

Turkey Tracks

Volume 4, Issue 2

Support Sonia

2009 AHS graduate fighting throat cancer

Becca Durbin
Variety Editor

Aitkin High School 2009 graduate Sonia Ellison was diagnosed with throat cancer. Originally her and her doctors believed that she had a simple cyst in her throat. But a call from the doctor informed her that the cyst in her throat was cancerous. She had been attending University of Minnesota Morris and had to leave for a semester in order to undergo treatment. The Mayo Clinic recommended that she have two surgeries to make sure they got

all of the cancer. Her final surgery was on Sept. 13. She has gone through treatment and is now cancer-free.

Sonia was active in Speech, Concert Choir, Madrigals and One Act. She had been in Speech since ninth grade and every year that she participated in Speech, she made it to State. Mr. Lindgren, the speech coach, who coincidentally had a very similar type of cancer that Sonia was diagnosed with, had very positive things to say about her. "As well as using her voice to convey her message, she used her body language and facial expressions," he said. "She would draw you in and make a connection with the audience. She had a very good stage presence. She is very creative in many ways and always very determined."

As well as participating in Speech, she was also very active in Concert Choir, Madrigals and One Act. Her senior year, Sonia played one of the lead roles of "Cinderella" as one of the evil stepsisters. She also participated in the vocal contest held in Crosby. From 9th through 12th grade, she did a



A benefit is planned for Sonia Ellison at The Beanery Oct. 30. It will feature an open mic and desserts.

trio with Greta Goble and Aslyn Blake and every year they received a superior. Her senior year she did a solo and received a superior for that as well. One Act was another thing that she

also excelled at. She was in One Act for two years, participating in "Masterpiece" and "Greekish Myth," which also went to state.

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Sonia Ellison



New Student's and Peer Helper's invited to the New Student Picnic picture taken on the court house steps.

Aitkin High School Welcomes New Students

Michael Flowers
Staff Writer

The new student picnic was on Friday, October 8. Mrs. Doyle got the 41 new students to gather in the old gym for their picnic during fourth and fifth hours. The 41 new students then broke into separate groups to get to know each other better. The groups were separated by t-shirt and name tag color. Afterwards, they played some basketball and a movie character matching game.

The movie character matching game had mostly Disney characters: Chip and Mrs. Pot from Beauty and the Beast, Batman and Robin, and several others. While the students were playing the games, the adults set up the food that was being prepared for them to eat. The food was Rosallini's pizza, donated pop, and Vic's famous cookies. After, eating the students went outside for

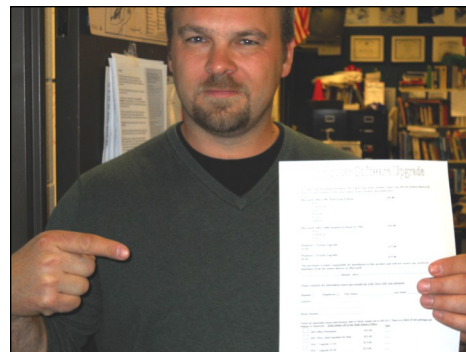
some sunshine and a group picture. They took the picture on the courthouse steps because of all of the new students. The picnic went over well was the thought by many of the new students. The new students are spread through the grades evenly with having 13 seventh graders, eight eighth graders, five freshmen, nine sophomores, 10 juniors, and two seniors.

Student Council Sells Microsoft Office Software

Brandon Searle
Staff writer

Do you need an upgrade? Well student council has a deal for you. Microsoft office 2007 enterprise edition with, word, power point, excel, publisher, access, and outlook is normally \$149.00 and you can get it for \$35.00. There is also Microsoft office 2008 standard edition for Mac, word, power point, and excel also \$35.00. All the profits go to the student council

account and are used for school activities. This package would be great deal for your home computer because then no matter what you can bring the stuff you did at home and it will transfer to the school software. "this is awesome stuff" says Seth provost. If you are interested in picking up your very own copy of this software talk to Mr. Jaskowiak or go to the office and pick a form up there.



Jaskowiak shows us the form for buying Microsoft Office.

Dan Dominates in the Classroom

Chris Hughes

Sports Editor

It is a new week and there is a new student of the week. And it is Dan "Valentine" Klucas. Dan has been striving to achieve success in the classroom and around the school making him a stand out this week.

