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## Holiday Happiness by Michael Mirto

The smell of the holidays is in the air at RCHS. While the occasional whiff of sugar cookies and cinnamon gives many students a sweet reminder of the upcoming holiday break, the aroma of semester finals easily brings everyone back to reality. But waiting at the end of finals week is a wonderful reward: a full TWO WEEK long break, filled with opportunities to spend time with family, consume feasts of holiday sweets, and sleep as often as possible. The holiday break is always something the students and staff look forward to, so this made the Stampede Staff curious about what everyone actually does during the break.

To find an answer, the Stampede Staff sent out an online survey for the students and staff of RCHS to complete. The short survey asked several questions, all related to the holiday season. The questions and response summary are as follows:

*What do you plan on doing this entire holiday break?*

The responses that we got back were pretty surprising. Many of the students and staff that responded said that they were either going to spend time with their family and/or friends or they were going to work. One of the students that took the survey, Marissa Ross, a sophomore here at RCHS, said "I'm going to visit my grandparents that live out of town." Mrs. Cole, a teacher here at RCHS said "I am going to visit and enjoy spending time with family and friends and get caught up on laundry and housework."



This is a collage of ornaments from The Hanging of the Greens, which let the Freshman and Junior High know what clubs they could join.



*What is your favorite Christmas song?*

There were a lot of really great songs that were listed as favorite song. One of the our favorite answers was from, Raul Lupascu, our foreign exchange student from Germany. His favorite song was "In der Weihnachtsbäckerei." Mrs. Leitner said that her favorite Christmas song was "Sleigh Ride."

*When do you usually open your Christmas presents?*

We were expecting everyone to open their presents on Christmas morning, but about 30% of the people that took this survey opened their presents on Christmas Eve. About 10% of responders opened their presents on Christmas Evening.

*What do you eat on Christmas day?*

We wanted to know what people ate on Christmas Day. Over 50% of the responders ate ham and about 25% of the people ate meats like prime rib and chicken. The remaining responders ate turkey.

*What color of Christmas lights do you prefer?*

The final question the Stampede Staff asked was what color of Christmas lights do you prefer? Exactly 50% of the people chose multi-colored lights. About 35% of the people chose

white lights. And the last 26% of the people chose red-green, red, and other.

We learned many things about our classmates and our teachers that we hadn't previously known. We had a lot of fun making our survey and it turned out to be a great success! Thank you to all of the students and staff that participated in our survey!



## SADD Food Drive by Emily Trail

This November, our local SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) Club put together a food drive to help stock the local food pantry. As RCHS is full of competitive spirit, SADD decided a good way of bringing an exceptional amount of food was to make the food drive a competition.

To start the project, the local food pantry (located at 5ten Main) created a list of items that would be useful for families in the community. From there, a point system was created that made each item donated worth a set amount.

The five-point items included: canned tuna, ham, chicken, chili, stew, pasta/ravioli, potatoes, pears, jams and jellies, honey, cereal, toilet paper and Velveeta Block Cheese.

The three-point items included: canned peaches, pineapple, fruit cocktail, apple sauce, carrots, peas, soups, stuffing mix, pop tarts, instant coffee and teas, juices, crackers, cookies, paper towels, snack packs of pudding or jello, sandwich bags, aluminum wrap and peanut butter.

The one-point items included: spaghetti sauce, pasta, ramen noodles, hamburger helper, chicken helper, tuna helper, hot chocolate mix, cookie mix, paper napkins, salt, pepper and raisins.

Once the list and points were created, the rest was left up to the student body of RCHS. The rules of the game were simple: each class of students (freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors) had one week to fill up one large box per class with food. The class who had the most points at the end of the week earned a free card day.

After a week of intense competition, the Senior class emerged as the winners. Because they earned first place, the Seniors won themselves a card day. Coming in second was the Sophomore class; in third was the Freshman class, and in last place was the Junior class.

Thanks to the generosity of the RCHS student body and community donations, the Lions Club will be filling up boxes and will deliver them to families in our community. It's great to see how many people come together and help those who are in need.



RCHC Choir, Junior High Choir and local Veterans listening to Greg Green share during the Veteran's Day Program at the Elementary School.



Braden Leitner dribbling up the court to set up a play to increase their point spread.

