

HOOFPRINT

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The 1st graders boogied to learn.

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“There are no traffic jams along the extra mile.”

Roger Staubach

ACTIVITIES

One Act Begins

Our Longhorn Play Production season is underway, with students currently rehearsing and preparing for technical aspects of the play. We will produce “The Devil and Daniel Webster” for this year’s NSAA one-act play contest season. The show is one of Stephen Vincent Benét’s takes on the cultural motif of making a “deal with the devil,” which is often associated with the legend of Faust, bluesman Robert Johnson, and numerous other people and stories that have been passed down through oral and written literature for generations. It is believed that Benét based this tale on the classic short story “The Devil and Tom Walker” written by the 19th century American author Washington Irving.

In Benét’s play, a young, down-on-his-luck farmer named Jabez sells his soul to Satan, attaining good fortune for a short while. Through the play, audience members clearly see he would have been better off accepting himself for who he was and working hard to reach his goals. When the Devil comes to collect the young man’s soul, a strong-willed friend, politician, and lawyer named Daniel Webster, steps in, challenging the Devil and proving that by standing up to the evils of this world and appealing to the good in people (even, ironically, jurors conjured up from hell), one can overcome what seem to be insurmountable odds.

Although this play has frequently been produced by schools and community theatres over the years, we believe you will find that we offer a fresh perspective on this classic tale.

More than twenty high school students are preparing to perform on stage and others will be involved with technical aspects of the play. Producing a quality theatrical production is a collaborative effort that draws on many talents. Mrs. Ippensen is excited about the possibilities this play presents for our students, and she is appreciative that Mr. Harris has agreed to assist with the direction of the production this year and that others in the community have expressed an interest in helping with various aspects of the play as well. “The Devil and Daniel Webster” will be performed on Fine Arts Night, scheduled for November 5th, and we hope to see you there! Look for more information in the school announcements as the date draws near and in future issues of the *Hoofprint*.

County Fair

Thirteen members of the Shickley FFA Chapter participated in the 2012 Fillmore County Fair, July 13 with fair cleanup, July 15 livestock check in, July 16 sheep and goat show, July 17 swine show, July 18 beef show, and July 19 Round Robin showmanship contest and annual livestock sale. (Read more about the Shickley FFA on pages 3 through 5).

County Fair Beef and Sheep

On Wednesday, six FFA members exhibited breeding beef and market beef. Dylan Lauenstein received a purple ribbon in beef showmanship and was recognized as the grand champion beef showman. He exhibited his 1246 lb. market steer and was awarded a purple ribbon, and in the carcass contest his steer received a purple ribbon and was named as the champion beef carcass. Tyler Lauenstein received a blue ribbon in showmanship and earned a purple ribbon on his market steer. In the final drive Tyler's 1270 lb. steer was named reserve champion market steer. Tyler's steer received a blue ribbon in the carcass contest. Megan Swartzendruber received a purple ribbon in beef showmanship and was awarded a purple ribbon on her 1316 lb. market steer. Her steer was named grand champion in the final drive of the market steer show, and ranked 4th in the beef carcass contest. Blake Stengel was awarded a purple ribbon in beef showmanship and earned a purple ribbon on his market steer. In the carcass contest Blake's steer received a purple ribbon. Carley Swartzendruber was awarded a purple ribbon in the beef showmanship contest and earned a purple ribbon on her 1506 lb. steer. In the carcass contest Carley received a purple ribbon. In the breeding beef show, Ben Elznic earned a blue ribbon in beef showmanship. His commercial breeding beef received a purple ribbon; cow/calf pair was awarded a purple ribbon and named reserve champion cow/calf pair. Ben's feeder calf was awarded a purple ribbon and name the reserve champion feeder calf. Congratulations to our members on their awards.

During the sheep show, John Alfs exhibited a breeding ewe receiving a purple ribbon and had the reserve champion breeding ewe. John was awarded a purple ribbon in sheep showmanship. He exhibited a market lamb and received a blue ribbon. John also showed a market goat and received a purple ribbon in showmanship and was the reserve champion showman. His market goat merited a purple ribbon and was reserve champion market goat.

Carley Swartzendruber exhibited 2 market lambs, receiving a purple ribbon in showmanship and earning two purple ribbons on her lambs. Carley's 127 lb. lamb was selected as the reserve champion market lamb. Congratulations to our members on their awards.



Ben Elznic and Nathan Hendrickson with Ben's commercial breeding cow/calf pair.

Swine at the County Fair

On the 17th, 8 members participated in the swine show. John Alfs received a purple ribbon in showmanship, was awarded purple ribbon on his breeding gilt, earned 3 purples on his market gilts and had the grand champion market gilt and reserve champion market gilt. John exhibited the over all reserve champion market swine, and received a purple ribbon in the carcass contest. Amy Hendrickson received a blue ribbon in the showmanship contest. She was awarded a blue ribbon on her 257 lb. market barrow and a purple ribbon on her 296 lb. market barrow. Amy's barrow was the reserve champion market barrow; she received a blue ribbon in the carcass contest. Nathan Hendrickson received a blue ribbon in swine showmanship and received two purples on his market barrows. Nathan was awarded with a purple ribbon in the carcass contest and was ranked third in the contest.



