Eagle Insider

Volume 10, Issue 3
November & December, 2018

Bringing you stories about:
- The Hawthorn Academic Community
- The International Baccalaureate Program
- Extracurricular Activities
- And YOU!

Sounds of the Season: Holiday Music Concerts Entertain Hundreds

1st through 3rd Grade Holiday Concert  By: Makena McNeill

Hawthorn’s first through third grade concert was a “ho-ho hit!” There were so many people who came that they had to get more chairs for everyone; the audience filled the entire gym and cafeteria. The audience was so excited to see the kids perform! When everyone got situated, they introduced the producers, the pianist was Erika Utley. The voice coach and choreographer for the singing elves was Ronnie Blair, the assistant director was Tiffanie McDevitt, costuming was Linda McDevitt and Stacey LaMont did the programs. Claudia Demke, our elementary music specialist, wrote the scripts and directed the program.

The entire crowd was quiet while first grade entered on the bleachers. They started to sing “Suzy Snowflake.” They did hand motions and danced a little, they sang so softly and nicely. When they stopped and sat down, the crowd cheered so loudly you could hear them all the way from the lobby. Then the snowman (Keean Ward) and the Abominable Snowman (Aspen Klenk) talked. Next the first graders sang, “Frosty the Snowman,” it was super snowy and cool. Then they sang “Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer.” After all that, the first graders were done singing and they sat down on the floor in the front.

Then second grade went up and sang. The first song they sang was “We are Santa’s Elves,” and after, the elves were talking about the Misfit Toys. When they were done with the first song, they sang the next, which was “The Marvelous Toy,” and the last song they sang was, “I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas.” The kids sang very loudly and clearly. The parents loved the cute songs they sang.

Third grade was last to sing, but not the least. They sang a song called “The Lonesome Christmas Tree.” When they finished that song, they sang “Silver and Gold,” then “There Goes Santa Claus.” The last song sung was by a seventh grader named Tiannah, and she sang, “Christmas is a Feeling,” and it was very heartwarming.

This was an amazing concert! It was so fun and wintery. “It was fun singing on the Christmas stage” River McNeill said. Have a hohoho Merry Christmas!

Misfit Toys All Fit Together  by Saranda Gainer

On December 13, 2018, 4th and 5th grade had their Christmas concert. During the concert, we heard stories from some of our favorite characters like Santa, Frosty and Rudolph. The students sang many loved songs that we know, and even some that aren’t that common.

While 4th grade was performing, we heard a story from Frosty, about Frosty, played by Keean W. After his story, they sang “Seven Feet of Snow/ Look Out the Window.” The entire crowd seemed to light up at the first word of the song. After the song, we heard a story, this time from Rudolph, our favorite red-nosed reindeer, played by Oakley K. After his story about how he became the lead for
Santa, the 4th graders sang “Rudolph.” We heard a few other songs like Frosty hand jive and “Elf Esteem,” sung by the elves themselves. We also heard “Misfit Toys; the misfit toys sang the song and told us all about themselves. 4th grade ended their portion of the concert by singing “Marvelous Toys.”

It was then 5th grade’s time to shine. They started their part by singing, “I want a Hippopotamus for Christmas,” and then we heard a few more stories from some of our favorites like ‘Al the Abominable.’ 5th grade also sang “The Lonesome Christmas Tree.” After, we heard about the tree and silver & gold. The students sang “Christmas is for Children,” right before we heard from Santa, played by Lucas M. After Santa talked, we heard “Here comes Santa Claus.” To end 5th grade’s performance, we had a special solo by Tiannah A. from 7th grade. 5th grade soon joined in, but we gave a special applause to Tiannah because during her part of the song she was having some technical difficulties with her microphone, but she pushed through it and sounded great.

The final song of the night, sung by all the students, was “I love the feeling of Christmas.” The night was almost over, but not before we had the “actual” Santa came out to say a few things. “From all of us, to all of you, have a happy holiday. A Merry Christmas.” Santa left, and all the thanks were said to everyone who helped with the concert. Parents and students were excused but not before being asked to help pick up the chairs.

After the concert I stopped Ms. Kruchklow and asked her what her favorite part was and her response was: “...that all the kids did their best and tried. They were great. Everyone did a great job.”

I also talked to Miley B, who played the elephant, and her response was, “I loved how all the people smiled at me and

Hawthorn’s Great Assembly
By: Dominik Carlson

On November 2nd, Hawthorn Academy had its third monthly assembly. Students were really excited for the assembly: I could hear them energetically chatting about it and as always they weren’t disappointed.

