



GOBBLER GOSSIP



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I.S. SEES TOUGHER GUIDELINES

Krysta Haugly
News Editor

The other week, I.S. was temporarily taken away from the students here at AHS. There are a few theories as to why but Mr. Novak, the superintendent, broke it down. There was an incident that showed the administration that I.S. was not running as it was intended. Both staff and students were responsible so the management had to shut down I.S. until they could figure out what to do. Mr. Novak stated, "It identified the issues, we needed to put protocol in place." He said that with the stricter procedure, it holds the students accountable for their actions and not just having the teachers telling students what to do and not to do.

I.S. was brought into the school by the old principal, Mr. Wagner, in 2009. According to Mr. Novak, I.S. has slowly turned into more of a free-for-all with students roaming around the school rather than an independent study time where students work on homework and can see other teachers. Something had to be done. The administration came up with stricter rules for the hour of I.S. If a student wants to stay and work on homework in the class they are in, they are free to do so. If the student wants to obtain an I.S. pass, they have to jump through a few more hoops. The first thing the student will have to do is see the teacher of the class that they want to go to for I.S. They need to fully fill out a Blue Pass and sign the Pre I.S. Sign-Up

sheet that teacher has. It has lines for a student to fill out for their name, where they are coming from and the I.S. day/date. For a student to get out of a class, they must have the Blue Pass pre-signed and talked to the teacher. They cannot get a teacher to sign a slip of random paper in the hallways. If a student does not have the Blue Pass, they are not allowed to leave the classroom to go to another teacher. But before they can leave, they need to sign out with their name, where they are going and the time.

To get a computer in the Media Center, the students need to do a few more steps. They need to first get a pass from the teacher the student will be doing work for, then go to the Media Center and get a Media Center pass from Darla.

There are 32 Media Center passes and with the Media Center passes, it is first come, first served.

The new rules for I.S. is not to place a burden on the students and staff but it is for the students' protection. If students are signing in and out as they are supposed to, they are less likely to become a suspect if an incident should occur. If students screw up with I.S., there will be no more I.S. for that particular student. They will be placed on a "no fly" list. This list is sent out to the teachers and the students on that list will not be able to leave the classroom during I.S. If a student leaves a classroom and does not show up where they are expected, they could be placed on the "no fly" list. The student could be on the list for as short

as an I.S. rotation to as long as the whole trimester.

Mr. Novak believes that the students will continue to follow the new rules and he hopes it continues to work for the students' sake. If students choose not to follow the guidelines, I.S. will be shut down once again but this time it would be indefinitely. Mr. Novak states that "rules are good. The majority of students will follow the rules. They are meant to be had and not broken. Rules are set in place so there will be no chaos." Students should remember to always have a pass when in the hallways, even when going to the bathroom or locker. The rules of I.S. seem to be firm and it is that way because students need to be responsible for their own actions.



National Honor Society

Casey Mindrum
Staff Writer

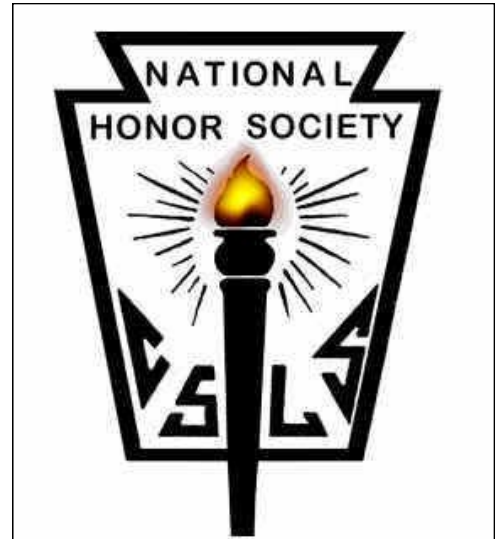
Much like the rest of the school, the National Honor Society (NHS) is going to be going through some big changes this year. The former head of NHS (Mrs. Blake) has decided to step down and let none other than our dean of students (Cathy Hughes) take over. Changes and improvements are on the rise so expect to see the NHS members playing an even bigger role in our school.