Devin Sheffield shows his market gilt. Although Devin attends Exeter-Milligan school he still remains an active member of Shickley FFA

Samantha Plock received a purple ribbon in swine showmanship and was awarded a purple ribbon on her breeding gilt which was the reserve champion breeding gilt. She received a blue ribbon on her 237 lb. market barrow and earned a purple ribbon in the carcass contest. Devin Sheffield was awarded a blue ribbon in swine showmanship. He earned a blue ribbon on his market gilt and a purple ribbon on his 238 lb. barrow. Devin received a purple ribbon in the swine carcass contest. Blake Stengel received a purple ribbon in swine showmanship and was awarded a blue ribbon and purple ribbon on his market gilt exhibits. Blake was awarded a blue ribbon in the carcass contest. Megan Swartzendruber received a blue ribbon in the swine showmanship contest. Her market gilt was awarded a blue ribbon and received a purple ribbon in the carcass contest that ranked 2nd overall, being named reserve champion over all. Madison Yantzie received a blue ribbon in swine showmanship and awarded a blue ribbon on her market swine. In the carcass contest Madison earned a blue ribbon. Congratulations to our members on their awards.

Special Awards

On Thursday during the round robin showmanship contest ,winners from each of the species exhibited at the fair go head to head in determining the overall showman of the fair. Participants show beef, swine, sheep, and horses as part of the contest. Knowledge of each species is also part of the contest. This year's winner was Dylan Lauenstein. With this award Dylan went on to the state fair and participated in the Elite showmanship contest and competed against FFA and 4H members from across the state. Congratulations, Dylan!

Each year FFA Chapters and 4-H clubs are judged on herdsmanship during the course of the fair; cleaning of isles/pens and caring for animals are part of the contest. The overall award is presented by the Earl Houck family to the outstanding organization. This year's winner was the Shickley FFA Chapter. Thanks go out to all members who help make this recognition possible.

Congratulations to all members who participated in the fair this year. Your hard work and dedication to prepare your projects for this activity along with the support and help of your parents is what make this happen.



Dylan Lauenstein showing his market
steer

In The Classroom

2nd, 3rd, and 4th Grades to State Fair

On Monday August 27, the 2nd through 4th grade students went to the Nebraska State Fair. This activity was sponsored by SPA (Shickley Parent Association). The students were able to enjoy many educational activities throughout the day. One of these was learning about wolves and tigers. They also enjoyed asking questions at various booths that involved agriculture. In the birthing pavilion they were able to see a variety of newborn animals. At the end of the field trip the students were delighted to meet Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman. They had a fun time discussing agriculture.

1st Grade Boogie



The 1st graders made a poster about manners and how to be polite to others. They conducted a couple of experiments and watched some videos using our brand-new science series. They are reviewing the alphabet sounds and reading many books containing words with short vowels. The students have been practicing reading their new direction words. They learned a new song, "Brain Boogie Boosters", and they love to burn off extra energy with their dance moves. In math the children have been busy practicing writing their numbers and learning how to read and follow directions.

7th Grade to Courage Retreat



Front row: Wyatt D., Thomas M., Jacob S., Lexi K. Back row: Kellen R., Holden S., Anthony B., Makaleigh Y. (Student Leader), Carley E., Megan G., and Megan S.

The Shickley 7th grade class recently participated in a Courage Retreat at Malcolm High School. This high-energy, interactive retreat was delivered by Youth Frontiers. Since 1987 Youth Frontiers, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization based in Minneapolis, has been delivering programs to build positive school communities that help young people realize the importance of respecting themselves and others. The students enjoyed group-building activities as well as small and large group activities. Each small group activity was facilitated by a high school student leader.

Noel's Notes

The elementary years are the times in which children change from little kids to the beginnings of young adults. They go from always needing their parents help to trying out their independence. The elementary guidance program looks at all of the aspects of being a younger child and ways in which they can be better citizens in the world, in the Shickley community, in the school, and in their families. I meet with each elementary class every week to discuss how to be a better friend, bullying and its consequences, how to be a better student, and how to be a better citizen in the community. This month we are spending a lot of time talking about our goals for the upcoming school year, how to be a more independent person and how to be a better student. Kindergarten and 1st grade students are learning about how to properly sit in their chairs and how to be an active listener. Second through sixth grade students are developing both short and long-term goals for their classes, friendships and activities they do outside of school. The fifth graders attended a Kindness Youth Retreat on August 22, in Milligan. Students from five separate schools attended including E-M, Friend, Dorchester and Malcolm. The students learned what it means to be kind in different situations and how that affects a person's day and possibly life.