At this month’s assembly, the assembly committee did a box top drawing. The winners of the drawing were Dylan, Emily, and Spencer; each one got some prizes. Speaking of box tops, our school has collected 12,000 box tops in just 4 months! That meant we earned a full dress down. So let’s keep up the good work and keep earning prizes. After the drawing, they also handed out IB awards and the Silver Eagle. The two teachers that got IB awards were Mr. Raymond and Ms. George, and the Silver Eagle went to Mr. Harrison. Congratulations to the amazing students and teachers who worked so hard to get these awards!

Just as they do at every other assembly, the peer leaders performed some IB skits. This month’s IB traits are Knowledgeable and Commitment. The first skit, to show that IB students should be Knowledgeable, was a real life kahoot. The people up front would ask a question, give four possible answers for the question, and then students would make a, b, c, or d in sign language with their hands to show what they thought the answer was. Along with showing that an IB student should be Knowledgeable, this skit also showed that everyone is smart in some areas and not as smart in others.

The next IB skit was to show that an IB student should have Commitment. In this skit, a volleyball team was practicing for an upcoming championship game. Everyone on the “team” showed up except one girl, who happened to be the team captain. Eventually her absence was noticed. When the team captain finally showed up, she said she had been sleeping, and that she didn’t want to be on the volleyball team anymore. When she left, another girl got named as the team captain because she was committed to the team. This skit was really good for showing that being committed can have rewards, and when Mr. Raymond was asked what he thought of the it, he said, “The skit on Commitment was really moving.”

I really enjoyed this month’s assembly, and I definitely wasn’t the only one. When I asked Ashton Cowley what he thought about the assembly, he said, “It was great.” Great job assembly committee for planning yet another amazing assembly.
Percussions Perfect
Performance
By: Randy Abney

On the 19th of December, Elementary and Middle School band had their Christmas Concert. They have all been practicing these songs ever since the Halloween concert was over.

For the first song Ms. Bailey had elementary and middle school do a song. When they were all done, Ms. Bailey had Middle school do a song where Ms. Bailey gave them the melody, but the band put the song together. The Middle School Percussion did a great job putting that song together.

Ms. Bailey had elementary do one more outstanding song. This was elementary's grand finale. It was pretty dang impressive. Middle got set up for one more song, but while Ms. Bailey was getting set up, SANTA CLAUS CAME!!!! Ms. Bailey asked Santa Claus to conduct middle school's last song.

Let’s give a round of applause for the elementary and middle school for playing such an amazing concert, and Santa for being a great conductor. Merry Christmas everybody!

Winter Choir and Strings Concert
By: Dominik Carlson

On December 18, Hawthorn Academy had its annual Winter Choir and Strings Concert. There was a huge variety of songs and every one of them was amazing.

The concert kicked off with the Choir performing one of the most beautiful songs of Christmas, “Carol of the Bells.” After that, they sang a song from How the Grinch Stole Christmas, “Where Are You Christmas?” with Jade Luckart and Mikayla Baer performing solos. Once the choir was applauded they continued with the “The 12 Days After Christmas”. This song was a hilarious parody of the classic song, “The 12 Days of Christmas.” This song though, was about the person in “The 12 Days of Christmas” having a fight with their “true love” and the bad, but hilarious, things that happened afterwards. This song included everything from the six swans drowning to making chicken soup from the three French hens. This song was funny and very well thought out. It also included solos from Camden Russell, Jordan Jenkins, and Sierra Brown.

After the Choir performance, the Guitar Ensemble played “Shalom Chaverim,” which is a classic Chanukah song. After that, they performed the classic English Folk song, “Greensleeves.” The final song that the Guitar Ensemble performed was the well known song, “Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree.” This song was special because it was the only song that the Guitar Ensemble performed that had vocalists, Chance Green and Mollie Dubois. After the performance, I asked Brayden Warren if he was nervous to perform, and he said, “No, because I had people to back me up.”

Next up was the Elementary Orchestra. They performed the songs “Good KIng Wenceslas” and “Dreidel.” After that, the Chamber Orchestra and the Advanced Elementary Orchestra Students performed another classic, “You’re A Mean One Mr. Grinch”. Then the Chamber Orchestra performed “A Christmas Canon” by themselves; and for the finale all the students from the Chamber Orchestra and the Elementary Orchestra joined together to play “Jingle Bells.” After the concert, I asked Ms. Bailey, the music teacher and director of the choir, what she thought of the performance, and she said, “Everyone practiced really hard, but I am really impressed with the Elementary Orchestra, because this was their first performance. Everyone did phenomenal.”