NHS currently has a total of eleven members. Michaela Zebro (president), Krysta Haugly (secretary), Matt Jones (treasurer), as well as Dacia Sjolund, Casey Mindrum, Kassie Kokesh, Alec Kinzer, Mikayla Michaletz, Lyle Nyberg, Bailey Barber, and Peter Zasmata. There will be an induction ceremony welcoming the new members on Nov. 8 at 7p.m. in the auditorium. There will be 13 new juniors and two new seniors coming into NHS this year. Those students are: Adam and Drew

Burke for the seniors, and Ryan Anderson, Emily DuRose, Nathan Ehnstrom, Sam Hanson, Abbie Hughes, Erin Host, Jenae Herron, Hannah Jensen, Lindy Lahmann-Sharbonda, Jeremiah Noon, Bailey Nordan, Cassie Sandberg, and Taylor Smith for the juniors.

During the ceremony Cathy Hughes will be speaking and will also talk to everyone about just what it means to be a part of NHS. To be able to join students must maintain a 3.5 GPA as well as show great leadership, participate in community service, and have an all around good character. In an interview Mrs. Hughes went on to say: "...yes, it is the smart kids, but it's also the kids who have worked hard to be here and have shown the right leadership, community service and character."

The goal for this year's NHS is to get kids to believe in the spirit of the school again. There will be a few surprises in store for Aitkin High School courtesy of the National Honor Society. So next time you see any of the new members make sure you



congratulate them on the hard work they have already done and will continue to do.

Post-Secondary Students

Jenny Siegford
Staff Writer

Every year we have students that are really excited to start the school year in high school and others that dread it. Either way students need to get educated. An option other than going to high school for their junior and senior year is going to post secondary.

There are a couple of AHS students attending post secondary at the CLC campuses in Brainerd. One of the students is Hannah Janzen. Hannah is planning on being an endocrinologist someday, which takes a lot of schooling. So going to post secondary she will be getting two years of free college out of her way and when others are just graduating high school she will have her AA degree already.

Post secondary is similar to high school, according to Hannah. She said, "You still have to work hard to get good

grades and professors are just like regular teachers and care about their students but you take responsibility for yourself and your work."

"Going to post you have much more freedom and independence than you do at high school," according to Hannah. You can leave for lunch and whenever between classes so you're not stuck at school all day long. Also there are a lot more class options open for you to attend. Hannah says, "The biggest difference post to high school is the independence and everyone talks to everybody." You get to meet a lot of new, unique people.

Hannah loves attending CLC this year. She only has to go to school three days a week. She says, "It's a great experience but a lot of hard work. But it sure will pay off in the end."



Hannah Janzen, an Aitkin Junior



Something Sweet for Halloween



McKinzi Hogg-Franz

Stephanie Hargrove

Staff Writer

McKinzi Hogg-Franz has done spectacular for us this Halloween. It started out to be a project and turned into something much bigger. "Homelessness is a big problem, she said, I don't think a lot of people know that. I wanted to show everyone what could happen and the reality of it."

McKinzi went to New Orleans this summer and has explained some pretty horrifying things that opened her eyes to what it is really like to be homeless. It's much more than just not having a home but being an emotional wreck. She said that even if it hadn't worked out this year she would try again next year.

They collected a lot of food shelf items but she believes they needed a better

plan on the part where they stay overnight for the future. They gathered 96 food shelf items and they had 8 people participating in this project. They split the items between three food shelves located in Aitkin.

This was full of a lot of organizing and nice people who are willing to give others what they don't have. She believes that this was a successful event and she want to thank all the people that had something to do with it, it really meant a lot to more people than they will realize.

So everyone, give it up for McKenzie Hogg! This was her first time holding a benefit and even though it didn't turn out the way she and the others would have wished, it still was successful for the people who really needed it.

Twin students of the week

Michelle Alvarez

Staff Writer

Drew and Adam Burke have been expecting this call for years now, as Drew stated "It was inevitable." The twins always knew there was something that made them special, other than their awesome twinness. While they both stay busy in activities such as tennis and hockey for Adam and Spanish Club, Eagle Scouts, Bird Watching, Football and many others for Drew, they make sure to stay model students. When asked what they believe makes them a good student Drew answered, "Sitting behind smart kids and utilizing mirrors to see their papers", while Adam followed it up by an equally good answer, "Sitting next to Matt Jones in class."

