

iPads invade AHS

Social studies teachers opt for portable tablets

By Dacia Sjolund
Staff Writer

In this ever changing world, Aitkin High School adapted to meet the status quo. During the latest technology whirlwind, the iPad caught the eye of the Aitkin Social Studies Department. The teachers, having previously reviewed the school's curriculum, decided a change was needed. Portable learning resources, such as the laptop, were first suggested by Mr. Miller, but Mr. Loscheider came up with the idea of using a tablet, or the iPad.

Once a collective decision was made, the question was raised to the administration: Can we get iPads for our classrooms? The iPads were approved due to the fact that they are accessible, and in the long run, cheaper to use than buying new books every year. iPads are one download away from any information or resources the school might need. Not only will it be cheaper to use the iPads, but they are more accessible and up to date.

Three carts were purchased for Aitkin Schools, 75 iPads in total. They cost somewhere in the spectrum of \$52,000. Fifteen of the iPads went to the elementary school. The carts consisted of charging docks, and a Mac PC. The carts get traded between the different Social Studies teachers.

Upon talking to Mr. Pederson about the iPads, he said, "We need to live in the now, and prepare for tomorrow." That is part of what he hoped to achieve with the iPads. He is even thinking of



The Aitkin social studies department is the first area of the district to use iPads for classroom use. The high school department has two portable carts of iPads that the teachers share.

buying an iPad for his own uses.

Mr. Miller, one of the teachers who gets to use the iPads, said there were lots of bugs to be worked out with the iPads, such as downloading applications. It has been difficult to buy and download applications. Thus far, they have not been able to buy and download the applications for iPads, but they have been able to access the free applications. Most everything else has been working smoothly. Mr. Miller, as well as Mr. Smith believe the iPads have made students more engaged in their classrooms. Miller thinks the thought proc-

esses of students have changed with the new technologies we see today. He talked about how everything has become more hands on, which is why the students enjoy using the iPads in school.

Miller says the iPads inspire creative thinking, students like the visual connection, and the independence of using them.

"If you like going to school, you will learn more," Miller states.

WHO IS



By Mariya Espeseth
Staff writer

Faceless is a magazine/school newspaper written by an unknown source/sources, that refers to themselves as just students. It was made for students, staff, or whoever to write about their view of the world or anything they want to write their opinion on. They can write without having to worry about criticism, censorship, and it gives whoever wants to speak their mind a voice and a chance to be heard. I decided to ask both teachers and students about how they feel about having this available for anyone to write and say what they want.

Mrs. Boerhave said "I think honestly it's not a bad idea, it gives them free-

dom to express themselves, and we adults can see how you students feel. The only thing that's iffy to me is if it crosses the line of respect, or if it'll be too biased."

Mrs. Lofgren asked, "They shouldn't say they can print anything except vulgarity. Some things could be very hurtful, can they print that?"

There was really no way to answer her question, because the newspaper contradicts itself in the area of censorship. It states that "There will be no censorship on the articles that acquire a space within these pages. But there are two reasons whether or not an article will be printed. One reason will be due to the language used within the article, such as profanity or any other inap-

propriate language. This is simply because we want anyone from 7th graders to teachers to read and enjoy the articles. So, while we will allow some vulgar language, keep it to a minimum."

I found it very interesting that there were students that were against it; Dillan Praske said, "I think it's a bad thing because it will start drama."

The student handbook does not specifically address that there cannot be an underground school newspaper, but it does say in the code of conduct that disrupting the educational process is unacceptable behavior and subject to discipline.

If anyone wants to send a story in the email is faceless48@gmail.com. It

AHS Homecoming

By Ashley Landrus
Staff writer

On Monday September 26th Emily Lundgren and Alex Anderson were crowned homecoming King and Queen for 2011. It was yet another fun week filled with activities such as dress up days, a pep fest, a parade, and topping it off with a win against the Rush City Tigers on Friday.

I asked some kids around school how homecoming week was for them, Garrett Espeseth said "They should have made the crowning more fun instead of hurrying it along, because it was class time. Homecoming only comes once a year and it's a week long, the crowning shouldn't take only ten minutes."

Nicole Radtke said, "I really enjoyed the dress up days, and I'm proud of my team for finally winning a homecoming game."

As a Senior this year was better than others because it was my grade that got crowned, and we won the homecoming game. I hope everyone had as much fun as I had during homecoming this year.