This year’s Winter Choir and Strings Concert was amazing, and you could definitely tell everyone practiced a lot. Amazing job students in the Choir, Elementary Orchestra, Guitar Ensemble, and Chamber Orchestra!
5th grade’s Caroling Christmas Field Trip  By: Rebecca Todd

It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas, you know what that means? It’s time for some service projects that will spread the joy. 5th grade went on a field trip for their service project to go sing to the elderly. They walked all the way to a senior center to sing to them, and give them some joy this Christmas. The 5th graders walked there very happily, as we walked I heard some singing, laughing, and talking. I bet some of them could’ve even run there. The elders loved their singing as they clapped and laughed after each song. The 5th graders sang loudly and had smiles on their faces when they sang. They had costumes with their songs too! They had a flying lion, Elephant, Santa, Elves, and a doll. I could tell by the joy in their smiles that they liked singing to the residents. After the 5th graders finished their songs, they went up to the audience members and talked to them, wishing them a Merry Christmas, and we left. When we walked back to the school, there was still laughing, talking and singing! It was very fun to join the 5th graders on this service project/field trip.

Boom’s Pumpkin Drop

By: Dominik Carlson

On November 1st, Mr. Boom and his physics class did their annual pumpkin drop. The pumpkin drop is a really fun activity that Mr. Boom does with his physics class every year that involves students making padding for the pumpkin to land on once it is dropped off the top of the building.

The first thing that I noticed when I walked into Mr. Boom’s class was the crazy stuff the students were using as padding. The groups were using everything from balloons to plastic ball pit balls. When we went outside, Mr. Boom dropped a pumpkin without any padding at the bottom, and let’s just say that pumpkin was not having a good day. After the poor control pumpkin was dropped, Kylee, Kastin, Sage, and Abbey’s group put their padding to the test. Their padding was a cardboard box filled with pillows, paper, and blankets. Their pumpkin sank into the box but didn’t have a single scratch on it.

The second group was Lizzy and Cora’s group. Their padding was a plastic tote filled with pillows and memory foam, with a blanket stretched out on top. Their pumpkin bounced out of the tote when it hit it, but it was just fine. The next (and most creative) students to go were Siler and Jacob. The reason I say they were the most creative was because they used a huge wooden box filled with plastic ball pit balls, pads, and cotton balls as their padding! Their pumpkin, as expected, didn’t get a nick on it when it was dropped. The last student to go was Damien. He had another really creative padding with a cardboard box filled with balloons and memory foam pads. When the pumpkin was dropped, I thought someone had shot a gun. Most of the balloons popped, making a really loud noise. After the pumpkin was dropped, Damien gave the remaining balloons to the onlooking second graders. Damien’s pumpkin did have a little crack on it, but he still did a really good job.

This activity was really fun, and I definitely was the only one who thought so. The physics students couldn’t stop chatting about how cool the pumpkin drop was, and when I asked Cora Holt what she thought about it, she said, “The pumpkin drop was really exciting.” I agree with Cora, and I wouldn’t be surprised if the main reason some of the students even chose to do physics was because of the pumpkin drop. That is literally how cool it is. As Mr. Boom explained, “The point of this project was to calculate and compare all the variables in the pumpkin drop.” Great job to Mr. Boom for coming up with the most amazing project ever!
Basketball season is here!!!
By: Emma Vegh

The Hawthorn Academy Basketball home game on November 8th started with the tip off. The opposing team got the ball. All the players did the best they could, but the end score was 22 to 42, so we lost, but our team put in good effort.

Dallas Bennett did well, making 15 out of the 22 points. The crowd was so excited, there was clapping and so much noise all around. So many players were running into the wall to try and save the ball. A couple of our players were fouled a few times, so we got a few free throws. Thanh did a free throw and made one of them in, but not the second one.

The junior varsity game was also really good. Isaac played really well in the junior varsity game. He slid into the bleachers while trying to get the ball. Sam was hyped and ready to go. When he got on the court he was so ready to play. He was running all over trying to help his team mates. Even though they did great, they still lost, but they gave it all they could. Thanh said, “It was a really good experience to see the teams we played.”

The Nov. 26th Basketball Game
By: Makena McNeill

On Nov. 26, the varsity basketball game was outstanding! The game made you get on your toes. Hawthorn made a shot, then the DaVinci team would make a shot; the crowd was on the tips of their toes. Player number 23, Logan Weisen made the most shots; good job.

During the game Hawthorn made 9 fouls, and DaVinci had 10 fouls. In the 3rd quarter the score was 17 for Hawthorn and 14 for DaVinci. In the 4th quarter they had a score of 41 for Hawthorn and 27 for DaVinci. Hawthorn was on fire!!! The players were so focused in the game.

"Hawthorn wins an awesome game"- Tammy McNeill. Awesome job Hawthorn, it was an outstanding game! “It was very fun, and a good experience”. Thanh Vu. Good job winning Hawthorn! Go Eagles!!!

Petty’s Sweet Speaker
By: Dominik Carlson

On November 16, Mrs. Petty’s CCA class had a guest speaker from University Credit Union. It was a surprise, so everyone was really excited. Mrs. Petty’s class had been working on cashing, which involves money, so she figured that she should bring someone in that could tell us a little bit more about how money is processed.

