

Holiday 2009

This Issue:
Happy
Holidays!

THE PAW PRINT

Letter to WRMS!

This is a letter from Mrs. Barkemeyer's son who is serving in the U.S. Army.

Dear West Rowan Middle School Bulldogs,

This is Cpl. Rich Barkemeyer, the son of your fearless principal. I'm currently in Taji, Iraq, with the U.S. Army, and my job allows me to go all over the country. The flag that once flew over your school is with me every step of the way. I've taken some pictures with it from my travels, and I'll keep everyone updated as to how both of us are doing. Here are some pictures I've taken so far. There will be many, many more.

Here we are in front of Al Faw Palace in Baghdad. This was Saddam Hussein's main palace before the war started. Now the building is used as a headquarters for the Coalition forces. There are lakes on both sides of this road that feed from the Tigris River, and are stocked with some of the biggest fish I've ever seen. (Left photo.)

This is another shot, from inside the palace. You can get an idea of just how huge this place is. (Second from left.)

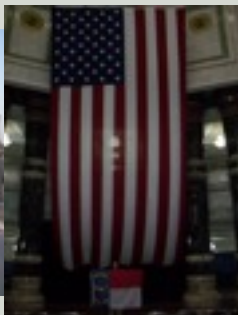
The person helping me hold your flag is my friend Fareh. We took this picture in front of one of the mayor's offices in Baghdad. Fareh is an Iraq citizen who runs a contracting business with her dad. Women in Iraq have been able to become more involved in business and government since Saddam is no longer around. She loves the U.S.; and is trying to become a citizen so she can go to school in Illinois. I tried to tell her that North Carolina is much better, but I don't think she believed me. She'll change her mind when she finds out how cold it is in Chicago. (Middle photo.)

Here I am hard at work in the palace. We were there to film a naturalization ceremony where 157 Soldiers from 60 different countries became U.S. Citizens. It was one of the best assignments I've ever gotten to cover. Seeing the smiles on 157 faces as American Soldiers, now American citizens, walked down the aisle holding a folded American flag and a certificate from the top U.S. Commander in Iraq is something I'll never forget. (Right photo.)

This is me Bruce Campbell and Jeffrey Donovan, stars of the TV show "Burn Notice". I was at the Baghdad airport waiting for a helicopter ride back to Taji, doing what every soldier with more than 10 minutes to kill will do: lie down on the ground and try to get some sleep. I kept hearing people say the name of the show, and when I looked up to see who was talking, there they were. Apparently they were impressed that I could lie on a pile of rocks and fall asleep. They made up for disturbing my nap by posing for a few pictures. (Far right photo)

That's just a little bit for right now. I look forward to meeting all of you when I come back home. And make sure you behave for my mom. She's a lot tougher than me!

GO BULLDOGS!
Cpl. Rich Barkemeyer
U.S. Army
Taji, Iraq



Pictures in order.

Pumpkin Contest

On October 13-22, there was a pumpkin decorating contest. In first place was Mrs. McNeely's Homeroom with Humpty-Dumpty, second place went to Mrs. Brown's room with "Hallow Kitty", and third place was Mrs. Beaver's class with the "Golden Snitch". Other creative designs were a "Snowkin" (a snowman pumpkin), a Killer Clown, and Freddie Krueger.



Hot Holiday Flicks

By: Greg Joseph

Hey! These are some of the new hot flicks that are coming soon. The first movie that is coming out is *Disney's Christmas Carol*, this movie is about a man named the Scrooge. He hates Christmas but three ghosts will change his mind.



The next one is a comedy about aliens. This movie is called *Planet 51*. The whole world is filled with aliens who have monsters as pets. The movie is about a human getting off at the wrong planet and how all of the aliens are scared of him.



The last movie that I'm letting you know about is *Alvin and the Chipmunks*. They have to give up their stardom and go back to school. They also meet some very special friends at school, just wait and see.



Thanksgiving!!!

By: Andie Myers

The holidays are coming! Most people will be thinking about giving and receiving, spending time with your family and friends and also eating a lot of food.

I spend Thanksgiving at my aunts house. We play in there play room. We play basketball outside and we play air hockey pool and a lot more. Some of the foods we eat are turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, green beans, corn, macaroni, stuffing, bread and a couple of desserts. My favorite food is mashed potatoes! They are so creamy with gravy on top!! YUMMMMMMMYYYY! You can smell all that food from a mile away!

So what do you plan to do on Thanksgiving? Well whatever it is, just remember to be thankful for what you have!

Holiday Interviews

By: Hannah Allison

For the newspaper this month, I asked some students questions about Thanksgiving.



This is Sarah. She thinks ham is great. She enjoys eating because she really likes all types of food.



The third person I interviewed is Morris. He does not like ham instead of turkey. He also doesn't like the month of November.

Mr. Anderson was the last person I interviewed. He loves ham, because it has the most flavor. He likes November, because it's before December.



I interviewed Sam. He likes ham, and doesn't like the month of November. He does not like stuffing in or on his turkey.