"Poach the Tigers"



Emily Lundgren and Alex Anderson are Aitkin's new Homecoming King and Queen.

Getting to know the new AHS chemistry teacher

By Nicole Radtke
Staff writer

Our new chemistry teacher this year is Miss Zettel. Before coming to AHS, she worked at Bagley High School. After graduating from White Bear Lake High School, followed by St. Benedict College.

When she got to AHS, she felt welcomed by the students and staff. She also thinks the students have a good sense of humor and are very interested in

learning. She enjoys working here at AHS. She thinks the students are fun to teach, and the teachers are very friendly and helpful.

Compared to Bagley High school, AHS is a little bigger. When I asked her why she is interested in teaching chemistry, she answered by saying, "I like to understand why things happen. Science is a fun way to describe what's around you."

Compared to the other teachers in AHS, she seems to be

a little quieter. Her idea of teaching is to try to be organized and have a variety of work. When I asked her something people might not know about her, she replied by saying, "I like to go camping in the summer a lot." The students really appreciate having her teaching here. They also think she is nice. So let's hope she has a great year teaching and great years to come.



Miss Zettel teaches Physical Science, Chemistry, and College Chemistry.



Mr. Voller is the new BPA advisor this year.

Voller Getting Plenty Of Experience at AHS

By Ashley Judnitch
Staff writer

Josh Voller, the new student teacher, assistant football coach, and BPA advisor, is teaching Biology with Mr. Cox. Mr. Voller graduated from Aitkin High School in 2004, and went to college at Bemidji State University. He majored in Biology and Criminal Justice. He worked at Rippleside as a paraprofessional before he started student teaching here.

Mr. Voller also took additional courses to get his teaching license. He

chose AHS because he loves the background, rural location, and the students here are interested in working. "I really enjoy it, I like the way it's set up and runs." Mr. Voller says he's different from other teachers because he does more experiments and is discovery oriented. "I think that teachers need to get more involved with their classes. Instead of just doing notes and having lectures."

Some of Mr. Voller's hobbies include being outdoors, restoring cars, and playing rugby. He also has a new son, Jack Henry, who was born on

"I think that teachers need to get more involved with their classes, instead of just doing notes and having lectures."

-Mr. Voller, Student Teacher

Halverson takes on Student Council

By Mackenzie Thompson
Staff Writer

Band director Chris Halverson has taken on a new role as Student Council advisor. When the position opened last year, Halverson felt as though he could contribute to Student Council and that he had something to offer. Halverson stated that he has, "big shoes to fill," after all of the years that Mr. Jaskowiak led student council, but he seems to be off to a great start.

The Student Council's first few events, homecoming coronation, block party, and pepfest, were a success according to Halverson, and most would probably agree. One change that Halverson made was not having the band play at pepfest. Instead he had "Onset", a three person band play, which most seemed to enjoy. This could be a new form of entertainment for our pepfests.

After a planning retreat in August the Student Council members are on a roll and are currently preparing for a Sadie Hawkins Dance, so keep an eye out for

information. They are also going to be planning Sno-ball and the Elf-Auction, a long standing tradition in our school.

Various Student Council members think that Halverson is doing great with his new role and they are having a good start to the year. Enjoying his time with the Student Council members, Halverson said that his goal is, "To give the members on the council the opportunity to grow and develop as leaders."

Continuing to meet every Wednesday morning and planning various events for the school, Halverson is indeed providing opportunity. Halverson said that he is, "Handling the position quite well and everything is going well." Student Council



Halverson is the new Stud. Co. Administrator.

is sure to strive with Halverson as their new advisor. The best of luck to Halverson and the Student Council members as yet another year at Aitkin High School continues.

Peer Helpers Helping Out

By Kayli Beneke
Staff Writer

This year's Peer Helper New Student Picnic took place on Friday, October 7, in the old gym. This is the eighth annual picnic that Counselor Nicole Doyle has provided for new and foreign exchange students.

The event has had a lot of positive feedback over the years from both parents and students. "I think they should continue to do it because it is a great way to welcome new students," Senior Peer Helper Mackenzie Thompson said.

This year the students were provided with Pepsi donations, Hot stuff pizza, and Vic's famous cookies. Amanda Kurtz and Mackenzie Thompson provided

the entertainment for the 14 students and a group picture at the court house concluded the activities. This wouldn't be such a success without the help of Nicole Doyle and all the Peer Helpers that participated.