The guest speaker’s name was Ashley. She is a branch manager from University Credit Union. She told us about how she started as a teller; and moved up to a worker at the call center, then to an ITM (Interactive Teller Machine) person, to a loan officer, and then finally to a branch manager. This process took her 12 whole years! When Ashley was asked why she wanted to be in the banking industry, she said “I wanted to be able to move up and learn a lot.”

Once she was done talking, she handed out awesome stress balls to each student. The stress balls were red footballs with the University Credit Union symbol on it. She also handed out flyers that explained the “Pay for A’s” program. The “Pay for A’s” program is where, if you have get an A on your report card (or in our case a 4), they pay you for it. You get paid $5 each for your first eight 4’s that you cash in, after that you get paid $2 for each 4. To get paid for your good grades, just go with your parents to University Credit Union and show them your birth certificate and have your parents show them their ID (they must have at least 2 forms of ID with them).

Ashley’s speech was really cool, or as Nicholas Lu put it, “The speech was very informative, I liked it.”

Sugar Skulls
By: Emma Vegh

The 9th graders made sugar skulls in Spanish class for Day of the Dead or Dia de Muertos. When I walked in the classroom, it smelled so sweet between the bread and the sugar skulls. Ms. Alcala had stations set up so you would rotate every once in a while. At the first station, students made cards by coloring in illustrations of skulls. The 2nd group made tissue paper flowers and watched a video on how to do it. They did that to represent the Marigolds that they put on the La Ofrenda. The 3rd group made cards for someone like a friend or someone they miss, because the holiday is about loved ones who have died. The 4th group decorated their sugar skulls. When they were done decorating, they would rotate to one of the tables, enjoy the Mexican soda Ms.Alcala brought, and eat the bread. Everyone was talking and having fun. Ms. Alcala said, “I hope the students have fun and learn about the culture because it is a really important holiday.” Brooklyn V said, “Day of the dead is very fun and it’s fun to celebrate and experience.”
Kinder's Creative Drama
By: Randy Abney and Carson Evans

On the 27th and 29th of November, Ms. January hosted the Kindergarten Creative drama activity for Ms. McLachlan and Ms. Scott. I could tell that by the amounts of laughter and joyful facial expressions that it was a fun activity!

Ms. January came in and talked about how she taught The Little Scarecrow Boy by Margaret Wise Brown, and illustrated by David Diaz. The book is very up-beat and exciting. This book is about a little scarecrow boy who wants to go out and scare the crows with his dad, but his dad wouldn’t let him go out because he “...wasn't fierce enough to scare a crow.” So one sunny morning he decides to sneak out of the house to scare the crows. He saw a crow in the distance; it came flying at him and he made his first scary face and it didn't affect the crow. Then he made his second scary face. It didn't affect crow. Then he made his scariest face of all and that scared the feathers off the crow.

After they were done reading the book, Ms. January called 5-7 kids at a time; they put on a big shirt with straw and fleece glued to it to make them look like a scarecrow. They all played the role of the little boy from the book in front of the class. Ms. January had them make their 1st, 2nd, and 3rd scary face. I thought this was a terrific experience for the Kindergarteners.

Let’s cheer Hawthorn’s great Kindergarten with a round of applause, and Ms. January for teaching such a great acting experience!

Anderson’s Colonial Fair
By: Rebecca Todd

It was time for Mrs. Anderson’s annual Colonial fair! The 5th graders couldn’t wait. As soon as they entered the door I could see excitement on their faces. They had many stations filled with fun. One of the stations had styrofoam cups, foil, nails, and candles. Students were able to make a little candle holder and could keep the candle that was in it.

Another station had graph paper, and the 5th graders were able to decorate it like a quilt that connects to “Colonial.” Another station had cream, salt, crackers, and jars, and they made butter to put on the crackers by shaking the jar that was filled with cream and salt. They had 1 jar per group, and everyone got a turn to shake the jar. I asked one group what they thought of it, and Mia B said, “It’s good, really creamy!”

Another center had jack-marbles, where they had a little circle made of tape on the floor, they could challenge each other with marble tricks.

Decorating ships with different kinds of spices and glue was the objective of a center. Students were able to decorate the ships with different colors and smells to make their ships unique.

Before the Colonial Fair, Mrs. Anderson took pictures of the kids from the side and they could cut out that picture and put it on paper to cut out in a circle to make a Scherenschnitte, names for the German “scissor cuts” silhouette portraits.