Holiday Band Notes

By: Ms. Vicki Williams

The Pep Band will be performing in the Cleveland Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 5. We will be decorating our float on Friday evening at CrossRoads Charters and Tours. We will probably start around 5:00 pm. If you can help, please let Ms. Williams know as soon as possible. Our musical selection this year is "Feliz Navidad" and we would like to decorate the float with plastic poinsettias and other festive colors. If you have any decorations that you would like to donate, please send the decorations to school the week that we return from Thanksgiving break. On that Saturday, pep band students will need to be at West Rowan Middle School by 10:45 am for a final rehearsal. Lunch will be provided. Students will be receiving more information and a permission form before Thanksgiving break.

Woo-Hoo!! Our annual Citrus Sale was a success. Thank you to all who helped us sell over 2000 boxes of fruit. **The fruit will be delivered on Friday, December 11 and the pick up site is Johnny Moore's Dairy Farm on Hall Road in Mt. Ulla.** Students will receive a map to the farm the week of the pick up. **Pick up times are from 4:00 pm until 7:00 pm.** Parents are responsible for picking up their child's entire order. If there is a conflict with the pick up, please contact your child's teacher as soon as possible. We will need parents

and students to help on the day of the fruit pick up. If you can help, please contact your child's teacher.

Our Holiday Concert will be Thursday, December 10 at West Rowan High School Auditorium. All three grade levels will be performing on this concert. All students will need to wear black or navy pants, white dress shirt and dark shoes. This will be the first performance for our 6th grade band. Those students will need to be at the high school by 6:15 pm for a final rehearsal. They will be performing a variety of holiday selections. Following the performance by the 6th grader band, our combined 7th and 8th grade band will perform. These students need to be at the high school by 6:45 pm. We will not have a final rehearsal. There are a few students who will be involved in 8th grade basketball and wrestling. Those students need to be at the concert and should try to be at the high school by 7:20 pm. If parents have any questions, please contact me. The concert will begin at 7:00 pm and everyone is invited.

On Friday, December 18, the combined 7th and 8th grade band will travel to Salisbury Mall to perform a variety of holiday music. Many of the students will be performing solos and in small ensembles. We will be leaving WRMS around 10:00 am and will return by 2:00 pm. I will need several parents to meet us at the mall and help as chaperones. In addition to taking our instruments, we will have to provide chairs and music stands. If you can help load the trailer, please let me know

and plan on being at the school by 9:30 am. Students will need to wear their concert uniform to school that day. The plan is to start performing around 10:45 am, take a small break, perform again and then have lunch. Students will need to bring money for lunch at the mall. Chick-fil-a will be sponsoring a West Rowan Middle spirit day for the band. The band will receive a portion of all Chick-fil-a sales during the hours of noon till 2:00 pm. Students who have ISS or OSS after November 18, will not be eligible to travel with the band. Student will be receiving more information at the beginning of December. If you can help, please let me know.

Congratulations to the following 7th and 8th grade band students who were selected to represent West Rowan Middle School at this year's upcoming All County Middle School Honor Band. They are Franklin Ramseur, Andrew Jiles, Will Lytle, Dakota Gurganus, Sami Rayl, Yeslin Alpizar, Gloria Jaquez, Jessica Graham, Anna Childers, Kristen Bailey, Chase Webb, Josh Doyle and Matthew Langford. The All County Middle School Honor Band clinic will be held later in March at Carson High School. Students will receive more information about the clinic in February.

If you have any questions or if you can help with any of the upcoming events, please call me at 704-633-4775, ext. 135. The best time to reach me is after 2:00 pm.

Community Projects

Student Council is holding the Dog-Gone Christmas Tree event. In this event, classes each buy a stuffed dog and put it on our school tree. The tree is located in the cafeteria. This year, it has been put up early for a banquet. After the dogs are collected, they are sent to the Salvation Army or another charitable group.

Also, the Youth Commission International (YCI) held a Personal Items Drive. This drive ran from November 2- November 20, and it collected items such as plates, cups, bowls, paper towels, shampoo/conditioner, deodorant and dish detergent. These items were sent to the Rowan Helping Ministries.

Holiday Word Search

Directions: Find and circle each of the words listed below the puzzle.