Ten years from now Drew see's himself feeding the starving kids of Italy with

Adam standing right alongside him. Some attributes the boys share are telepathy and having a twin. Adam looks up to Kyle Speldrich, because he is very tall or as Adam would say, "Too tall." Drew, on the other hand, only ever looks up to a mirror. The boys believe in divide and conquer, which is the way they do their homework every night. Teamwork shall live on.

Need advice on how to achieve your goals? Drew and Adam have some very inspirational words for you. "Having a twin and perfect genetics" is the way Drew has achieved his goals while Adam took the easier approach of setting his goals low so he'll never be disappointed. Before they die Adam wants to ride the Hasselhoff and crowd surf at Mardi Gras while his twin (Drew) wants to cradle a penguin, ride a panda bear, taste colors and many



Adam and Drew Burke

other equally interesting things. Some words Drew uses to describe himself are super-sexy and delicious as a twin brother. When asked one word that described him, Adam simply said "Better". Mitchell Fontaine, a friend of the twins,

said, "If you have a class with both of them you'll randomly hear them giggle about something. It's a weird twin thing they have". So giggle along boys and congrats on getting students of the week!



Seniors Vs. Sevies

Jenny Siegford
Staff Writer

Remember when respect your elders was drilled into your head when you were younger? Back then I wasn't even sure what an elder was. But then I came to learn the term "elder" may be a teacher, neighbor, parents, grandparents, and just anyone older than you. Now times have changed and I wonder if kids have forgotten what elderly respect even is.

Now walking around public places you always hear and see disrespectful acts all around you. I often wonder, what happened to respect your elders and plain old respect?

Way back when the seniors were in seventh grade they all had fears. One

big fear was the older people, the seniors. Now times are changing.

When asking some seniors about how times and respect in younger students have changed, many had a similar response. Megan Welshons said, "When walking through the halls the little seventh graders act like they own them, pushing and shoving the older kids and I'm not going to stand for it, I'm going to push them right back." Brain Wold said, "The little children better not push me like I see them do to others because they are going to get a shove right back."

Just remember one day you are going to be an elder and you are going to want respect. Respect them and you will get it in return.



Mr. Smith getting pushed around by the 7th graders

What are your thoughts on Supernatural beings?

Krysta Haugly
Staff Writer

Drew Nordean- "Well I think that ghosts are real because you see so many ghosts shows and you know, they can't all be fake. There has to be some ghosts somewhere around this world. I use to not believe because I didn't want to be attacked by a ghost."



Michaela Zebro- "I definitely believe in ghosts. I lived in a house with ghosts. Before I lived there, there was a funeral in the living room, but I didn't find that out until later. We would hear an old lady walking up and down the steps at night. The floor would creak when no one was walking on them. My mom would yell, "Go to bed Grandma," and she would stop."

Señora- "I do believe in bad spirits or bad souls that can take form of a ghost. They can influence people to do bad things. Something has to make those people do what they do, something higher."





Male Athlete of the Week– Jake Lynn

Brad Nelson
Staff Writer

Jake Lynn is the athlete of the week to wrap up the 2012 football season. He has done very well the past couple games before the season ended. Jake has always liked the sport of football since he was in elementary and since he has played in elementary he has kept playing and will until he graduates because he likes it so much.

He says he plans on going onto college to play his four years of football and does-

n't plan on going into the NFL. When I asked him what he did to improve throughout the season, he said he tried and did work hard every day at practice to get his fundamentals down to be a better player on the field during the football games.

His coaches thought he did very well for all the hard work he put into everyday at practice with improving from the beginning of the season to the end, especially with it being his first full season of being a quarterback. They also give him a lot of credit for starting his

sophomore year. Jake said he felt really good that he was the first quarterback to move the Aitkin football team onto the second round of playoffs in five years. He said though it wasn't all him he said the main reason they moved on was because it was a team thing. They all worked hard at it and made their goal of moving on to the second round of playoffs. Along with the end of this season he still has two full seasons to improve more and get better and maybe even get a trip to the state tournament.