Throughout the activities students were laughing and smiling. Some took extreme care and were intensely focused while making the quilts. They had to shake everything out of them to be able to make the cream for the butter. They asked me if I could take a picture of them and gathered their friends to come and take a picture with them.
Hanukkah Lesson  By: Emma Vegh

Ms. January, our Hawthorn creative drama teacher, went down to first grade for Creative Drama, and taught them about Hanukkah. They first talked about the menorah that they use in Hanukkah. She talked about how you light a candle each day and you sometimes get presents each day or a clue to a big present. Then Ms. January read a book to them about Hanukkah. The story is about a bear who is mistaken as a Hanukkah guest by an old woman with poor eyesight and hearing; therefore the title of the book is The Chanukkah Guest.

All the students participated during the reading by vocalizing the bears lines. When they were done reading, they performed a short scene from the book. The kids were having so much fun. All the kids wanted a turn to act it out but there was only time for about five students. You could see the excitement on their faces. The first graders sure do love hands-on activities. The students who performed the scene played the bear to Ms. January’s “Bubba Brayna”

When they were done with the little acts, they played dreidel. All the kids wanted to start out with the dreidel. They were having so much fun, some of the first graders were laughing and talking about the book. It took the students a little bit to get the hang of the game, but once they got it they didn't want to stop. When it was time to clean up they didn't want to; they wanted to keep playing dreidel. Paisley B said, “I think the bear part was the best part.” Ms Klenk said, “The kids really enjoyed being a part of the story.”

The Opera Performance  By Savannah Rich

On Monday the twenty sixth of November, some opera singers came to sing for Hawthorn students. All grades came to the assembly. It started with Ms. Bailey, who had invited the opera outreach group, and she talked about the opera singers. She said to clap when they were done and to be quiet while they perform. Ms. Bailey was asked why she wanted the opera to come and she said, “Because not a lot of kids are exposed to opera. It is still an interesting thing if you are young or old. Some people don’t like things because they are not taught it. When I was a kid I hated opera, but I went to a show and found that I do like it.” When she was done talking, the opera singers started to sing. Melanie, Chris, and Jesus sang while Robert played the piano.

When they were done, they one by one introduced themselves and what they sang. Melanie went up first, she said that she was the mezzo soprano, that meant that she sang in a pitch in the middle range, so she could play the voice of young boys. Then Grace said that she was the soprano, that meant that she sang in a very high pitched voice so she played the role of princesses. Chris was the tenor, so he played the role of villains. The last singer was Jesus and he was the baritone, so he sang in a very low voice. The last person to introduce himself was Robert, and he was the pianist and the vocal coach. He explained that he was basically a second set of ears so he made sure everything sounded good. He said that because they performed all over that it’s not easy to bring a bunch of instruments so his job is to replicate those noises on the piano.

They all talked about opera and performed selections so we understood what they said. One thing they talked about was that opera started four hundred years ago in Italy. They also can perform using many different languages. For their performances they have learn to speak German, Italian, English, and French. They sang in German and the challenge was to guess their emotion by their facial expressions. Grace went first and her emotion was sad. Then Chris went and his emotion was happy.

They performed again, but this time they added props, costumes, and duets to demonstrate songs from musicals and operettas. The two women went first and they used their phones as props and they performed a skit about just getting a text on their phones from an old guy. Then the men went up and performed a song from a musical, Into the Woods; they wore capes as their costumes. When they were done everyone clapped and yelled “Bravo!” At the end of the assembly Loreal T. said, “I liked it because they sang well.”
Save the Rainforest!  By: Dominik Carlson

On October 31, the second graders got to do one of the most awesome things ever; they got to see and touch some really cool animals from the rainforest!

The excited second graders met in the library, and even I couldn’t help but be excited to see the awesome animals that the Loveland Living Aquarium had brought with them. Before the real excitement began, the animal handlers talked to the students about reducing, reusing, and recycling paper. The handlers explained to them that to help the rainforests, they should recycle and use less paper. Once they were done talking about the rainforest, they called on one of the students to pick which continent they should “visit” first. They could choose Asia, the Americas, Africa, or Australia. The student that they called on chose Asia. Since the student chose Asia, they brought out a blue-tongued skink. The blue-tongued skink is a type of lizard that is native to Asia and, true to its name, it has a blue tongue. The reason this skink has a blue tongue is to try to trick predators into thinking it is poisonous. The students thought is was really cool and they all were really excited to touch it. After Asia, the next student chose to “visit” the Americas.

Some students reacted with disgust when they brought out a giant cave cockroach from the first animal for the Americas. This fascinating creature is one of the biggest species of cockroach on the planet and can reach up to four inches long. Once the students touched the cockroach, the animal handlers brought out a rainbow boa. This animal is also native to the Americas and it has many eye-looking dots on its scales to ward off predators. Even though it has the word “rainbow” in its name, this snake is actually brown and its “eyes” are black. How this snake got its name is from its belly. The scales on a rainbow boa’s belly are white and very shiny; when you look at these scales in natural daylight, the scales have a rainbow on them like a CD. Once again the students touched the animal and then it was put away.

