

Tigertalk

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Spending
Christmas
Away
From
Home

MPHS
Sports
News



**MPHS Christmas
King Jamarion Brown &
Queen Diana Sandoval**

Volume 45

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Career Training Center students rang the Salvation Army bell at Brookshires recently. It is an annual event for the students. Pictured are Charles Davis, Juan Canada, Seth Carter with a Brookshires customer making a donation.

Tigertalk

NEWS STAFF

Editor: Debora Trejo

Staff Writers, Photographers, Designers: Madison Adams, Megan Adams, Odalys Adame, Miguel Arrellano, Kimberly Galvan, Jose Reyes, Gavin Rider and Grace Whitten

Advisor: John Whitten

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Exchange students adapt to living in America, being away from home

By GRACE WHITTEN
Tigertalk Staff Writer

This school year, MPHS has welcomed two foreign exchange students, Nathalie Burgemeister and Mina Kollen Larsen.

Both students are experiencing Christmas away from home this year and instead are spending it with their host family. Tigertalk staff interviewed Burgemeister and Larsen on their experience at Mount Pleasant High School and their time here so far.

Where are you from and what is your primary language?

Nathalie – Hamburg, Germany; German

Mina – Arendal, Norway; Norwegian

Who is your host family?

Nathalie – The Courreges family

Mina – The Courreges family

What made you want to become a foreign exchange student?

Nathalie – “I’ve always been interested in the American culture because I watched American movies (like High School Musical) and shows (like Hannah Montana) on TV since I was a child. I also really liked learning English in school.

It was my favorite subject. I also wanted to go on the adventure of going to a foreign country alone and just see how every-



Burgemeister and Kollen Larsen are wrapping up their first semester at Mount Pleasant High School.

thing goes as well as get to know new people and have fun.”

Mina – “I like to see new places and meet new people. Since I loved the year I spent in New York, it made me want to do it again.”

What do you like about America? What do you find weird?

Nathalie – “I love that people (especially in the south) are more talkative and friendly in public. In Germany, I wouldn’t just talk to strangers when

standing in line for example but here it’s normal and I like that.

“I think it’s weird that we’re allowed to be on our phones during class. In Germany, we couldn’t do that. I also had to really get used to saying sir/ma’am. In Germany we respect people by just saying Mr./Mrs.”

Mina – “I like that most people are very outgoing and friendly compared to people in Norway. One thing I find weird is that

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Rose named DAR Good Citizen

Caroline Rose, daughter of Kevin and Tracie Rose, was recently selected as the MPHS DAR Good Citizen.

The Martha Laird Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution sponsors the DAR Good Citizen program in our area. This contest is designed to honor an outstanding young person in a high school's senior class who demonstrates the four qualities of a DAR Good Citizen: Dependability, Service, Leadership, and Patriotism.

Caroline has held numerous leadership roles in campus organizations. She is currently Captain of the Speech and Debate team, President of the National Honor Society, and President of the Interact Club. During her junior year, she was President of the Speech and Debate team, Vice President of Interact, and was elected Secretary of the Junior class.

In addition to leadership, service to the community is another important characteristic that good citizens possess. Caroline participated in Cosmo Scholars as a peer tutor, assisted in running speech and debate tournaments, and helped with local elementary school fall festival activities.

She has also spent time volunteering in her church nursery, collecting and providing wheel chairs for community members to use at the Titus County Fair, and helping with the Adopt a Highway program. She has served her church as a cell group leader since her freshman year.

Caroline was a national qualifier for FBLA competition, a state qualifier in Congressional debate, and a regional qualifier in Lin-



Rose shown with Principal Craig Bailey.

coln-Douglas debate. She received the Academic Blanket Award for Spanish II Pre-AP and has been on the A Honor Roll for her entire high school career.

Being selected as the MPHS Good Citizen provides Caroline the opportunity to participate in the scholarship portion of the program at the local Chapter level. Each contest entry will be evaluated by independent, non-DAR judges and the winning entry will advance through state and national levels of judging.

Students from Page 4

people wear pajamas and sweats in public (school, stores, etc.) because in Norway, we dress up for almost everything.”

What is your favorite Christmas tradition?

Nathalie – “I love decorating the Christmas tree every year!”

Mina – “My favorite Christmas tradition is going skiing/snow boarding with my friends.”

How is Christmas at home compared to here in America?

Nathalie – “Way colder!!! I love how you can just put on a sweater here and you won’t be cold most of the time. It’s

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very similar, but one thing that I didn’t see are the traditional Christmas markets. We have them everywhere in Germany and I enjoy just going there with my family or friends in the evening for hot chocolate, hot punch and enjoying the cute booths and lights.”

Mina – “People here decorate way more and start a lot earlier than they do in Norway. In my family, we focus more on the last couple of days before Christmas, which is when we decorate the tree and make gingerbread cookies. This is also when we spend lots of time with family.”



CHRISTMAS PARADE





Whitten and Thompson are both very active on the high school campus.

