. What is your favorite food?
A. Chicken

Q. Who is your favorite coach?
A. Ben Welling

Q. What is your favorite memory of playing the sport?
A. Breaking a kid’s ankles.

REIKER WELLING BASKETBALL

Q. What age did you start playing basketball?
A. 9 Years Old

Q. What is your favorite color?
A. Blue

Q. What is your favorite food?
A. Tacos

Q. Who is your favorite coach?
A. Ben Welling

Q. What is your favorite memory of playing the sport?
A. Breaking a kid’s ankles.
During the month of December, the sixth grade was assigned to make Rube Goldberg machines for science class. A Rube Goldberg machine is a machine that is overly complex in the way it is made but is designed to do a really simple task, such as pressing a button or putting something in a box. The students had to find materials that they wanted to use that were provided by Mrs. Moore and Ms. Ging. The kids had to use the materials provided to build their Rube Goldberg Machines. The materials included Lincoln Logs, K’Nex, dominoes, marbles, and many more objects. All of the sixth grade had very different ideas about what they were doing and how they wanted to do it.

The sixth grade also made catapults. The catapults that the sixth graders built were constructed of a lever that was made with a wire and two wooden rods. The rods were marked every 5 centimeters to measure how high a wooden spool of yarn would go when it was launched by a weight made of clay and washers on the other side. These catapults were made to find the efficiency of simple machines. After a month on working on simple machines, the sixth grade finished the unit and is moving onto Molecules, Atoms, and Matter.
Across
1. The columns are hexagonal, like a wooden pencil, and they often form with conical hollow features in their ends.
5. Columnar crystals can grow so long and thin that they look like ice needles
6. Comprised of many individual ice crystals jumbled together. Each branch is like one arm of a stellar crystal, but the different branches are oriented randomly.
7. This one forms when the small water droplets in clouds freeze onto a snow crystal.
8. A kind of hybrid frozen precipitation, is sometimes referred to as “snow pellets.” The National Weather Service defines it as small pellets of ice created when super-cooled water droplets coat, or rime, a snowflake.

Down
2. These crystals started out growing as columns, but then suddenly switched to plate-like growth, after being blown into a region with a different temperature.
3. These are snowflakes that arrive on the ground broken, ill-formed, and generally in bad shape.
4. These snowflakes are flat, thin slivers of ice that grow into an amazing array of complex shapes.

Use your research skills to find the answers to the crossword puzzle. Complete the puzzle correctly and turn it in to The Bulldog Barker (in Mrs. Miller’s room during Advisory) to win a prize.

Josiah Dubovi, Grade 8
If you have a comic to submit, please hand it in to Mr. Gregg for a chance to have it featured in the newspaper. It must be drawn in pencil or black ink on unlined paper. Please include your name and grade on all submissions. Thank you!
CELL PROJECTS GIVE A LOOK INSIDE THE CELL

Erin Harp, Grade 7

Mrs. Patosky’s seventh grade science classes completed their cell projects this month. The students used materials that they had at home to create 3D models of the cell, including the nucleus, cell membrane, mitochondria, cytoskeleton, nucleolus, ribosomes, endoplasmic reticulum golgi complexes, vesicles, and lysosomes. The students were also given the opportunity to earn three extra credit points by adding a large vacuole, chloroplasts, and a cell wall. They then had to prepare a presentation explaining what they used and why.

Jokes & Riddles

Connor Tavern & Jacob DiCenzo, Grade 6

Name: ____________________________________
Submit the answers to the riddles to The Bulldog Barker (in Mrs. Miller’s room during Advisory) to get a prize. The first 10 people with correct answers will win.

1. Why do Egyptian pyramids have doorbells?
__________________________________________

2. What did the rabbit buy his fiancée?
__________________________________________

3. If you are a security guard at Samsung, what are you?
__________________________________________

4. A very famous chemist was murdered in his kitchen today. The police narrowed it down to six people. Their names are: Felice, Maxwell, Billy-bob-joe, Nicholas, Archibald, and Xavier. They also found a note that said: 26-3-58/28-27-57-16. Who did it?
__________________________________________

5. Ben walked into a hardware store and asked for the price of some stuff. The salesman said: “One costs $1 Eight costs $1 Seventeen cost $2 One hundred four costs $3 One thousand seventy two costs $4.” What was Ben buying?
__________________________________________

6. 100 feet in the air, yet its back is on the ground. What is it?
__________________________________________