At the beginning of August, Shickley Public School was awarded a 5-year grant from Education Quest to help promote additional education or training after high school graduation. Some great things that will come about because of the grant are that each student will have the opportunity to visit up to 13 college campuses within his/her high school career, seniors will attend a college fair, juniors and seniors will receive additional help signing up for ACT/SAT/COMPASS tests, and seniors will complete at least one college application throughout their senior year. Although this grant is focused on improving post-secondary education, those that are not going on to college will also find benefits, such as job training. The college visits will occur during the school day and will be school sponsored activities.

Within the high school, many students have been accumulating community service hours. Each student is required to complete five hours of community service per year of attendance at Shickley High School. If you or anyone you know needs the help of a student earning community service, please call the school at (402) 627-3375.

Longhorn Letter from the Principal

Thomas Edison once said, “There’s a better way to do it. Find it!” At Shickley Public School, we are continually working to find ways to make the educational process better and more effective. This year, we have implemented a number of changes in the search of a better way to educate our students. A few of them are below:

- In science, we ordered new textbooks for grades K-12. This new science program is focused on understanding the concepts and content of science, through a number of different mediums and means. It is reading heavy, inquiry heavy, and involves digital content.
- This year we implemented a pilot program to institute a 1:1 learning environment. Initially, our plan was to bring the laptops into the school slowly, but in discussions with our students and teachers, we have moved the implementation dates forward. At the beginning of the second quarter, our seniors will move to a 1:1 learning environment, and at the beginning of second semester, our freshmen and sophomores will also move to a 1:1 learning environment. At the beginning of next year, our junior high will move into the 1:1 learning environment, and our move will be complete. Along with these changes, we will also see a change in focus from memorization and recall to practical application of knowledge and skills. This project-based learning and assessment is a more effective way to teach content and to develop understanding and skills needed to master content.
- In grades K-6, we have provided our students with more iPads, which are being used more and more everyday by our teachers to help our students practice developing skills and to improve on each student’s relative weaknesses.

Everyone at Shickley, from the students to the teachers, administrators, and staff, is continually challenged to find a better way to do what we do. By trying new techniques, approaches, and ideas, we are able to find those that work, and those that don’t. Then by sharing the results, we are able to learn together and discover how best to educate our students, all in our efforts of preparing our students to be successful.

Success doesn’t happen through the actions of a single individual; it’s won through the collective behavior of all the individuals in a system striving to achieve a single, common goal. Our goal every day is to see each student grow and develop into the person they can be. It has been exciting to see students come back to school after they have been away for the summer, and to hear their stories of their adventures and mishaps. Little did they know that even when they were having fun all summer, they were growing and learning.

As always, if you have any questions regarding the school, academics, activities, our expectations and policies, or if you would like to share in the process of preparing our students to be successful, please don’t hesitate to stop in and talk, or give us a call.

Longhorn Letter from the Superintendent

I now officially have my “feet wet” as the new superintendent here at Shickley Public Schools. In that time I have met and have begun to know a lot of great kids, staff, parents, and patrons that call this place home. It has been an easy transition for me and my family so I personally want to thank everyone for that. As the “new guy,” I have not made many changes here, partly because I want to learn more about the district. If you have not been in the school to see, there have been some nice changes to the facility, some of which are finished and there are some that still need completed. The main gymnasium has new lighting as well as a newly painted floor. The new stage lighting system has not been completed but should be soon. Other lighting upgrades have been made in areas for the facility as well. LCD projectors have been mounted in most of the rooms for the teachers to enhance their instruction. By mounting these, it will reduce the “wire mess” throughout the rooms and makes them more user and kid friendly. Throughout the year there will be more minor changes along with another plan for facility improvement for next summer.

We have received our scores from the NeSA and our students performed very well. If you have a student in our system, you should be very proud of them and their accomplishments. The actual numbers of performance of our students will be placed into my report to patrons that I will mail out in November. Another assessment, which provides us more useful information, is the MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) test. This test is a growth model test, meaning we can give the test three times a year to show progress or lack thereof to help us target certain areas or even students and get them more help as the year progresses. This is very different from NeSA as this assessment is a “one day one shot” kind of tool. Using MAP scores will help us plan for the year as well as the future. The results from these assessments will also be provided in my November mailing.

Lastly, I have had some people ask me about my article in the newspaper about whether I was just saying that this is the best place I have lived to please the public or make myself look good. From the bottom of my family’s heart, this is the nicest community that we have lived in. Let me give you a couple of examples. First, this is the first year I have never had to pick my own sweet corn. It seemed like every time I opened my door, another person was offering us more corn which was great. Secondly, I talked to my fifth grade daughter when she came home from school the first day. She told me that it was her best first day of school she has ever had. Normally that wouldn’t mean much, but this was her 6th first day of school, and she has had these days at 4 different schools. There are numerous other examples I could provide from my wife’s standpoint as well as my children. Shickley is a great place to be and we look forward to becoming more and more a part of this community. Again, I thank the Board for trusting me in this position, and I am excited about moving this district to even greater things.