Also on October 31 around 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. the Peer Helpers will be putting together The Trail of Terror. There will be two trails, a scary one and than a kiddy one. Cost will be \$2 for adults and \$1 for a child. The theme will be a ship wreck theme with lots of zombies; it will be located by the Mississippi river campground.



Peer Helpers giving Piggy-Backs.

How will the iPads affect AHS?

They will expand the areas of learning in the social department. As technology grows in this generation, the school needs

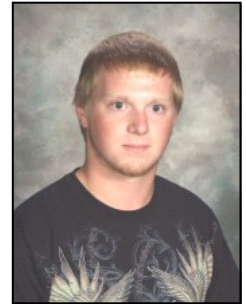


to also grow in technology. This might be the cure to ADHD –Olivia Landrus

I think they will help us learn in new ways and that will be better for kids who use hands on learning – Ashley Mate



I think there going to benefit us more then they will hurt us – Brandon Barthel



It will give the students more confidence and give them more ways to learn- Cassie Seguin



I think they will make learning easier and more fun- Molly McIntosh



Compiled by Kayli Beneke

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A concern of his was that there are too many distractions on the iPads, like the array of different applications and the photography aspect.

Mr. Smith thinks the iPads are great. He really likes how students get excited about using them. There are not many features he dislikes about the iPads, but he also believes it is a hassle to get applications on them.

“It is promising for the future,” he says. Smith is happy to take a step forward in technology. It gives him a chance to look

at the current curriculum, and adapt it to be more interactive. They allow for more modern curriculum, and advanced instruction. All in all, he believes they have great potential.

In contrast, I interviewed Mr. Jasowski to get his opinion on the iPads, due to the fact he doesn’t get to use them in his classroom. He believes iPads could be beneficial in his classroom. They would be an easy access tool to literary work that is otherwise difficult to find, or expensive to buy. He doesn’t feel they are a necessity for

his classes, but if cost wasn’t an issue, he would certainly get some. He is happy the Social Studies department has it now so they can, “iron out the glitches it has.”

Most believe the iPad is a fun new experiment for Aitkin. The iPads being such a new addition to the curriculum make the future appear cloudy. Although the iPads have their quirks, a great amount of people believe in their potential. We will have to wait and see how this pans out for Aitkin Public Schools.

Gobbler Football looks to win last two

By Adam Jackson

Staff Writer

The varsity football team has a record of 2-4. Their next game is Friday October 14th against Hinckley-Finlayson. "Its going to be a close game, we are very evenly matched" says wide receiver Travis Bare.

This years new football head coach Gordie Forsberg was asked who he thinks the star players are? "Our best players are the ones who make their team mates better," he said.

"Our last game started out good like the rest of the games this season, but we started to make mistakes and had penalties. But we battled back in the end and even though we lost it was still a good game."

Forsberg said "We need to be more like the wrestlers, they are bigger, faster, and stronger." The team is currently seeded second in the section with Crosby and Hinckley. In



A few team members stand watch

the next game the Gobbler football team intends to keep the ball on the ground more because it will be more

affective since the weather is colder. The team is introduced as one opposed to individually.

Gobblers take down Lions

By Mara Braaten

Staff writer

The varsity girls' volleyball team crushed the Ogilvie Lions in their home game the night of October 12th. Aitkin won three consecutive games, cutting the game short of the normal five. The scores of the three games were 25-19, 25-18, and 25-21.

Despite the girls' tough season, they managed to dominate their opponent, with players Mikayla Michaletz and Melissa Paulson each getting six kills. Not only was the kill

count impressive, but the team recovered four balls in the ceiling, where each time the ball was returned successfully to the other team's court.

When asked how she felt about the girls' performance that night, Coach Sandberg replied, "I thought the girls played very well last night." One thing really stood out to Sandberg that she believed helped lead the girls to victory. "As a team, our serving was phenomenal." Good job ladies, AHS is proud.



Gobbler Girls Dominate

By Travis Bare
Staff writer

Aitkin tennis girls have been on a roll this season with an impressive record of 14-3. Their last match of the season was on Oct. 4, at Cloquet. The Gobblers played very well and came up with the victory. They had a very solid year. "I was very surprised with our record and the way the girls played this year after losing six seniors last year," said Coach Waldorf.

The next task the Gobbler girls will have to take on is sections. They will be playing Eveleth in the first round at home because we are seeded second. "Eveleth is a very dangerous team and it should be a very close match," said Coach Waldorf.