Dance Season Start Up

Mitchell Fontaine
Whatever Editor

The Aitkin All Starz dance team is pretty awesome. In fact, according to Jared Bobenmoyer, junior at AHS, they're the only thing that Aitkin's good at, and even Peter "Kool-J" Kooljittiset thinks they're great, and he's never even seen them dance.

Drew Nordean, a freshman, said "They're pretty good looking."

All joking aside, the All Starz are pretty rockin'. They have gone to state for High Kick every year since 1993, and last

year took first in both High Kick and Jazz.

When a few dancers were asked what they were most looking forward to about this year, their answers varied. Kennedy Swanson, a senior and captain, said that she was looking forward to competing and spending time with the girls. Kassie Kokesh and Bailey Barber, both also seniors and captains, agreed that they were most excited for Sections, because they are at home and the crowd is always really loud. Madisen Kuppich, a sophomore, said she was most excited to "repeating State, what up!"

Well, according to Drew, "They

could possibly have a chance at sweeping State again, if they work hard like me."

They certainly do work hard, and can often be seen dancing all over the cafeteria long after sports practices are over. In fact, Madisen said that the worst part of dance was having a bad practice, and Bailey and Kassie both said that the worst part is three-hour practices. Kennedy said that the worst part was how long the season is, especially with balancing practice and homework. The dancers certainly have a good reputation, and we're all looking forward to seeing what this season brings. Good Luck All Starz!

Wrapping up the Football Season

Megan Welshons
Staff Writer

The boys finished their season this year on the Esko football field Saturday, Oct. 27. The boys came up short to the Eskomos with the score of 8-36. They played hard to get to the second round of sections, which has not happen since the 2007 season. This season the team was 2-8 with wins against East Central and then Virginia in the first round of section play. Most the games the Gobblers played were close games that came down to the last minutes, the homecoming game went into overtime with the Hilltoppers winning by only 1 point.

There were 16 seniors on the field for the gobblers this year and they will be missed next year. There were memories that they won't forget from this team. They had a hard season and they played it to the best they could. The school was always was there to cheer them on in the stands. Brian Wold said when asked about the season "I had fun with everyone and I know I will miss football these next years."

With this season ended it will not take that long for the next season to come running up fast. So it just wasn't your break boy's but be ready for next year to get back in those pads and play for the Gobblers once again. The town thanks you for the memories this year and are excited for next year.



The Legend of the Bloody Bell

Casey Mindrum
Staff Writer

Most of you have probably seen the giant bell resting in the entry way by the new gym, but how many of you know the legend behind it? The bell was part of the old school that was demolished to make way for the remodel of the new school. The bell was kept as a symbol and placed in the entry way near the new gym. Years passed with strange events happening before they finally connected the dots as to what happened in the old school.

There was a lonely old janitor who worked alone in the school almost every night, scrubbing floors and cleaning windows. He was a frail, distressed, and cruel old man, and he never spoke to anyone. During school hours the janitor would do his best to keep to himself but students were constantly calling him names and making messes for him to take care of. Years passed and the old man still talked to no one, and no one seemed to realize how closely related he was to the strange events happening in the school.

It was a chilly Thursday afternoon in late Oct. of 1952 when blood curdling screams erupted throughout the school. The staff rushed to find where the screaming was coming from with no avail. The screams stopped for a few minutes and then one loud ring came from the school bell. The entire school went dead silent. A few of the teachers slowly began their way to the bell, fearing what they would see. They opened the door to find a boy lying next to the school bell in a massive puddle of thick blood. He had been slammed with incredible force into the bell and split his head almost in half. They were repulsed, who could do this to a kid? The school was put on a lock down, the police were called, and

they began to search for the murderer. They searched almost all day, all of the other kids were picked up by their parents and most the staff had gone home. They called off the search, planning on returning the next day, but what they would find would change everything.



The Aitkin High School bell.