Thompson, Whitten picked for All-School Boy and Girl

By DEBORA TREJO
Tigertalk Editor

This year the faculty and staff have selected Grace Whitten and Kaleb Thompson as All School Boy and Girl.

Grace is the daughter of John and Suzy Whitten. She has been involved in many school organizations including: Cheer, Tiger Dolls, HOSA, FBLA, Student Council, NHS, NTHS, UIL Math, UIL English, Newspaper, Practicum in Health Science and was elected as 2020 class president.

She plans to attend a Texas A&M University to pursue a career in psychiatry. Whitten's role model to her success has been her late grandmother, Mariguinn Butler also known as Granny Bee.

Grace enjoys traveling and photography. Her favorite food is sushi and her favorite subject is math because there is always a right answer.

Whitten also explained her feelings toward the recognition.

"I felt very honored to be chosen by the faculty and staff," Whitten said. The recognition means so much to me and I'm grateful the faculty felt I was deserving of this award"

Kaleb is the son of Delann and Kenny Thompson. In high school he has also been active in many organizations including NHS, NTHS, varsity Baseball and Football.

Thompson also received recognition as baseball Newcomer of the Year his freshman year, football utility player his junior

year. He was also in baseball's second team his sophomore year and first team his junior year.

Kaleb plans to continue playing baseball in college while he starts his dental career. His father is his role model to his success.

Thompson enjoys playing sports including baseball and football. He also enjoys hunting and fishing. Whataburger is his favorite food and his favorite subject is science because he likes experiments.

When asked how he felt about being recognized he said, "It felt amazing! I still can't believe they chose me out of all the guys in my class. I feel so loved and I am thankful that my teachers chose me for this honor"



Alvarado and Rodriguez were recognized by their senior classmates.

Rodriguez, Alvarado are selected Mr. and Miss MPHS by classmates

By **JOSE REYES**
Tigertalk Staff Writer

John Rodriguez and Clara Alvarado have been selected by their senior class as Mr. and Miss MPHS.

Clara is the daughter of Jose Luis & Lorena Alvarado.

She has been a 4-year cheerleader along with being involved in many school organizations such as NHS, NTHS, Student Council and HOSA. Her plans after high school are to attend the University of Texas in Austin and major in Speech- Language Pathology.

"I felt very honored to have been chosen as Miss MPHS by my peers. I appreciate the love and support I have received," Alvarado said.

Her favorite food is Mexican tostadas and her

favorite class is photography "because it is fun."

Clara's role model is her mom.

"She has taught me perseverance and working hard to attain my goals. She believed in me before I did," Clara said.

John is the son of Juan & Loruama Rodriguez. He has been a 4-year band student as well as being part of NHS, UIL Spelling and Ready Writing, and RYLA.

John has received many awards such as academic blankets for Spanish II, III, and IIII and was recently crowned MPHS Homecoming King.

His plans after high school are to attend the University of Texas in Austin and major in biomedical engineering.

His hobbies include

hanging out with friends, chess, reading, and listening to music

"First, I would like to thank everyone who voted for me," Rodriguez said. "It means a lot to be recognized with this honor. I feel much appreciated and I hope I can keep living up to the expectations.

"Just a big thanks to everyone who has ever pushed me to do better."

His favorite food includes seafood, specifically shrimp and his favorite class is math and science "because I love problem solving and reasoning."

His role model is Steve Jobs, who was one of the founders of Apple.

"He completely altered the technology world and became successful despite beginning poor," Rodriguez said.

Boys basketball off to great start

By GRACE WHITTEN
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The varsity boys' basketball team has started the 2019-20 season with a number of wins in non-district games and tournaments across the area.

The team endured quite an adjustment after losing nine seniors from last season but has redeemed themselves with young talent. The 12 member team, which consists of two freshmen and sophomores, has not let their age define their abilities.

Assistant Coach Drew Barkley believes "this season should be very exciting with lots of young talent on the floor".

The freshmen and sophomores seem to not be intimidated by the height and age of their opponents.

Freshman point guard, Payton Chism, has said the biggest adjustment is the "change of the game speed from 8th grade to varsity."

A number of the players are multi-sport athletes, with a chunk of them coming straight from the football field. Although the transition may be hard for some, Barkley states the coaches "encourage our players to play multiple sports to promote their overall athletic development."

With a lot of tough teams in the team's district, the coaches and players are still heading into the season strong with confidence in their abilities.

Head Coach Joey Chism believes the team "belongs up there with the top teams in our district."

Players and coaches both believe that Sulphur Springs and Texas High will be the team's biggest competitor this season.



Brown (11) and the Tigers have started strong.



Hills goes up to pull down a rebound.

As they begin this season, the coaches will be working on improving their defensive abilities and playing fast as well as adjusting to the change in players.

The coach strongly believes the game is "all about pace, space, and ball movement."

He said that his perspective is, "you will win 90 percent of your games if you can win 2 out of the 3 battles which includes free-throws, rebounds and turnovers.

District games begin on Jan. 17th at home versus Texas High.