Since we were done with the Americas, they called on a student once again and that student chose Australia. The animal they brought out for this continent was the white tree frog, which has the ability to change its’ skin between the colors brown and green. The frog uses this super power like ability to camouflage into trees to hide from predators. This cool frog can also drink through its skin and it has sticky pads on its feet that allow it to climb things very easily. The students were not allowed to touch this animal because it would be like the frog licking the students’ finger if it were touched because it can drink through its skin. The last continent that they visited was Africa. First they brought out a bald python. In Africa, this snake is considered to be very good luck if you have it in your house. The reason it is good luck is because these snakes eat rats and mice. So, if you have bald python in your house, you don’t have any mice or rats that eat your food. Just like every other animal, the students touched it and they put it away. The last (and most awesome) animal they brought out was an African grey parrot. This animal was really cool because it could make the sound of a cough, dripping water, yawning, and could even sing a little bit of happy birthday.

The animals of the rainforest are really cool and we should try to preserve their habitat as long as possible. This activity was really cool, but also really educational because it teaches students at a young age how and why we should reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Commitment is Cool  By: Dominik Carlson

According to the I.B. program, having Commitment means that you are “...committed to your own learning, persevering and showing self-discipline and responsibility.” Being committed is something that will help you in life, especially in your job and relationships. Commitment is important because if nobody was committed, nobody would do a lot of things that they need to do in order to be successful in life. People would also never have very good relationships because no one would be committed to one another.

If you are committed to being successful, you are definitely more likely to be successful than someone who sits and plays Fortnite all day. You also need to be committed to being on a sports team. If you aren’t committed, and never show up to practices or games, you are probably going to get kicked off the team.

One person who was committed and is the now famous J.K. Rowling. She had just gotten a divorce, was on government aid, and could barely afford to feed her baby in 1994, just three years before Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone was published. Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone was rejected dozens of times until finally, Bloomsbury, a small London publisher, gave it a second chance. This is a great example of staying committed and being successful because of it.

Commitment is one of the most important tools you can use for success. Famous race car driver, Mario Andretti put it perfectly, “Desire is the key to motivation, but it’s determination and commitment to an unrelenting pursuit of your goal - a commitment to excellence - that will enable you to attain the success you seek.”
2018 Food and Toy Drive

By: Thanh Vu

Hawthorn Academy’s 2018 Food and Toy Drive started on November 19, and ended on December 17. Our school has been holding this event since the first year our school was established. As a school, we needed to donate 2018 cans, and 218 toys. For every 404 cans and 44 toys we get a fun dress down day. If we do meet our goal we get a total of five dress down days. They are: Pajama day, Hoodie and Jean day, Sport day, Twin day, and a full dress down day. Va’a Kuma, our student body president, said, “I love being involved in the food and toy drive. I’m so glad I can help people in need.”

The kinds of food and toys that can be donated are canned foods, ramen packets, peanut butter, and any other non-perishable foods. The toys that can be donated are any new, or gently used toys. The food that you donate goes to the Utah Food Bank, and the toys go to the Utah Youth Village. We donated these items for people and families that can’t afford any for the holidays. Eric Barnhisel, one of our peer leaders said, “All of this food is going to help people.”

The first week of the drive we donated a total of 724 cans and 115 toys. The second week, we had 1,187 cans, and 203 toys. The day after we had 2,236 cans and 243 toys. On the final count we had 2,236 cans and 243 toys, we did end up reaching our goals, and earning all of our dressdowns. Mrs. George said, “I look forward to the food and toy drive every year, because it allows us to give back to our community.”

When the toys were donated, the representative from Utah Youth Village explained that the kids get to come in and “shop” for their donated toys. You can be sure that your donations went to someone who really wanted it.

2018 Food and Toy Drive

By: Thanh Vu

Hawthorn Academy’s 2018 Food and Toy Drive started on November 19, and ended on December 17. Our school has been holding this event since the first year our school was established. As a school, we needed to donate 2018 cans, and 218 toys. For every 404 cans and 44 toys we get a fun dress down day. If we do meet our goal we get a total of five dress down days. They are: Pajama day, Hoodie and Jean day, Sport day, Twin day, and a full dress down day. Va’a Kuma, our student body president, said, “I love being involved in the food and toy drive. I’m so glad I can help people in need.”

The kinds of food and toys that can be donated are canned foods, ramen packets, peanut butter, and any other non-perishable foods. The toys that can be donated are any new, or gently used toys. The food that you donate goes to the Utah Food Bank, and the toys go to the Utah Youth Village. We donated these items for people and families that can’t afford any for the holidays. Eric Barnhisel, one of our peer leaders said, “All of this food is going to help people.”