Previously in the season the Gobblers faced Eveleth and slipped away with a 4-3 victory. It was tied up 3-3 going into the last match when Morgan Schoonover defeated her

opponent to give the Gobblers a win. If the girls defeat Eveleth they will advance on to the next round. They will either play the number one seed Virginia or Foley, two very tough teams.

The ladies had a tough loss on Wednesday losing 3-4 to Eveleth. They will be going to Virginia to play as individuals and see who will advance to the state tournament individually.



Amanda Kurtz serving it up.

Forsberg is A Blast From the Past

By Sara Miller
Staff Writer

There's a new coach for Aitkin High School football players. The person that decided to take the position was Gordie Forsberg. What was his reason for taking the position? He said that he coached most of the same kids when they were in fifth and sixth grade, and his goal is to be in their lives for a number of years. Before he started coaching football, he was a contractor. He has never been a varsity coach before, but the kids were welcoming to him once they knew he would be coaching them. The first day was enjoyable and was good. He had retired three different times, and he just couldn't seem to stay retired. He likes the position, and they asked him to coach one more year. He accepted, under certain health circumstances.



Dean Lynn, New coach Gordie Forsberg and Jake Lynn

Sean Smith is in charge of practice, and Forsberg is in control of the plays. He even made a playbook for offense. One thing that is different is that they changed their offense. Their new offense is called "A-11," and it originated in California. They picked this offense, because not many teams play it, and the ball is constantly moving.

Forsberg was inspired to coach football, because he likes the game, and he also likes kids. "If you don't know the town's people, you don't know what the world is going to be." He tries to make the game fun for the kids. They have bumped heads a few times, but that's because football is not a democracy. It's a dictatorship. The kids learn a lot of good life lessons, but they adapt and have fun.

Chris Baker thinks Forsberg will benefit well and has new strategies that will benefit Aitkin. He thinks Miller was more strict than this coach, and Forsberg is more relaxed and he gets to the point. Chris also feels that Forsberg gives the team more of his time than Miller did. Chris likes the new coach. "I respect him as a really good coach."

Jack Dagen also has good thoughts about Forsberg.

Kurtz having fun on the Court

By Peter Zasmeta
Staff Writer

Senior Amanda Kurtz is the No. 4 Singles player on the varsity tennis team. Amanda started playing tennis in fifth grade at Rippleside. She started playing because she thought it would be fun.

Amanda believes her greatest strength in Tennis is her serve and her weakness is going to the net off of the volley. Amanda's favorite memory in tennis, so far, was in 11th grade while playing doubles with Claire Browning; they beat Pine City who was rated No. 1 in the conference at the time. This she

feels earned her the honorable mention status for the conference.

If Amanda could give advice to future players it would be to enjoy the game of tennis, Have fun while playing and don't always worry about winning and losing.

Amanda has not yet decided her plans after high school. She would like to travel and go to college but for now, she intends to enjoy the rest of her tennis season and is looking forward to another exciting dance season. Today, she hopes to go home and have meatloaf for dinner or maybe potatoes and peas, her favorites. Thanks Amanda for being our Female Athlete of the Week. Best of luck to you!



Amanda Kurtz, Grade 12

Peter the Player



Peter Zasmeta, Grade 11

Zasmeta sparks Gobbler offense

By Olivia Landrus
Staff Writer

Peter Zasmeta was picked player of the week. He is 5 ft. 7inches and sits at 135 pounds. He is running back for our football team and is in 11th grade. Peter's favorite game was against Deer River when he had 5 touchdowns and 267 receiving yards, and a kick return for a touchdown. They lost

but it was still a really fun game to play with the team.

Peter has been playing football since the third grade and plans to continue through college. Zasmeta's role model is La Michal James. He plays for the Oregon Ducks, they share the same number, 21, and Peter thinks he's really good.

Peter says that having the change of coaches is different. It may be better, the team has definitely improved because we have more coaches than we use to so there is more individual attention. Peter's goal this year is to make it to the section championship game!

Congratulations Peter for player of the week!