Seth Provost has entrusted and passed the prestigious honor of student of the week down to the grateful Klucas. Dan Klucas is a junior who is involved with many high school activities. He is involved with Peer Helpers, Spanish Club, Knowledge Bowl, BPA, and Jazz Band. He is also a student athlete being a tennis player and girls' tennis manager.

When informed of receiving student of the week Dan said, "It's about time! But seriously I am greatly honored to be receiving such an honor from my fellow peers." He said he is happy to be acknowledged in this way. He has been challenging himself this year with tougher college classes and excelling in them. He said, "This year has been tougher for me because of the more difficult college classes, but everything is going good." Everything that is except for Pre-Calculus, which he said he struggles a little bit with, but who doesn't.

One of the things Dan really enjoys is his position as girls' tennis manager. As an avid tennis player and fan, he always



Dan Klucas showed his skills in Mrs. Kaiser's classroom.

enjoys watching a good tennis match and this way he can help the team and contribute to their success. He said, "I love tennis, and being a manager only gets me more involved. I mean I get to hang with my friends, have free food, and listen to Mrs. Kaiser. Who wouldn't want my job?"

When Seth Provost was informed of the new student of the week he said, "I can't think of a better recipient than Dan Klucas." That along with Dan's stand out actions have made him this week's student of the week.



Andy Santiago Amaguana Mejia

Foreign exchange student of the week

Santi looks to learn language, behavior in United States

Miranda trotter

Staff writer

Santi is a foreign exchange student from Ecuador. His full name is Andy Santiago Amaguaña Mejia. He is 18 years old. His hobbies outside of school are playing soccer, guitar, singing, painting, and hang-

ing out with friends. He decided to come to Aitkin to improve his English, explore the world, get to know other cultures, and learn the behavior of different social groups. He likes the nature here and that it's a quiet place. He doesn't like that it is a

Opinion Poll

Jazmin Walker

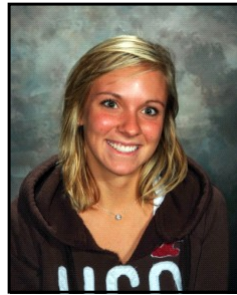
Staff writer

If you could be any type of animal, what would you be and why?



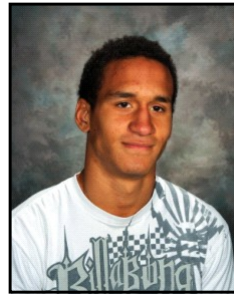
Alyssa Ballinger

“I would be a Kangaroo, so I Could hide things in my pouch and kick people. I also would be able to jump high which would make dance easy. I also would have really nice finger nails.”



Lizzie Janzen

“I would be a cow, because they get to lay around eating and sleeping all day.”



Malcolm Schroder

“I would be a monkey, because they are the closest I could get to Africa.”



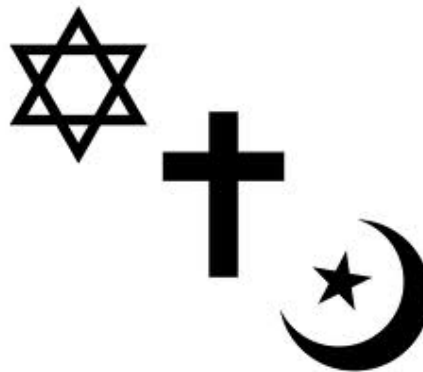
Andrew Bast

“I would be a jaguar, because they are the only cats that can swim.”

Should Schools Allow Freedom of Religion on Premises?

Molly Franz
News Editor

We’ve all heard about the heated debate on how the word “God” should be excluded from the Pledge of Allegiance and how religion should have no part in public schooling. Well, in my opinion, I think it’s okay for students show their own religion in school because it’s stated in the Constitution, First Amendment “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”



This means people have the right to exercise their freedom of religion, speech and right to peacefully petition anywhere in the United States; however, many will argue

that school is a different and more restricted setting. I understand that, but students should not be completely cut off from their right to practice their beliefs. Also, religion is a major part on what America was founded on; it’s made its way through the centuries in historical documents and word of mouth because it was a huge part of who people were back then and still are today. Now, I’m not saying schools should build a Taj Mahal in the parking lot or put a shrine over the entrance, but they shouldn’t get worried, like they do, if the students family is Islamic or Atheist. The Constitution offers everyone freedom of religion and I think schools should honor that better.

Derogatory Usage Taking Over The Country?