Team members for this season include seniors Jamarion Brown, David Smith, and Jamell Hargrave. Juniors are Brock Cooper, Eliyah Tagg, Xzavier Brown, Kebo Hines, Zaveion Okoh, and Devin Williams. Sophomores are Will Hills and Miller McCrumby. Freshmen include Kelcey Morris and Payton Chism.

Girls basketball team hopes for much success this season

By MIGUEL ARRELLANO
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The girls' basketball team is showing other schools that the Lady Tigers are ready to play this season.

The Lady Tigers are off to a solid start this season with a record of 11-4.

The team has a mixture of experience blended with youth. There are four seniors and one junior on varisty along with three freshman and two sophomores.

Senior Danielle Merriman said fans can expect to see a team that will fight hard to the end.

"This year's team is strong and will fight through every win or loss," Merriman said. "It will definitely be games you want to attend."

Senior Zareyah Webster added that the team will also put in the work to be successful.

"You can expect us to come together and work as a team. We have a family bond that will last forever," Webster said.

Merriman said practice is key to preparation for the team.

"We are even practicing the day of the game," Merriman said. "We also watch film, and try to fix the little things, because they're what matter the most."

The Lady Tigers took third place in both the Forney and Chapel Hill Tournaments already this season.

They also defeated state-ranked Gilmer.

Merriman said that the team has strong leadership which is helping the team having a great start to the season.

"Our coach (Tina Carril-



Keeton dribbles the ball against a Gilmer defender.



Merriman works against a Pleasant Grove player.

lo) is always pushing us and telling us she knows we can go to state," Merriman said.

"We also have good senior leadership this year, and they all want to make it to the top."

Webster said that any support the team is beneficial as well.

"It is very important to have school spirit. It shows love to us, Webster said.

The Lady Tigers will begin district play on Jan. 10 when they play at Lindale.

Team members along with Merriman and Webster include seniors Kenya Bates and Taryanna McNarry, junior Autumn Jackson, sophomores Citreauna Keeton and Amiah Thornton and freshmen Paris Beard, Jordan Hargrave and Kendall Walker.



Front row from left are MaKayla Houchin, Reese Ball, Hannah Harvill and Katie Ochoa. Back row from left are: Jack Welborn, Caleb Ball, Jacob Elliott, Ryan Sharp and Sam Sloan.

Swimmers compete in Texarkana

By MIGUEL ARELLANO
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The high school swim team had 16 swimmers recently take part in the Texas interscholastic swim coach's association (TISCA) meet in Texarkana.

Three of our own swimmers advanced to the finals. There was more than 450 swimmers who competed at the meet.

Tiger swimmers advancing included Ryan Sharp, Ty Hearron, and MaKayla Houchin. Sharp placed fourth overall in the 100-meter butterfly and 5th overall in the 100-meter backstroke. Hearron placed 11th overall in the 100-meter freestyle while Houchin placed 15th overall in the 100-meter butterfly. Keep in mind only 16 finalist qualified in each event, quit impressive.

After all that work it makes you wonder how does the team prepare for a meet? Sharp said the team has a routine for each meet.

"We ride in the van together, stretch together as a team, warm up and talk about our plan before each race," Sharp said.

Like any team, there are some challenges that they must go through. Ryan said one of their major challenges they faced as a team is no having a pool locally.

"One major challenge we've faced, as a team is the lack of a pool on our town during all seasons except summer. This is our biggest challenge that will continue to be a struggle for the team," Sharp said.



Houchin competes at a meet.

The swim team will have three more meets in the coming weeks before the district meet in January, which is held at Texarkana College. We wish you the best of luck MPHS swim team.



Lilly, center, signs her letter of intent as her parents and new coach look on.

Lilly signs softball scholarship

Surrounded by family and friends, senior Maggie Lilly recently signed a letter of intent to play softball for The University of Arkansas-Rich Mountain next year.

She will be a member of the university's very first softball team. She is the daughter of Stephen and Tonya Lilly.

Lilly is a four-year varsity letterman and has played 3rd base, catcher, and designated player. She was named 1st team Utility Player in 2019, 1st team Designated Player in 2018 and has earned All-District honors

three times.

Her team awards include the Lady Tiger Heart award in 2019, the Lady Tiger Most Improved award in 2018, and the Lady Tiger Academic Award in 2017.

"I am very excited for Maggie and this great accomplishment," said MPHS Softball coach, Jeremy Tarrant. "She has worked extremely hard both on the field and with her academics. We wish her continued success at UA-Rich Mountain as she has had at MPHS."

Ramirez competes at Class 5A State cross country meet

Senior Brian Ramirez, shown left, competed last month at the UIL Class 5A State Cross Country Invitational.

Ramirez finished 44th out of 152 runners at the state meet. He had a time of 15 minutes, 54.19 seconds which was almost a minute better than his state time in 2018.

Last year, Ramirez finished in 81st at state. He was able to improve his finishing spot by almost 40 places.