The first week of the drive we donated a total of 724 cans and 115 toys. The second week, we had 1,187 cans, and 203 toys. The day after we had 2,236 cans and 243 toys. On the final count we had 2,236 cans and 243 toys, we did end up reaching our goals, and earning all of our dressdowns. Mrs. George said, “I look forward to the food and toy drive every year, because it allows us to give back to our community.”

When the toys were donated, the representative from Utah Youth Village explained that the kids get to come in and “shop” for their donated toys. You can be sure that your donations went to someone who really wanted it.

Ladle’s Special Guests

By: Rebecca Todd

In Ms. Ladle’s class science class we are learning a little bit about waves in nature. We learned about how to build a building with resources that will withstand an earthquake. Volunteers from Thanksgiving Point came to talk with us about learning all the things architects have to deal with when designing a building. The volunteers had this very fun lab where we got to build a little house with materials they brought. They also gave us some requirements. We could not go over $75 (it was fake money), we had to build a house over 20 cm tall and the bottom of the house had to sit 10 cm above the platform. We had limited resources and could only use certain things like raw spaghetti, marshmallows, gummy bears, tape, and hot glue. We had a lot of freedom on how we wanted to build our “houses”. We went over all of the rules and watched some videos on earthquakes.

They let us go, and we started building the houses. We had to include one thing that was supposed to be in our houses, it was a metal washer and that represented what was valuable in our houses that we did not want to fall out of our houses. We started building and the room was full of chatter and laughter. We had a limit of 40 minutes to build our houses. The volunteers were so nice to help us and get whatever we needed. The teams in our class were so creative and had a lot of great ideas to build their houses and make them stand.

Everyone was done with their houses and it was time to test them out. They had a machine that could test all of the earthquake houses by creating waves. The machine was basically wooden planks drilled together and rubber bands connecting the wood and the middle where we placed our houses. They went from group to group and test the houses out to see if their house could withstand an “earthquake”. As they were moving the machine about to create an earthquake, the students were watching closely to see if their house would withstand the earthquake. We had so much fun making the houses and seeing if our houses could hold up during an earthquake. We thank our volunteers from Thanksgiving Point who helped us learn about natural disasters, and how architects build buildings.
Talk About It  By Saranda Gainer

“Utah’s suicide rate has shot up tremendously by 46.5% since 1999. Making it the fifth highest in the nation,” says The Salt Lake Tribune. Suicide is a big deal, but it’s not talked about enough. Most people don’t talk about suicide because they think that it will increase suicide rates, but in reality, talking helps decrease the rates. For that reason, Hawthorn had the counseling department from West and South Jordan Hawthorn Academy held a town hall to talk about suicide and bullying.

Something we talked about with Ms. Salli, our West Jordan counselor, was the many causes of suicide. We know that mental illness is a cause, but other things are causes too. Altitude is proven to cause higher risk of suicide. Scientists have proven this by placing rats in tanks. The rats at sea level were fine and kept swimming in the water that was in the tank. The rats at higher altitude swam for a minute, then they were about to let themselves drown. At that point they were given serotonin (a chemical that your brain produces that makes you feel better and happy) which motivated them to swim. One thing that people need to know is that it is ok to medicate for depression. Many people don’t take medication because they are scared of addiction, but when you take antidepressants, it is giving you serotonin, which your brain is not producing.

Ms. Behunin, our South Jordan counselor, was also there to talk about bullying. Although bullying is discussed more often, it is still important to provide more information for students and parents. While with Ms.B, we talked about a lot of things; one of which was “anyone can be a bully.” Ms.B even talked about how when she was in elementary school, she became a bully without even realizing it. She said that at her school there was a bully and she was not ok with it, but when she tried to stop the bully, she had become the bully. As soon as she realized, she corrected her mistake and apologized. Ms.B talked about what to do when you see a bully and what causes people to be bullies (unhealthy families, temperament, or power).

At the end of the meeting I asked both Ms.B and Ms.Salli why these meetings are important and Ms.Salli’s response was, “It’s really important for people to know about suicide and depression. It’s important for everyone; not only with a counselors.”

Ms B’s response was “We do the town halls to help give our community comfort and for the students to be successful and happy. We like to have topics that matter.”

Theatre Performance  By Savannah Rich

On December eleventh, the middle school theater group performed for Hawthorn Academy. They performed a bunch of little scenes from Squids Will be Squids. The performers had the audience laughing at the funny jokes they told. The whole group did a great job and it was a fun show to watch.