Jel Montano
Staff Writer

In this country the usage of derogatory words is becoming an epidemic as people over use these words where they are clearly not needed. Words such as gay, retard, Jew/Jewish, slut, whore, fag, fairy, homo, cracker and other mean words that have become normal to say and come up frequently in a typical conversation. But why is this happening? Why is it ok to bring others down? People are now so used to this language that they no longer see it as a bad thing, but now as "just a joke." America is becoming a mean and heartless country.

We have to fix this problem. Do you like being made fun of? People no longer

put people's feelings into play. They don't consider that what they say will effect another person. People think that these words are funny, it's all just in fun, and then, when someone says, "Hey, maybe you shouldn't say that," the person saying the derogatory term says they are no fun or freak out at them. The worst part about this is that people aren't willing to change how they talk because they don't want to be the odd one out, they don't want to make a difference, and they just sit back in their comfort zones and let it all happen.

Now, I am not saying that all people are just cold hearted and don't give a flying flip about everybody or anybody, it's just that they (the people who know that it is



wrong) don't do anything about it. Yeah sure, they might feel bad about it but they don't stop their friend or the person from saying it. I feel bad for the next generations to come because at the rate that people are now

becoming accustomed to saying these things is growing quickly and I don't see it stopping anytime soon.

Easy A's for student athletes

Kaitlin Larson
Staff Writer

It's not fair in anyway that high profile varsity players in high school are graded easier so they can play their sport. They shouldn't be able to do anything just because they excel at a sport. The simple fact that they could help the school win a championship shouldn't be a reason to pass them for nothing. Teachers will pass students with a "D" just so they can play for the next game. The students aren't benefiting from it since if they can't pass the class on their own, they aren't learning anything.

Imagine what your mindset on school would be if you knew that you would be passed in every class just so you could play a sport. Trying wouldn't matter; you wouldn't need to do anything but sit there. But what happens when a player gets hurt? They are no longer on the team so there is no need to pass them. Now they

don't know what's going on in class because they never had to pay attention. The player is now going to fail because they don't know what's going on.

Then there are the other kids in the class who work so hard to get a "B" where the sports player does nothing and gets the same grade. What kid is really learning? The student who doesn't play spends hours on homework while the student that plays a sport sits around and does nothing. The fact that a teacher would pass a student just because they are an asset to a sports team is ludicrous. We are taught from the time we are little to work hard for what we want. When we no longer have to work for it we have no drive to do anything.

The shock of moving from not having to try to trying as hard as you can is difficult. If you only have a sport for one trimester you got off easy and did nothing but the next trimester you have to work really

hard. It would be like not going to school for a couple years and then getting thrown into a major workload. Why should the athletes be treated any differently than everyone else? They aren't any better just because they can play a sport and they for sure shouldn't be given a free ride. Let them fail a few times and not be able to play, and then they will learn to keep their grades up and to try a little harder.

The argument that they are more tired because of practice and don't have time to get their homework done is crap. They should know that taking on a sport along with their normal workload is going to be tough and they need to be up for the challenge. If they can't take both then they shouldn't play or learn to manage their time better. Sports do take up a lot of time, I won't argue with that, but it's just another job basically. You need to work hard to be good at it.

Homework is harder to get done and you are really tired in school but that is no excuse for a teacher to pass someone.

Sports should never be more important than a student's school work. So why do coaches make it seem like they are? Most students, in fact almost all students, will not become professional athletes, so why are sports so important? Students should be more focused on their school work than on their athletics. That's what's going to get them somewhere in life. Teachers that also act as coaches are more likely to let athletes slide by. This gives them nothing to work for. They don't have to try as hard to pass a class so they can play.

Who cares if they can't play a game or two because they are failing? I would like to know that my teammates are going to be reliable.

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Aitkin dominates Jaguars

Tanner Bare and Kaija Fossum
Staff Writers

The Gobbler Football team traveled to Pine City on Oct. 8, they played a tough game but came up short with a score of 38-7. The Pine City Dragons have been shutting out team after team not letting them leave with a single touch down until the Gobblers gave them a run for their money. Chris Hughes ended up scoring the touchdown in the fourth quarter against the Dragons to end their streak.