## Winter Sports Begin Season by Dylan Dulany

The girls basketball team is looking forward to start the season, and with a few starters coming back they are confident they can do well. Senior leadership will be needed for with the high expectations. The senior girls have taken different leadership roles. Even if they don't play a lot, the Seniors support by cheering and teaching the younger players about the varsity level. With new young players stepping up on varsity, it is good to have that senior leadership. Gracie Higley and her fellow seniors have hard to finish their final high school season on top. Even with some injuries that seriously change their team, the girls will look to overcome the adversity and start out well. With the help of second-year head Coach Brad Pfortmiller, the girls have the tools to work past the injuries and play to the best of their abilities. Coach Pfortmiller said, "he has a lot more trust in this years team due to the experience they gained last year."

So far, the girls have beat Oberlin and Hitchcock County, but unfortunately the girls lost to Quinter in the first round of the Castle Rock Classic. The boys basketball team have very high expectations for their season. The seniors boys are taking leadership roles on the team to teach the younger players to adapt to a higher level of playing.

The majority of the team's starters are back and playing again and their collective experience has lead to high expectations for the team. The team seniors want a state championship and will settle for nothing less. As a new head coach, Coach Ryan Marvin has conditioned the team hard to prepare them

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season with a 2-0 record. They have beaten both Oberlin and Hitchcock. In the Castle Rock Classic, the boys put on a show against Hoxie in the fourth quarter. They still came out short and lost, but they were relentless and never quit, the game even went into overtime.

The wrestling team is looking pretty stout as they are working towards their first tournament. The team has done well for several years now and the team this year hopes to add to the tradition. With two state qualifiers and placers coming back for just their Junior years, the expectations are really high for some wrestlers. The seniors this year are relatively experienced in Varsity wrestling.

The first few tournaments have went very well for the team as they've earned second and fourth as a team in the first two. They got second in Cambridge and with more weights they would have won. They earned fourth in the Saint Francis tournament and wrestled hard. Senior Cole Sramek says "I expect for the team to do very well in all of the tournaments since we have a pretty experienced team." He also thinks the team will do good at regionals and take more wrestlers to state than past years, and hopes to bring back more medals.



Mrs. Popp, Sofia Hampton, Mara Hemel, Jared Engle, and Sidney Hillman sharing discussion results from the "Worth It" Presentation.

They hope to finish their season strong. Long time Head Coach Scott Urban is in the process of putting another wrestling season under his belt. His wrestlers believe what he tells them and use his experience to their advantage to gain an edge against their opponents. Coach Urban is well respected and looks forward to helping his seniors, junior state placers, and young guys make this season a good one.

Our winter sports look very promising. With a lot of senior leadership and younger athletes having experience everyone is excited to see what the sports can conquer.

## What's been happening at RCHS

by Valerie Aldrich

As the first semester draws to a close here at RCHS, there are many activities taking place to mark the end of the semester.

- On Friday, November 11th, USD 105 hosted a Veterans Day Program at the Elementary School to thank our fellow Veterans for everything they've done for us with this tradition every year.
- Wednesday, December 7th marked the occurrence of the Elementary and High School Geography Bees, Sophia Ginther(8th) won first place, the grade school and 7th and 8th grade geography bees were separate.
- Thursday, December 9th was the beginning of a new tradition, called "The Hanging of the Green." An occasion in which students at RCHS make Christmas ornaments to help introduce the 7th, 8th, and 9th grades to options for clubs and classes that are available in high school. This year's presenters includes classes such as: Media Technology, AP Math Classes, and Graphic Design. Many clubs also presented ornaments like: Drama Club, Creative Arts Club, S.A.D.D, Spanish Club, and F.F.A.
- On Monday, December 12th, USD 105 hosted a Christmas Concert for the community including high school choir, honor choir, and junior high choir.

- The Winter Formal is bit different from the other dances that the school hosts, as this dance will follow the "Sadie Hawkins Dance Rules" (i.e. girls ask the boys to the dance). The Winter Formal will take place on December 22nd from 8 to 10 pm, in the high school auditorium.



RCHS Show Choir performing at the Christmas Concert on December 12th.



## RCHS Drama Department performs *Into the Woods*

by Jacqueline Chacon

For this year's Fall Production, the RCHS Drama Department chose the musical *Into the Woods* by Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine. Although this production was extremely difficult, Mrs. Bass and students were up to the challenge.