It was late afternoon and the only place they had left to search were the tunnels under the school. They came around the corner and what they found astonished them all. There was a single light hanging from the ceiling, above a small cot placed in the corner. A desk sat on the other side, full of papers. They began to read the papers and realized they were the records of every student who had gone missing over the years, along with photos, class schedules, and a list of their friends. Taped to the wall was a picture of the boy who was slammed into the school bell. They had found where the killer stayed and made his plans, but they had yet to find out who he was. They knew the tunnels went on and on so they left to make plans to close them off and

alert everyone on the other side of the tunnels. It was getting late so they decided to return again tomorrow for a final investigation.

When the police arrived back at the school the following morning they did a quick sweep of the area. Everything seemed to be cleared out, except the room housing the school bell. They went to check only to find the door was locked. They kicked it open only to find that hanging from a rope next to the bell was the janitor. He had murdered himself in the same place the brutal crime had been committed just two days before. He had something clutched between his fingers, a note. They pried his cold dead fingers apart and unfolded the piece of paper. It had only three words written on it in bold letters: 'I'll never leave'. They wondered: Could these deaths be connected somehow? Did the janitor murder the boy?

Time passed and wounds healed. Just as it seemed like the staff and students were getting back into their old routines a decision was made to demolish the school and remodel the entire thing. They kept a few things from the old school, the bell being one of them, and it seemed like a fresh start. After the remodel was finished it was nearing the second year anniversary of the two deaths, and people seemed to be on edge. Once again, it was late Oct. and the school was in full swing when one loud ring came from the bell. Thinking it was a student messing around, teachers went to investigate as the bell rang once more, then again, a constant ringing was coming from the bell. They came upon it only to see nothing. The bell was not moving but all they could hear was the sharp rings coming from a bell in the school. Will the unfortunate series of events happen once more? Have the old janitor and the young boy returned to wreak havoc? Only time will tell.

Who's Tat is that?

Megan Welshons
Staff Writer

In the last issue the tattoo said "I hope you dance." This is on the shoulder of our own gym teacher Ms. Waldorf. Now see if you can figure out who's tat is this?





Monster Buck Contest

Brian Wold
Staff Writer

This last weekend was the opening of one of the greatest holidays in Aitkin County. People from all over the state come up to Minnesota's north woods to try and get a piece of the nice deer that we have roaming around here. Aitkin County is known to have some very nice deer. The lady who works at the Farm Island Store said they had already registered 6 bucks on opening morning, one of them being a big 12 pointer. For the big buck contest this year in Aitkin High School, there are three people



Dan Bender with his 8-pointer

who have shot some pretty nice bucks. Andrew Erickson shot a nice 8 pointer this opening weekend, and Michael Roth

shot what he says to be a basket 11 pointer but it looks to be more like a basket 8 or 9. But the overall winner of the big buck contest is Dan Bender. This weekend Dan shot a monster 8 pointer. After talking to Dan it is surprising to find that he shot the monster on his 40 acre piece of land behind his house. His house is kind of by Farm Island Store. Most people think that you have to have a lot of land and food plots to shoot nice deer but Dan Bender proves that all wrong after shooting this buck and his 14 pointer in 8th grade. Congratulations Dan on your monster Buck!

Students discontent about school calendar

Chris Carlberg
Sports Editor

The school calendar has changed for this hunting season and many students are disappointed. Last year the Aitkin High School calendar gave hunters an early out Friday to finish packing and setting up stands and an extra day to hunt Monday. This year the calendar has changed.

I interviewed three students on the issue of the high school calendar and the changes that were made for the 2012 calendar concerning the opening rifle season. I received a couple comments about the students response to the school calendar changes. One student said, "It's dumb, it's a big state event and we should get it off". One student I talked to suggested, that students should

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Aitkin School Calendar

have the entire opener week off to hunt. Brad Nelson told me his deer was tagged on the extra Monday he got off last year.

Despite Monday being a school day 63 students were absent (according to Gloria Curtis).