Last Friday, the Gobbler Football team played Hinckley. It was parents' night and their last home game of the season. They came out strong scoring on the first drive. Then they played shut down defense and Peter Zasmata picked off Hinckley's quarterback setting up for the next score. With the momentum on the Gobbler's side, they punched the ball into the end zone making the score 14-0. The Gobblers scored twice more in the first half making the score 26-0 going into halftime. They played a great first half with an aggressive offense and killer defense. They Gobblers didn't let up in the third quarter adding another touchdown to the score. They continued with great defense not letting Hinckley score. In the fourth quarter with the score 32-0, coaches put some of the younger football players in to gain varsity experience. With the inexperienced players in, Hinckley attempted a comeback scoring three touchdowns and recovering two onside kicks. However, the Gobblers were still able to



Chris Hughes takes down a Hinckley-Finlayson player last week.

hold them off and pull off the win with the final score 32-20 Aitkin. Dalton Stevens led the gobblers offense with 154 yards rushing and two touchdowns. He also led the team in tackles with eight. Chris Hughes was right behind him with six tackles. Martin had two sacks on the night, Jordan Moore and Peter Zasmata each had an interception.

This was the last home game for the senior football players. All the seniors were excited and happy to end their last home game with a win. The seniors are

Dalton Stevens, Collin Wilke, Seth Provost, Kylan Hill, Andrew Bast, Martin Schroeder, Malcolm Schroeder, Luke Swanson, Chris Hughes, Bryan Zenke, Jordan Moore, and Evan Rhodes. Congratulations to all of them on a great season.

The Gobblers hope to carry over the momentum into their last regular season game tonight against the Crosby Rangers in Crosby.

Gobbler tennis team has smashing success

Kelsey Schlager
Staff Writer

Aitkin Gobblers tennis has had a smashing season. The girls ended their regular season with a record of 11-6. Capturing an impressive title of all conference champs defeating Pierz and Pine City, the girls seemed very excited about their success. Playing No. 1 doubles was Kaitlyn Davies and Kaija Fossum, No. 2 Doubles Kaitlin Konsor and Brittany Searle, No. 1 singles Anna Browning, and No. 2 Singles Tori Sundholm. The title of Honorable Mention was given to No. 3 singles Megan

Rubbelke and No. 3 doubles Amanda Kurtz and Claire Browning.

As the Aitkin girls moved onto sections, they defeated Eveleth-Gilbert 5-2. They played Foley on Monday in the semi final match. If they won this match, they would move onto finals.

Individual Subsections was held Oct. 13 in Virginia. Kaitlyn Davies and Kaija Fossum defeated Eveleth-Gilbert. They now moved onto sections where they played Foleys No. 1 doubles team on Monday. Anna Browning defeated Virginia and Tori Sundholm defeated Eveleth-Gilbert.

They both will also be moving onto sections.

I spoke with Brittany Searle, one of Aitkin's tennis captains, and asked what she thought of the team. She said, "We had a strong team this year that allowed us to find ourselves in the Semi Final match. We have come a long way as a team and bonded very closely. Megan and I are very proud of the girls and all their success on and off the court this year. We are very excited to play Foley on Oct. 18 and leave it all on the court."



Coach Sandberg directs her team as Caitlin Landrus fields a ball from Ogilvie last week. Cassie Sandberg looks on.

Spikers lose tough one against Ogilvie

Tanner Bare
Staff Writer

The Gobblers varsity volleyball team faced off against section rivals, Ogilvie Lions Tuesday night. The girls started off the night good and beat the Lions in the first match. It was a promising start to the night but then things started to fall apart for the Gobblers, and they ended up losing the last three matches.

The Gobblers record plummets to two and 15. Senior captain, Jel Montano led the team with seven kills and three aces. Abby Nelson was right behind her with six kills. Cassie Sandberg led the team in digs with seven at the end of the night. Carissa Herron has the most blocks on the team with 38 for the season. When asked what happened in the last three games Jel said, "We started off



Jel Montano goes up for the kill.

strong but couldn't finish." She went on to say that the team has a lot of potential but all the little mistakes really bring the girls momentum to a halt. She also said that there is two things they need to fix that could really turn the team around. Communication and aggressiveness. The girls just need to be more aggressive and go after the ball. Communication is the other big factor. "We just need to talk out

on the court and get things figured out."

The girls also played the Onamia Raiders Thursday night. They lost all three matches. Things are just not seeming to click with the team, hopefully they can get things turned around for the section tournament. The gobblers played on Tuesday night against the Isle Huskies, the results will be in the next issue.