Ramirez was among the top 28 percent of the runners at state.

He qualified for state by placing ninth at the regional meet. Both the varsity boys and varsity girls competed at regionals this year.

As a team, the boys came in fifth place out of 24 teams, while the girls placed 11th overall.



Seniors Fuentes, Hunnicutt selected Wendy's Heisman High School winners

From an applicant pool of thousands of high school scholar-athletes graduating with the class of 2020, more than 3,600 have been named School Winners in the Heisman Trophy Trust's scholarship competition. Seniors Virginia Fuentes and Colby Hunnicutt have been chosen as School Winners from Mount Pleasant High School.

Fuentes, daughter of Angelica Fuentes and Jose Luis Fuentes, is a 4-year letterman in Lady Tiger Soccer. She has been awarded 2nd Team All-District Forward, 2nd Team All-District Defender, 1st Team All-District Defender, and Academic All-District. In addition to her outstanding performance in soccer, she will graduate in the Top 10% of the Class of 2020.

She is president of the National Technical Honor Society, secretary of the National Honor Society, and section leader of the flute section in the MPHS Goin' Gold Band. She is also a member of FBLA and Practicum in Health Science Medical Assistant Program. Fuentes has volunteered in various capacities to serve her community.

She has helped with Adopt-a-Highway, Salvation Army, Health Fairs, Coat Drives, and has been a referee for the Mt. Pleasant Youth Soccer Association.

Hunnicutt, son of Windey and Todd Owens and Chad Hunnicutt, is a member of the MPHS Varsity Baseball team. He was awarded 2nd Team All-District Utility in 2018. He will graduate in the Top 10% of the Class of 2020 and is a member of the National Honor Society.

He participated in UIL Math competitions and received the Academic Blanket Award in Biology for the highest overall average in the course. Hunnicutt spends time volunteering with the Adopt-A-Highway program, the Salvation Army, and he has helped serve veterans at our local Veteran's Day Program.

He also helps his school by working concession stands and helping with the college fair.



From left are Hunnicutt, Principal Craig Bailey and Fuentes.

The Heisman High School Scholarship extends the Heisman prestige to our nation's most esteemed high school seniors by recognizing and rewarding outstanding scholar-athletes who understand that the most important victories not only happen on the field, but in their schools and communities.

These remarkable young leaders set the example and make a game-changing difference every day, paving the way to greatness for everyone around them.

To apply, students must be graduating with the class of 2020, have a cumulative weighted high school grade point average of a B (3.0) or better, participate in at least one of the 48 sports recognized by the International Olympic Committee and/or the National Federation of State High School Association and be a leader in his/her school and community.

Senior Spotlight on John Rodriguez

By ODALYS ADAME
Tigertalk Staff Writer

John Rodriguez has been busy with various events in school and outside of school. He is vice-president of the National Honor Society as well as assistant drum major for the Goin' Gold Band.

He participates in the UIL spelling and ready writing events. His peers would describe him as a kind and intelligent person who is there for anyone. Rodriguez was also crowned this year's Homecoming King.

What are your favorite parts of being a drum major this year?

Definitely being able to watch the show from a podium. It's really pretty seeing it all work together.

What have been some challenges with juggling band and schoolwork?

On some days, it feels like there is not enough time for both.

How has being in band affected your life?

It has taught me to learn how to manage my time, and it has allowed me to meet amazing people.

What motivated you to try out for drum major?

My friends were a huge motivation-



Rodriguez is assistant drum major. al factor. I also wanted to see how far I could go and test my limits.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

Just a special thanks to the people that have supported me since day one and to those that have not, thanks for fueling my motivation.

Cosmo students reach next level of competition

Students in the cosmetology program recently entered the Student Fall/Holiday Style Contest sponsored by RDA beauty supply in Longview. Students had to create a style/updo using only styling products sold at RDA and their own creativity, then submit photos of their creation to RDA.

Four MPHS students, Erica Garcia, Leslie Patino, Eimy Candelerio, and Vanesa Hernandez, had their photos chosen to advance to the next level of competition. Garcia, Patino, Candelerio, and Hernandez submitted their mannequins to RDA.

State|RDA is a distributor of top-of-the-line professional beauty supplies and salon furniture. The Mount Pleasant High School Cosmetology program is under the direction of Aleshia Rivera. Garcia and Patino are juniors, while Candelerio and Hernandez are seniors.



From left are Garcia, Patino, RDA Manager Tresina Stuckey, Candelerio and Hernandez.



Pictured above are the newest NHS members.

NHS holds induction ceremony

The National Honor Society recently inducted 46 new members during a special ceremony. The new members join the 36 returning senior of the chapter.

To be inducted into NHS, a student must have earned a weighted cumulative GPA of 5.10 and must meet certain service standards, as well as character standards, as exemplified in behavior and personal conduct both on and off campus. The NHS inducts students who meet the criteria in their junior or senior year during the fall semester.

NHS officers are President Caroline Rose, Vice President John Rodriguez, Secretary Virginia Fuentes, Treasurer Abigail Mason, Parliamentarian Brooke Vaughn and Historian Felicity Miller.