When I met with Mr. Miller, who is a member of the calendar committee, he explained sound reasoning behind making calendar changes. The reasoning behind removing the free time on Friday and Monday was to allow for more freedom and flexibility with snow days as we approach spring. Also during the first trimester there are several days already being taken off such as MEA and Thanksgiving breaks.

The bright side is students will be given an extra day off to hunt on Friday. Are you unhappy with the calendar changes? From what I have found several students are unhappy with this year's calendar change but it hasn't affected anyone's hunting too dramatically.



Glee is for everybody!

Michelle Alvarez
Staff Writer

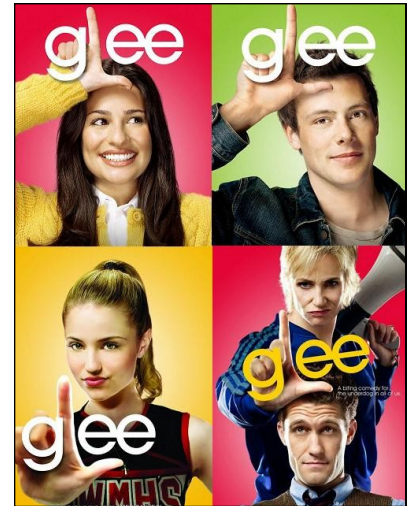
Everywhere you go you'll hear of Gleeks, those special little nerds that find random singing the bee's knees. But what makes Glee so special? It's a TV show centered on high school where unique and misunderstood teens come together to create the one thing they love, music. They sing songs that range from Lady Gaga to the Beatles, and the characters are as diverse as the music.

The characters grow and progress as the seasons go, but the emotions they bring seem to stay and linger. The singing sometimes gets cheesy and some of the jokes are a bit dry but for the most part I quite enjoy the show. High school is known for being a tough place, and Glee shows it. It's hard being the kid in the wheel chair, the daughter of gay parents, a gay teen or suffering the loss of a loved one. Those are all things that kids in different places deal with, being the odd one out. But Glee seems to make it come together quite wonderfully; it deals with hard

topics like suicide, high school pregnancies, and abuse.

As the seasons flew by Glee has done its best to stay in contact with teens and featuring the latest music. Glee has always been chalked up to your average High School Musical type of show by people that haven't given it the time of day, but the show isn't centered around the songs they pick, and they don't randomly (well, not a lot) break into song. So that's always a plus in my book, even if I do appreciate a bit of spontaneous singing.

Glee showcases people that differ from the normal, strive away from the typical everyday Joe, push to be noticed in a favorable light for what makes them different. So maybe Glee is overdramatic and flamboyant but the message it's trying to get across comes out loud and clear. Being ourselves is important. Glee never ceases to surprise me, with the wide range of hard topics they stumble upon and wonderfully moving music it's no surprise they have their own fan base.



Glee is a surprisingly witty, heart wrenching and intriguing TV show. It may be in its fourth season but I see a lot more in its future. Don't miss out on the fun, join the Gleek team!

The Union: Makes you think

Mitchell Fontaine
Whatever Editor

The Union: The Business Behind Getting High is a well made, extremely informational documentary. It examines the marijuana trade in British Columbia, as well as advocating the legalization of marijuana and explaining why ending the prohibition is a good thing. Director/producer/host Adam Scorgie plays an effective role in coherently and thoroughly conveying his point. The movie begins by explaining the history of marijuana in the U.S., and how farmers used to be able to cultivate hemp. However, all forms of cannabis, including hemp, were made illegal. The next 45 minutes of the movie are dedicated to debunking many popular myths about the dangers of marijuana. Scorgie drives his point home using a variety of interviews with numerous

university professors, public officials, and other health and marijuana experts. The movie then explores the drug use and culture in the U.S. and Canada, specifically focusing on the growing industry in British Columbia. The movie gets its title, The Union, from the vast network of growers, dealers, and other people involved in the marijuana trade. The film then goes on to elaborate on the numerous economic, legal, and medicinal benefits of legalizing marijuana.

While The Union is at times biased, presenting little of the other side against marijuana, everyone should still watch it. Even those strongly against marijuana legalization should suspend judgment and see this beautifully made documentary and learn something, or maybe even change their minds about marijuana use.