Browning's Hard Work Pays Off

Freshman Named Female Athlete Of The Week

Jel Montano
Staff Writer

Anna Browning is this week's female athlete of the week. She plays a very important role as the team's number one singles player. Anna and her sister are the youngest players' on the team (her sister Claire is a seventh grader and plays number three doubles on the varsity team). Anna herself is only a freshman and has already achieved a hard role to get on the team, the spot of number one singles.

When asked how she felt about being number one singles at such a young age she said, "It's kind of exciting, makes you feel special." For Anna, playing tennis is not only fun, but it is also important to her because it is a family sport. According to Anna, the family plays during the summer a lot and her parents have always been good at the sport, so they know the game. "I want to make them proud," Anna says, "It's special to them."

According to Anna, being a fresh-

man and the number one singles can be a little nerve racking, but it is fun. The tennis team has done well this season, with their record being 11-6. When asked why she thought the tennis team worked so well together she said, "A lot of the girls on the team have played together for three years and have accepted their roles on the team and work together to win."

"I think we are a very encouraging team," Anna says, "If someone is having a bad day we don't get mad at them." She thinks that they have a strong team this year, but next year might be hard for the tennis girls, seeing as they are losing six seniors.

Anna says she has been playing tennis since she was young and mainly plays with her family. A fun fact about Anna is that her favorite type of racquet is the Wilson, she uses one herself. "Lots of famous people also use Prince Racquets," Anna says, "It's just a different style and I like the Wilson better." To Anna it just



Anna Browning is female athlete of the week.

depends on your view and style. Congratulations to Anna Browning who is this week's female athlete of the week.

Male Athlete of the Week

Peter Aims For Just One More



Peter Zasmata is the male athlete of the week.

Colton LaPlante
Staff writer

The male Athlete of the Week is none other than Peter

Zasmata. Peter is a sophomore who loves sports. He participates in football in the fall, basketball in the winter, and baseball in the spring. Peter's favorite sport is usually the one that he is currently playing when he is asked.

He is trying to break the single season interception record of four and he currently has four. With one more game left in the season, he has a chance to do it. He loves to play corner on defense, slot receiver on offense, kick returner and punt returner on special teams. Mr. Miller said "Peter has been playing shutdown corner, doing amazing on offense and special teams as well." His favorite football

memory was a 27 yard punt return in Two Harbors where he broke a ton of tackles.

To prepare himself before a game, Peter listens to Eminem and likes to talk and hang with his teammates to get pumped. His favorite football team is the Indianapolis Colts and he loves Peyton Manning. His favorite corner in the league is Antonio Cromartie from the New York Jets.

Peter wants to go to the U of M and play some sort of sport after high school. Peter's favorite food is tacos and his favorite classes are lunch and gym. Peter doesn't have time to lift weights or run in his spare time from being in three sports a year but in the summer he is always practicing and trying to get better.

Telling Tales Again, Sam? Starts Oct. 26

Cassandra Seguin
Staff Writer

On October 26th there is a new play coming to AHS. "Telling Tales Again, Sam?" is about a story teller that has no story to tell. The script is written by Linda M. Abbott. Molly Hogg-Franz says "Come and watch to support all of our hard work!" In the play there are other characters as well, like The Three Little Pigs, Ginger Bread Man etc. Sam will be played by Madison Johnson in the first act of the play and during act two Marisa Baker will be taking over. By the end of the play you could see both girls acting out the same character, Sam. For the play there are about 12 middle school students that will be characters for this play excluding the number of directors. The directors are Mr. Lindgren, Molly Hogg-Franz 12th grade, Michael Flowers 12th grade, and Mckinzi Hogg-Franz 9th grade. The directors picked there crew of characters by putting in the announcements that if any middle school students would be interested they could join. Then the directors observed all the students who joined and then handed out parts. Molly Hogg-Franz says, "The play is coming along good and to see students that young interested in a school project is great." She also says, "It's a fun play to act out but it's also easier than other plays for middle school students to enjoy putting together."



The cast of the 2010 school play.



This is josh's pile of a car. (right) Rusty roof and the Zumiez Smiley Guy

Heap o' the Week: McNevin's Pontiac

Tony Gronlund
Opinion Editor

This weeks Heap of the Week is Josh McNevin's 96 Bonneville SE, a 4 Door Sedan with some character. The sides, roof, and the hood all have spots of rust, or as I like to call them, beauty marks, covered

with white spray paint. Anywhere you look Josh is advertising with Zumiez stickers, a popular snow/skateboard retail store, of course in smiley faced patterns. With a standard 3.8-liter/205-horsepower engine, the Bonneville is a big American sedan, a fusion of sophistication and classic looks.