The 2019-2020 new members are:

Senior Inductees: Alvin Gonzalez, Jennifer Leyva, Katia Lopez, Ariel Parr, Keyla Plancarte, Hilda Ro-

driguez, Debora Trejo and Viridiana Ysasi.

Junior Inductees: Madison Adams, Megan Adams, Jalissa Alvarez, Ashleigh Amerson, Osbaldo Benitez, Lily Burrows, Alexis Caddell, Mya Clark, Victor Diaz, Maiko Estrada, Gaven Fife, Bryan Flores, Christian Flores, Isabella Greco, BreAsia Hargrave, Kylie Hedge, Peyton Hein, Jashari Inostros, Nia Jackson, Makayla Kirkwood, Zaushalynn Lee, Faith Logan, Preston Nguyen, Matthew Phillips, Reid Pinckard, Sashi Poudel, McKala Price, Alejandra Ramirez, Patricia Roque, Jakayla Sanders, Nicholas Segovia, Ryan Sharp, Taryn Thurman, Tyler Welborn, Jaycee Woods and De'Asia Woodson.

Honorary inductees include two exchange students attending MPHS: Nathalie Burgemeister from Germany and Mina Kollen Larsen from Norway.

Returning senior members of the NHS Chapter are

Clara Alvarado, Christopher Araiza, Aaliyah Avellaneda, Caleb Ball, Daisy Bautista, Ashley Benyshek, Hailey Benyshek, Connor Brison, Keatra Brown, Shelby Courreges, Baylee Craig, Natali Delgado, Virginia Fuentes, Erika Galindo, Jimmy Gonzalez, Maritza Gonzalez, Aliyaah Howard, Natalie Howard, Colby Hunnicutt, Jacqueline Juarez, Maggie Lilly, Abigail Mason, Felicity Miller, David Nava, Israel Perez, Brian Ramirez, Omar Ramirez, Jordan Rivas, John Rodriguez, Caroline Rose, Yessenia Serna, Lizbeth Tavares, Kaleb Thompson, Heriberto Vargas, Brooke Vaughn, and Emily Walden.

Members of the MPHS National Honor Society Faculty Council are LeAnne Blalock, Regina Crouch, Jerilyn Goolsby, Ann Jenkins, Lindy Merriman, Maryna Otero, Larry Russell, Bryan Trickey and Todd Burns.

The MPHS National Honor Society Advisor is David Clark.



NTHS new inductees for the 2019-2020 school year.

NTHS inducts 44 new members

The National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) inducted 44 new members at a candlelight ceremony held in the high school auditorium.

To be a member of NTHS, a student must be enrolled in a Career and Technical Education (CTE) class, must maintain a cumulative weighted GPA of 5.1, must be a member of a CTE organization (FBLA, HOSA, SkillsUSA, FFA, FCCLA, TPSA), must complete service hours and must maintain a clean discipline record.

The 44 juniors and seniors join the 25 returning NTHS senior members.

New members for 2019-2020 include Madison Adams, Megan Adams, Ashleigh Amerson, Jacinto Barboza, Alicia

Bello, Ashley Benyshek, Hailey Benyshek, Aunesti Brannon, Ashlynn Brooks, Lily Burrows, Ruben Carreon, Saide Carrillo, Ke'mya Davis, Jenifer Deciga, Deyanira Delgado, Estela Dorantes, Anna Elliott, Haidie Fielder, Christian Flores, Cristy Garcia, David Garcia, Alvin Gonzalez, Maritza Gonzalez, Anna Harris, Peyton Hein, Vanesa Hernandez, Alexandra Ibanez, Jacqueline Juarez, Jennifer Leyva, Faith Logan, Jaquelin Lomeli, Sakinah Mason, Nataly Morales, Valeria Moreno, Leslie Olvera, Sashi Poudel, Samantha Phillips, Essence Ponce, Omar Ramirez, Maira Rocha, Alex Rogers, Patricia Roque, Allyson Swafford, and Emily Walden.

The returning senior members are Clara Alvarado, Aaliyah Avellana, Daisy Bautista (Reporter), Keatra Brown (Secretary), Baylee Craig, Jose Flores, Virginia Fuentes (President), Erika Galindo, Natalie Howard, Maggie Lilly, Abigail Mason (Vice President), Felicity Miller, Ariel Parr, Keyla Plancarte, Jackelyn Puente, Hilda Rodriguez, McKenzi Rolf, Laura Sanchez, Lizbeth Tavares (Officer at Large), Jaquelyn Torres, Debora Trejo (Historian), Sophy Turner, Heriberto Vargas, Paola Ventura, and Viridiana Ysasi (Treasurer).

Sponsors for the organization are MPHS Career and Technology teachers Donna Davis and Jackie Scoggins.

Senior picked for superlative honors

By DEBORA TREJO
Tigertalk Editor

Congratulations to the following senior students elected as superlatives by their fellow classmates.