The story itself was a complicated myriad of fairy tales, including those of *Cinderella*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Rapunzel*, and *Little Red Riding Hood*. The tale was wound together by the story of *The Baker and his Wife*, a couple looking to reverse the curse of a witch in order to have a child. With an enormous assortment of characters and multiple intertwining storylines, students found themselves jumping from character to character all while roaming in and out of the 'woods'.



Hurry hurry its almost curtian! RCHS Drama Department getting ready to perform *Into the Woods*.

Work for this enormous production began at the end of last year. Auditions were held May of 2016, with Mrs. Bass and Steve Woody serving as the judges. In August, work started up again as both the cast and crew spent an entire week building set. After several interesting days involving power-tools, the outline of the set began to come together. Once the set was standing, the cast began the long and difficult process of memorizing their lines. Although it was not instantaneous, the cast realized that they had to do it together and not individually. As a team, they learned to work through the difficult moments and ended up with a great show.

The Seniors this year really liked that they will be ending their high school theater careers with a big bang. Lauren Terry, who played the Witch, said: "I liked doing the play because theater is different than doing sports. You still put in your time and work as a team." Sofia Hampton, who starred as Cinderella, enjoyed the talent of her cast mates, saying: "We are capable of doing anything." Daisy Hawkins, Gina Helms, and Maddie Livas, the cast Freshman thought that it was a fun experience and that it wasn't that nerve racking when that Seniors helped out the underclassmen.

While this production tested the skills and endurance of the entire Drama Department, all members involved agree it was an amazing experience. There was definitely never a dull practice or performance and everyone involved ended the show with a lot of fun memories.

## Fall Sports Season draws to a close

By Monserrat Salais

As the Fall Sports Season draws to a close, I can't help but feel that the RCHS football and volleyball teams both had amazing seasons. Although we didn't win every game, our teams played with a lot of heart and gave every game their all. While there were many difficulties facing the athletes this year, from early morning practices to injuries, our Buffs gave the community a great season.

Our football team ended with a 7-2 record. Their year started out hot: four wins in as many weeks. Their streak was sadly broken by a loss to St. Francis, but the team didn't let that slow them down. Following the St. Francis game, the Buffs continued their winning streak with three more wins. The season ended with an unfortunate loss at playoffs against Spearville. At the end of the season, the RCHS Varsity football team was ranked #11 in the state. About the season, Coach Matt Smith said: "I can't begin to thank each of you enough, from the parents, the staff, the cheerleaders, the student body, the community and the athletes for welcoming my family into your extended family. As far as the season, I was very proud of the way the young men continued to grow as a team. Week in and week out, the kids busted their hind quarters for the coaching staff. I can't begin to list all the accomplishments from this season without accidentally leaving something out. Thank your for a great season. #family #buffpride #allin." (cont. on page 5)



He couldn't have said it better. The football boys showed great passion for the game each time they played. Even though we all wish we had won the playoffs, and the championship, the boys won something better than that. A great coach, and an amazing team.

The Rawlins County varsity volleyball team ended the season 14-13, winning the playoff match, but sadly losing the tournament match against Hill City. Despite losing great seniors, it looks like a very

promising year for volleyball next year. With freshmen Kristen Beckman and Brea Lankas already playing at the varsity level, we can anticipate a great season next year.

When asked, Coach Sara Schmidt said: "We started the year out with a lot of momentum. We had several obstacles and injuries during the season that we battled and pushed through as we continued to fight and finish our season with a lot of heart." Perfectly said. The girls showed a lot of dedication and determination each time they played. They grew as a team, and made many memories along the way.

Both teams ended the season with lunch with the PDC. Emily Trail shared a few words about the experience, "I really enjoyed going, and I think that they enjoyed it a lot too. They made really good food and we should do it more often."

Based on this season, I can't wait for next year. We can all agree that both football and volleyball were very strong and successful seasons and next year should be amazing!



Football team preparing for their playoff game against Spearville.



Brea Lankas celebrating a point with her teammates.

## Introducing Ebi Comics! by Valerie Aldrich

The Stampede Staff would like to welcome our newest recruit: Ebi! From comic skits to the occasional comment while you read the newsletter, Ebi will bring you joy all around! Ebi is a short, smart allick, glasses wearing kid with orange colored hair that dreams of being a comedian one day. He's happy to have you as his audience so that he's one step closer to achieving his dreams of becoming the best comedian. We hope Ebi can be with us for years to come and we, the staff, hope you enjoy reading the articles and comics too.