Sixth through ninth grade came to the performance along with sixth graders from South Jordan. This was part of the sixth grade open house which encourages sixth graders to attend Hawthorn as middle schoolers. All of the sixth graders sat in on the floor and the rest of the students sat on the bleachers. Each performer was dressed in all black, and they had a bunch of props in the corner. The performers included Jake, Kailey, Madison, Rian, Caden, Gabe, Julissa, Adeline, and Ella. When they finally started Ms. January came out and talked about the performers and how they have worked for three weeks to perform in front of the school.

Each scene had a moral, like Aesop’s Fables. They started with a scene about bugs. Each scene was very funny and they had the audience laughing. Another scene they did was with Madison, Rian, and Gabe. Madison was dressed as a walrus and Rian was a little walrus. In the scene Rian answered the phone and Gabe asked to speak to her mom. Rian said that her mom was shaving her lip hair.

Everyone in the theatre group did a little scene. At the end while each group excited Mr. Boom asked people for a topic and he told jokes about it while they were waiting for everyone to leave the gym. I asked Ella what the hardest part of performing was, and she said, “The hardest part was remembering my lines because all of my friends were watching me.”
Our First Eagle’s Nest Party  By: Thanh Vu

The Eagle’s Nest is part of a program, Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS), which is intended to provide a system for noticing students when they are following the rules. When teachers see students following one of our 5 school rules (be safe, be positive, be respectful, be responsible, be on task) outside of their classroom, they are to give that student a blue ticket. The ticket goes to the office. Office staff will send a postcard home to the students’ parents or guardians. The Blue Ticket is also put in a drawing. At the beginning of each week, ten tickets are drawn and those ten put their name on the Eagle’s Nest Chart. Once a box is filled in the Eagle’s Nest Chart, all the students in the box get a party, prize or some extra awesome reward.

Hawthorn Academy’s first Eagle’s Nest party was held on November 29th, about a week after one box was filled. It began with the kids whose names were in the box entering the learning center. As the kids slowly started to arrive, one by one they all started playing with the balloons scattered across the floor. When all the kids arrived, Ms. Sheafer, Mrs. Blair, and Mrs. Wesley all told the kids what they would be doing for their party that they earned. Principal Dubois was also there to join in the fun. They announced that the kids would be playing “minute to win it games.” First off, all the kids had to put a cookie on their foreheads, and try to slide the cookie down into their mouths. Students tried it multiple times, but no kid managed to do it. “It was a great experience.” said Asante G.

Then, the kids were separated into three different groups. Group one was going to try popping five balloons in one minute while wearing soft winter gloves on their hands. The first thing that the kids tried to do was repeatedly press on the balloons. That way didn’t work that well so they found out a new way to pop the balloons. Instead of pressing down on the balloons, they would try and rip the balloons. Every time a balloon was popped, the students would scream and cover their ears with their hands.

Group two was putting vaseline on their noses and trying to pin a pompom on the Rudolph poster without using their hands. After, group two also tried to throw mini erasers into little buckets from certain distances. There were three buckets. The one closest was worth one point, the one in the middle was worth two points, and the last one was worth three points. It was a lot like a bean bag toss. Libby H. said “It was the most awesomest party I’ve ever been to.”

Group three was separating mints into piles. There were two color mints: green and red. Red was good and green was bad. The kids had one minute to try and separate the most mints. When all the kids were done separating the mints, they connected candy canes together to try to make the longest line. They managed to connect so many candy canes together that it reached all the way from the back wall, to the door of the learning center. Mrs. Nichols announced that “We will be doing this as often as students turn in their Eagle’s Nest cards.”

Knowledgeable is All Knowing  By: Thanh Vu

The IB definition for knowledgeable is “IB students explore concepts, ideas, and issues that have local and global significance. In doing so, they acquire in-depth knowledge and develop understanding across a broad and balanced range of disciplines.”

Being knowledgeable is important to me. There are different ways you can be knowledgeable. The first involves collecting information. As a student, it is important that you are knowledgeable in your subject matter. You must make the effort to collect and retain as much information as possible so you can use that information. Your ability to study is also determined by how knowledgeable you are.

Being knowledgeable plays a big role in decision making as well. Knowing enough information to anticipate outcomes and consequences will help you know what to do, and make the right choice when you are in sticky situations. As an example, you can be knowledgeable about what college you are planning to attend.

In schools, being knowledgeable is very important. Being knowledgeable plays a big role in teaching because high-quality teaching relies on teachers that understand the subject they are teaching. Knowing the concepts and structure of a subject is essential in guiding students to lead a successful life. Students rely heavily on teachers, and if teachers aren’t knowledgeable, then the students they are teaching won’t have a clue on what is going on.

Knowledge is something we all can attain, simply by paying attention as we live our lives. If we didn’t have knowledge, we could never overcome the things that we don’t know. Albert Einstein once said, “The only source of knowledge is experience.”