However, time can take its toll on even the most reliable of vehicles. When asked about being the Heap o' the Week, he replied about being somewhat sarcastically, "Its nice to know that out of all of my friends I have the crapiest car." Although, it gets him from point A to point B which is all that counts.

Continued from Page 1 / Support Sonia

When asked what Sonia was like as a student, choir director Mrs. Blake said, "She worked very very hard and is a very good musician. She is very creative. She has a great sense of humor and is very sensitive to peers' feelings."

Even though it's difficult to make up a semester of college, Sonia intends to go back as soon as she is fully recovered. She expressed how great it has been having the community be so supportive. She said, "That is one of the nice things about living in a

small town where everyone knows your business. Everyone that knows has been very helpful and supportive."

Ruth Reeves is putting together a benefit for Sonia, Improv at the Beanery. Sonia and her family choose to do an improv because it is something that will be fun and happy, not dark and depressing. And it is also something that Sonia just happens to enjoy and excel at.

So come and show your support to Sonia by attending the Improv at

the Beanery Oct. 30. It will be from 7 to 10 p.m. Come and show support by doing something for "open mic," whether it be a joke, read a poem, sing, play an instrument, anything of the sort. Supporters can also buy desserts and tickets for door prizes donated by local businesses. All proceeds will be going to Sonia's fund.

If anyone is unable to attend the event but would like help contribute, donations can be taken to Bremer Bank to the "Sonia Ellison Fund."

Continued from Page 5 / Easy A's for Student Athletes

The only way to prove they are is if they get their work done and are still able to play. Not every teacher is just going to let them pass easily. So one trimester they may be able to and the next they won't. It's not teaching them anything letting them just slide by. All

it does is piss off other students because if the coach is a teacher, their players don't have to work. I don't want to have to work super hard and watch someone else do very little work and end up with the same grade. Giving an athlete a "D" so they can play is

dumb. They should have to do the work just like the rest of us and get the grades they deserve. If they can't handle that then they shouldn't be allowed to play.

Sports and Activities Schedule

Wednesday, Oct. 20

Football

Varsity, 7:00 pm @ Crosby Ironton High School

Thursday, Oct. 21

No School

Friday, Oct. 22

No School

Monday, Oct. 25

Student Play

Practice After School

Tuesday, Oct, 26

Football

Varsity Tournament

Dance

First Practice, 4:00 pm

Student Play

Practice After School

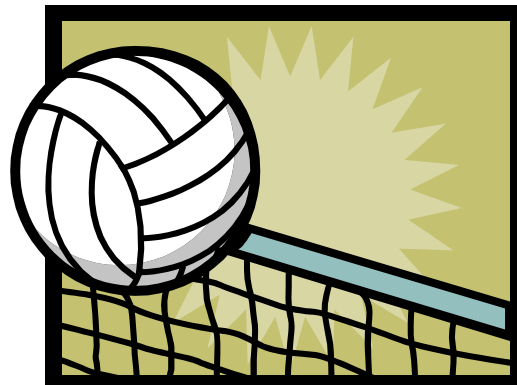
Wednesday, Oct 27

Volleyball

Varsity and JV Tournament

Student Play

Practice After School



Lunch Menu For Oct.25-Oct.29

25 BISCUIT WITH GRAVY CEREAL MILK & JUICE ----- TACO TRIMMINGS APPLES/ORANGES APPLESAUCE FUNNEL CAKE	26 MUFFIN WITH CEREAL OR YOGURT MILK & JUICE ----- HAM TORTILINI CALIF. BLEND MANDARIN ORANGES BREAD STICK	27 LONG JOHN WITH CEREAL OR YOGURT MILK & JUICE ----- QUESADILLA PIZZA CARROTS / DIP PEARS BANANA	28 EGG BISCUIT OR CEREAL & YOGURT MILK & JUICE ----- GILLED CHEESE WILD RICE SOUP CLEMENTINES CELERY AND P.B. SHERBET	29 ROLL CEREAL MILK & JUICE ----- MEATBALL SUB TATOR TRIES PEAS APPLESAUCE
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