The students are listed below for each category they were selected.

Most Athletic: Boys- Jamarion Brown, Tyke Fluellen and Brian Ramirez; Girls- Estela Dorantes, Virginia Fuentes and Taryanna McNary

Most Talented: Boys- Isai Baltazar, Pedro Portillo and Erick Salazar; Girls- Jenifer Deciga, Rylie Hardison and Baley O'Neal

Most Likely to Succeed: Boys- Colby Hnnicutt, Sam Pearson and John Rodriguez; Girls- Shelby Courreges, Abby Mason and Felicity Miller

Most Sarcastic: Boys- Alan

Flores, Jamell Hargrave and Said Vargas; Girls- Ruby Avilla, Keatra Brown and Zareyah Webster

Best Laugh: Boys- Edwin Amaya, David Garcia and Miguel Minjares; Girls- Daisy Ayala, Kenya Bates and Bailey Craig

Biggest Heartthrobs: Boys- Noah Bristow, Peter Noah and Kaleb Thompson; Girls- Alexia Gil, Jessly Martinez and Elsy Salmeron

Best Personality: Boys- Blake Mays, David Smith and Marcos Vasquez; Girls- Mariana Gonzalez, Dorali Hernandez and Kenzi Rolf

Most Changed Since Freshman Year: Boys- Caleb Ball, Omar Hernandez and Manuel Olvera; Girls- Kenia Cuellar, Savanna Palacios and Emily Walden

Most Talkative: Boys-

Jonathan Godbolt, Antonio Landaverde and Jordan Young; Girls- Christina Gordon, Luzelena Murillo and Samantha Philips

Most Likely to Travel: Boys- Jacinto Barboza, Connor Brison and Edwin Gonzalez; Girls- Anna Elliot, Zaydie Garrett and Caroline Rose

Most Outgoing: Boys- Marcelo Diaz, Kelvin Guzman and Jose Reyes; Girls- Yovana Saldivar, Debora Trejo and Grace Whitten

Best Friends: Boys- Caleb Ball and Connor Brison, Noah Bristow and Kaleb Thompson, Jamarion Brown and Tyke Fluellen; Girls- Clara Alvarado and Erika Galindo, Zaydie Garrett and Kacee Vazquez, tie between Mady Antone and Emily Bird, Jennifer Leyva and Viridiana Ysasi



STUCO Officers

The high school Student Council officers for 2019-2020 are front row from left - Secretary Laura Sanchez (Scrapbook), President Estela Dorantes (Pride and Patriotism), and Vice President Leslie Lara (DASH Co-Chair). Back row from left are SMILE Co-Chair Vanessa Gaytan, Treasurer Sashi Poudel (Energy and Environment) and DASH Chairman Taylor Hubbs.

Congressional Debaters advance to state

By **KELLY COWAN**
MPISD Director
of Communications

The high school Congressional Debate Team competed in the Regional competition at Region VIII on Nov. 5th. Competing against other 5A schools in our region, Mount Pleasant High School had a great showing. The team took 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th places in the competition.

It was the first time Mount Pleasant would secure all three state advancing places as well as the first time for all MPHS competitors to medal at Regionals.

Sophomore Connelly Cowan was the Regional Champion with junior Ryan Sharp placing second and senior Caroline Rose placing third. Cowan, Sharp, and Rose will all advance to the state meet in January. It will be the second state appearance for Sharp and Rose while Cowan will be competing at state in Congress for the first time.

Juniors Taryn Thurman and Isabella Greco finished in fifth and sixth places making them the alternates to state.

UIL Congress is an individual contest in a large group setting. It models the legislative process of democracy, specifically, the United States Congress.

Within this mock legislative assembly competition, contestants draft



Front row from left are Rose, Cowan and Sharp. Back row from left are Greco, Morris and Thurman.

legislation (proposed laws and position statements) submitted to the tournament, and they research the docket of bills and resolutions dealing with real-world social and political policies prior to the contest to prepare their speeches.

At the tournament, students caucus in committees, deliver formal discourse on the merits and disadvantages of each piece of legislation, and vote to pass or defeat the measures they have examined. Parliamentary procedure forms structure for the discourse, and students extemporaneously

respond to others' arguments over the course of a session.

"This was the first time in school history we swept the top 3 spots," said MPHS Speech and Debate coach, Cody Morris.

"These kids have really stepped up their effort this year and it shows. It is a coach's dream to have a competitor give it their all and come out on top. I am very excited to compete at the State meet. I think all three of the students have a great chance to earn a state medal."

Cowan, Sharp, and Rose will compete at State in Austin, Jan. 13-15, 2020.



UIL members show off the medals and plaques they won at their home meet.

UIL teams wins Tiger Invitational

By **KELLY COWAN**
MPISD Director of Communications

The UIL Academic team opened its season with a bang on Oct. 19 at the Fall Tiger Invitational held on the MPHS campus. Overall, the team took first place at the tournament with five events earning first place team accolades.