Jack is Back

By Tyler Bliss
Staff Writer

Aitkin and McGregor are in the second year of their cross country partnership which you'd think would put Jack Reeves and newcomer Kyler at a disadvantage to other teams but they don't let that slow them down. This year Jack is back running to represent Aitkin along with eighth grader Kyler. Jack has earned ribbons in every meet so far this year and has placed fourth in his best meet. His best time is 18 minutes and 18 seconds in the 5k (about

three point one miles). He works hard and is the bright spot on a cross country team that Jack says, "Isn't that good". They have improved from last year but are still not at the same level as a team like Crosby. Even when Jack faces a team of Crosby's caliber he still does good.

Aitkin used to share a cross country team with Crosby but that ended a few years ago. This new partnership started last year when Jack Reeves wrote to the Aitkin and McGregor school boards asking for

Aitkin students to be able to sign up for the McGregor cross country team. Both schools were okay with it so Aitkin has a cross country team again. The teams last meet was on Thursday, October 13.

Powder Puff

By Britney Ince, Peter Zasmata, and Brooke Nelson
Staff Writers

The annual Powder Puff game was held on September 21, 2011. It was perfect football weather, cloudy, dreary and of course rain by the end of the game. The girls were excited and ready to play. The coaches had been planning, holding practice and were also ready, complete with megaphones and white boards. This was serious stuff.

The seniors clad in black took the field first, followed by the hot pink possessed juniors. The juniors scored first on a quick run by Megan Welshons and there was no turning back. Emily Lungren was

almost impossible to stop. Quarterback for seniors, Brooke Nelson threw some beautiful passes and Tori Sundholm proved that growing up with three brothers had its advantages. The juniors, determined to end the curse of the seniors always winning this game were creative. Reba Pierce had a well timed interception which lead to a score for the Juniors. Reba showed speed no one knew she had and the girls quickly adapted and continued to score. It was all down hill from there for the seniors losing their second and final football game as high school students.

Great plays were made by both teams. Fierce determination and an occasional "oops, I shouldn't

have done that" and an "illegal substitution by a person claiming to be the new foreign exchange student," made for a very interesting game. After a well fought battle, the juniors were victorious with a score of 24-8. This game added to one of the most memorable Homecomings Aitkin High has had. For the seniors, hope you had fun and best of luck to you and to the juniors, Great Job!

Quiet, They're Onset

By Casey Otto
Staff Writer

Samson Perrine, Thomas Coyle, and Eddy Simonson are the three boys that make up the band Onset. They performed at the Homecoming Pep-fest. They started the band at the end of last school year and have been practicing for about six months. I asked them why they started the band and Thomas said, "For something to do." They didn't have a particular reason to name the band Onset.

They said right now it's a hobby but they could go further with the band if the opportunity presents itself. I then asked them if they plan on playing at more Pep-fests and they said if they are asked. I asked them what the thought of the mosh pit that formed at the Pep-fest, "It was pretty awesome, it

was our first mosh pit," said Sam. I also spoke to Thomas and he said "Good, thanks to Joseph Fontaine."

They came up with alter-egos Eddy is Cranberry Davis. Thomas is Honeybun Horris. Samson is Saucepan Louis. Each one of the boys play different instruments Thomas plays the drum and the trombone, Eddy plays the guitar, bass, drums, and the piano, Samson plays bass and the drums.

The event at the Beanery on October 7th was a pretty good turn out. The beanery wasn't completely full but it was almost full according to Ms. Del Zoppo. They didn't know what to expect but it worked out well. They are playing at Westside Church on



Samson Perrine on the left, Thomas Coyle in the middle, and Eddy Simonson on the right.

October, 31st at the Halloween Dance at 7pm- 9 pm. It costs \$5 to get in the door.

Ruschmeier is on a Roll

By Ashely Mate'
Staff Writer

The president of FFA, competitor and role model Travis Ruschmeier has been chosen as the student of the week. Travis is involved in various activities such as FFA, meats team, and general livestock. Travis was chosen student of the week, because of his likeable personality and willingness to help others. Mr. Irwin stated that "Travis is always willing to help me with anything that I need in class, he is a very dependable student, does his work neatly, is respectful to others and isn't afraid to ask questions." Travis has volunteered for many meat judging contests, is the second high indi-

vidual for the team and was on the state meats team last year.

When asked what Travis thinks about being chosen student of the week, he replied, "Because I work hard at what I do." Travis feels that he has set good examples for all of the younger FFA members, he has always been extremely helpful to them. We congratulate Travis on being student of the week!

"I was so surprised to be awarded with student of the week."

-Travis Ruschmeier



Travis Ruschmeier honored as student of the week.