The Math team took first place as a team. Individually, Shelby Courreges placed first and Sam Pearson second in 12th grade. Miguel Segura was first and Patricia Roque placed third in 11th grade. Nic Chappell placed second and Katie Ochoa sixth in 10th grade. Also, Devin Castaneda placed second, Param Poudel fourth, and Isaac Hernandez fifth in ninth grade. Overall Math medalists were Courreges first, Segura second, Chappell fourth, and Pearson fifth.

The Calculator Applications team also took first place as a team. Individually, Pearson was first and Courreges was third in 12th grade. Segura placed first, Nick Segovia placed fourth, and Roque placed fifth in 11th grade. Ochoa was second and Chappell was third in 10th grade.

Poudel placed first, with Clayton Brison fourth and Jose Trejo sixth in ninth grade. Overall Calculator medalists were Pearson first, Segura second, and Poudel fourth.

The Journalism team placed first as a team. Copy Editing results were Taryn Thurman first, Megan Adams second, Grace Whitten third, and Madison Adams fourth. News Writing results were Kylie Hedge first, Megan Adams fourth, and Gavin Rider sixth. Feature Writing results were Megan Adams first, Rider second, and Hedge fourth. Editorial Writing results had Rider fourth, Megan Adams fifth, and Hedge sixth. Headlines results had Megan Adams first, Hedge second, and Madison Adams fourth.

The Social Studies team placed first as a team, sweeping the top three medals and taking 5 of the 6 medals awarded. Individual placings were Odalys Adame first, Johnathan Sandate second, Paola Ventura third, Brooke Vaughn fifth and Jamye Don Juan sixth.

The Accounting team took first place as a team.

Individually, Victor Diaz placed third, Vanessa Vasquez placed fifth, and Dorali Hernandez placed sixth.

The Spelling team took second place as a team. Individually, Natalie Howard placed second and Taryn Thurman placed fifth.

The Computer Science team of David Pe-

See UIL, Pg. 19



From left are Espinoza, Guerrero, Mack and Ramirez.

Students selected All-Region Choir

Four choir students have earned places in the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) All-Region Choir. Senior Savannah Mack earned 11th chair second soprano, junior Miguel Guerrero earned 2nd chair first tenor, sophomore Joshua Espinoza earned 3rd chair first tenor, and sophomore Abril Ramirez earned 5th chair first soprano. This is the second year for Guerrero and Ramirez

to be selected.

To earn a place in the choir, each singer had to sing three selections and sight read before a panel of judges; not an easy task for a high school student.

“I am very proud of each of these singers,” said MPHS Choir Director, Nancy Vines. “They have diligently prepared not only during class but also on their own time.”

UIL from Page 18

rez, Jose Trejo and Grace Whitten placed second as a team.

In Number Sense, Connor Brison was sixth in 12th grade, Miguel Segura was third in 11th grade, Pablo Mata was sixth in 10th grade, and Devin Castaneda was fifth in ninth grade.

In Current Events, Connelly Cowan placed third and Isabella Greco took fourth place.

In Science, Jessie Parchman placed fifth and Jose Mata placed sixth in 10th grade. Nicholas Segovia, Miguel Segura, and Brock Shavers earned fourth, fifth and sixth places respectively in 11th grade. Sam Pearson took fifth place in 12th

grade.

Nick Segovia placed first and David Perez placed third in Computer Apps.

Reid Pinckard placed fifth in Literary Criticism. Roberto Castellano placed second in Persuasive Extemporaneous Speaking.

The UIL Academic teams are coached by Gina Crouch (UIL Coordinator, Spelling, Current Events, Literary Criticism), Osias Hernandez (Math, Computer Science), Larry Russell (Science), LeAnne Blalock (Social Studies), David Clark (Accounting, Computer Apps), Cody Morris (Speech and Debate), and John Whitten (Journalism).

Twenty Questions with Mrs. Adams

By MEGAN ADAMS
Tigertalk Staff Writer

In each issue of the Tigertalk, the newspaper staff features a different teacher.

This issue spotlights Amy Adams, who teaches English III.

1. What is your favorite thing about teaching?

I enjoy getting to know the students and help them with any academic struggles they might face. I also love to see my students that work in their places of employment!

2. What are some challenges you face teaching?

I am always challenged to come up with lessons that are interesting and relevant to the subject I teach. And I do find it hard sometimes to come back from long breaks, it's not always easy to get back into the groove.

3. What is your favorite thing to do on the weekend?

I enjoy hanging out with my husband and my kids. I like to relax and watch movies too.

4. What will you do this Christmas break?

This Christmas break, I plan to spend time with my family, cook, play games with my family, probably eat too much, and just enjoy my time off.

5. What is your dream vacation?

My dream vacation would be to go to Rome.

6. What is your favorite food?

My favorite food is shrimp fettucine alfredo.

7. What are your favorite Christmas movies?

My favorite Christmas movies are The Polar Express, Elf, and Four Christmases.

8. What is it like having most of your family at the High School with you?

I love having my family here with me at school. It is fun to see them sometimes throughout my day. I will miss my girls next year after they graduate.

9. What is your dream car?

I would love to have an Audi R8 or a Ferrari 488 GTB.

10. Do you have any pets?

Yes, we have a dog named Claire.

11. What's the craziest thing you have ever done?

My husband and me got lost in Mexico. It was quite an adventure.

12. What is your favorite holiday?

My favorite holiday is Christmas.

13. What is your dream job?

My dream job is to be a teacher!



Adams' dream vacation is to go to Rome.

14. Do you enjoy teaching juniors?

Yes, I love my juniors. I have taught Kindergarten, 6th grade, and 7th grade. I really enjoy the age I am teaching now the best.

15. Why did you want to become a teacher?

I helped in my oldest daughter's kindergarten class on her first day of school. That day I knew I wanted to go back to school to get my teaching degree. I liked being able to help the kids in the classroom.

16. Do you have any hobbies?

My hobbies are reading, baking and I like to go hiking at Beaver's Bend.

17. What college did you attend?

I received my Associates Degree from NTCC and then my Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies from Texas A&M University- Texarkana.

18. Did you play any sports in school?

I played basketball, ran track, and was a cheerleader in junior high but not in high school.

19. Did you work when you were in High School?

Yes, I had a job at Western Sizzlin here in Mt. Pleasant.

20. What has been your favorite vacation?

When me and my family went on a Caribbean Cruise.



Senior Class Officers



Junior Class Officers



Sophomore Class Officers



Freshmen Class Officers

Student body elects class officers

By ODALYS ADAME
Tiger Talk Staff Writer

The student body has chosen their class officers for the 2019-2020 school year.

The Senior class officers are President Grace Whitten, Vice President Jacqueline Juarez, Secretary Daisy Ayala, and Treasurer Estela Dorantes.

Leading the Junior class are President Faith Logan, Vice President Karen Trejo,

Secretary Mirka Paola Soto, and Treasurer Sashi Poudel.

Coordinating the Sophomore class are President Connelly Cowan, Vice President Beth Lockett, Secretary Daniel Robles, and Treasurer Sherlyn Sandoval.

And the Freshman class officers are President Samantha McClenan, Vice President Kylie Humber, Secretary Mallory Stokley, and Treasurer Javier Vasquez.

Senior Halloween Party



Nathalie Burgemeister and Mina Kollen Larsen



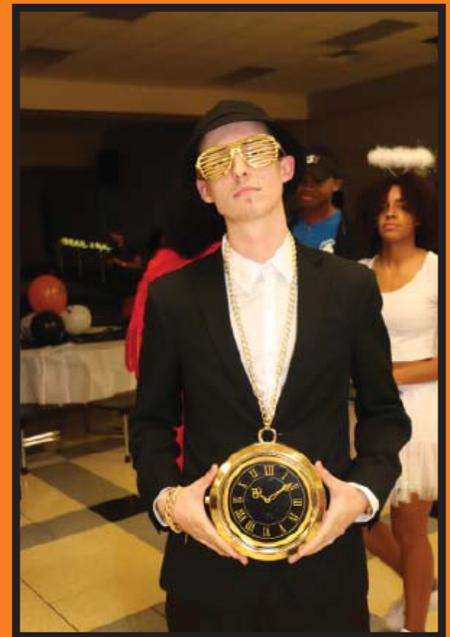
Cassidy Carr, Baley O'Neal and Anna Elliott



Manuel Olvera and Rylie Hardison



Colby Hunnicutt



Jordan Young



Jennifer Leyva, Daisy Ayala, Viridiana Ysasi and Alexia Gil



Karen Ortiz, Elsy Salmeron, Milagros Sanchez, Alexis Quezada, Zaydie Garrett, Samantha Phillips and Tanaysha Wilkerson

Tiger Roar

What is your favorite Christmas movie?

Tiger Roar page by Staff Writer Madison Adams



“It’s A Wonderful Life”
-- Faith Logan, 11



“Elf”
-- Skylee Ford, 12



“Polar Express”
-- Beth Lockett, 10



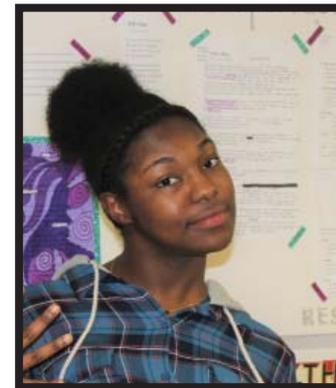
“The Grinch”
--- Jacob Elliott, 10



“Die Hard”
-- Connor Brison, 12



“The Grinch”
-- Ashton Simon, 9



“Elf”
-- Taniah Johnson, 9



“Gremlins”
-- Gavin Rider, 11



“Home Alone 2”
--- Tairielle Chong, 11



“The Year Without
Santa Claus”
--- Megan Adams, 11



“Polar Express”
--- Mrs. McCall



“The Santa Clause”
--- Mr. Cody Russell