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      E E K
    K X S T X
  M J Y K U Q
X C V K D S F
  B I X C G W C   H       S A N T A C L A U S P N       C P
Y R F Q V H R R F   I O C P I L G R I M S W W Q B Y F F
O G C I F C K R G F B U P G E Y E Q S L B L I T Z E N J B
J       K Q I U I T W Y J G G P L P C Y P M C H L Z X D O
      N H   H O S C D P H X H V R V S L S I R A S C O I
      U M   V S Q T O W E L K E E Y A Y A S E D C R W
      H K   T R I H M R I L H S S P I M Y D I Z S K N
      A     J H D L X A N M C Z E A N O B V N P C L
          E X A I L R S U W M N D T U V B D F J   E
          N O C N N R C D C W T B N T T T E N X E
          O Y D R K N I A C O S P I H C Y E B V
          X Z O U O S E K K G P Z C R V T R E E
          V A N D T T G R Q U I I K O L V Q S T
              D N O P S U I J F O K A C X D R T A Q
              O E L B I I R V C Z P U K X N F F B F
                  R P D C Q Y K I O Q N I N D I A N S
                      H W A G I X E N R   D R E S S I N G
                          U G O Y G N           J Z J G N
                              S       H T           P K M
                                  O   B   V A           P Q
                                      X   T U   B K G
                                          K O Q   J E   T   E
                                              O   F   Q L L
  
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Word Bank:

Turkey	Dinner	Santa Claus	Presents
Dressing	Christmas	Thanksgiving	Corn
Pilgrims	Indians	Cornucopia	Plymouth Rock
Elves	Donner	Blitzen	Rudolph
Tree	Reindeer	Saint Nick	

Awesome Football Player Interviews

By: Jason O'Dell

I spoke to several football players about the football season. Jake Haire said that the season was awesome. We asked how the coaches reacted to half times and bad plays, Marshall Ball said by the second half he needed a hearing aid. All of the people that we interviewed said that the coaches yelled very loudly during the game and Coach Moore throws his hat. Another question we asked was how was the sideline view from the football players benches. Jake said it was intense. Marshall and Ben agreed. Jacob Radtke said it was scary and Davon Steele said it was good view. Jake Haire played full back and second string and was number 36. Jacob Radtke played tackle and was number 56. Marshall Ball played line guard and was number 78. Ben Kluttz played the corners and he was number 40. Davon Steele played full back and he was number 24.

Winter Sports Teams

Wrestling

Trey Brawley
Nick Burris
Aaron Canon
Lucas Carter
Francisco Castro
Nick Collins
John Corriher
Thomas Current
Marius Doyle
Robert Gaston
Andrew Jiles
Jake Kennedy
Brandon Lemmon
Hunter Mesimer
Jesse Moore
Jacob Radtke
Zack Russell
Zack Sheppard
Blake Shoaf
Davon Steele
Cody Stewart
Tyler Swenki
Noah Teeter
Tyler Williams
Wood Poteat
Justin Gummo

8th Grade

Girls

Basketball Team

Mary Noble
Lashonda Johnson
Berkley Allessandrini
Madison Muire
Anna Edwards
Nycieko Dixon
Michaele White
Khadajah Jackson
Jaylon Neely
Katie Crider

Coach-Alphonso Keaton

8th Grade

Boys

Basketball Team

Broderick Avery
Michael Ball
Zeke Blackwood
Malik Crudup
Derrick Fortson
Kanael Franklin
Tyler Kennedy
Steven Little
Andrew Martin
Ben Parker
Daisean Reddick
Darrell Taylor
Keyows Weeks
Deonde White

Coach- Jim Chandless

WINTER SPORTS



8TH GRADE BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

2009-2010

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE
Nov.19	South Davie	Away
Nov.23	Southeast	Home
Dec.1	North Rowan	Home
Dec.3	Knox	Away
Dec.7	Erwin	Home
Dec.10	Corriher Lipe	Away
Dec.14	China Grove	Away
Dec.17	~Open Date~	
Dec.21	Southeast	Away
Jan.5	North Rowan	Away
Jan.7	Knox	Home
Jan.12	Erwin	Away
Jan.14	Corriher Lipe	Home
Jan.19	China Grove	Home

WEST ROWAN BULLDOGS

HOME ATHLETICS EVENTS

WINTER SPORTS SEASON 2009-2010

Date	Sport	Opponent
Nov.19	Wrestling	South Davie
Nov.23	Basketball(8)	Southeast
Dec.1	Basketball(8)	North Rowan
Dec.3	Wrestling	Knox
Dec.7	Basketball(8)	Erwin
Dec.10	Wrestling	Corriher Lipe
Dec.14	Wrestling	China Grove
Dec.21	Wrestling	Southeast
Jan.5	Wrestling	North Rowan
Jan.7	Basketball(8)	Knox
Jan.11	Wrestling	Erwin
Jan.14	Basketball(8)	Corriher Lipe
Jan.19	Basketball(8)	China Grove
Feb.8	Basketball(7)	Knox
Feb.16	Basketball(7)	Corriher Lipe
Feb.18	Basketball(7)	China Grove
Feb.25	Basketball(7)	Southeast
Mar.1	Basketball(7)	North Rowan
Mar.8	Basketball(7)	Erwin

Dropping Out By: Taylor Smith

On October 26, the whole school watched the short film "Inside Out". It had interviews with some inmates in an Alabama prison. They were interviewed about how they had all dropped out of school. They all stated how they had regretted it. The next day at school, the Choice Bus came. All the 8th graders were able to get on. I spoke to a couple of 8th graders about their experiences.

"I would never drop out! It's crazy and ridiculous," said Kaelyn Cranford. The only things in the Choice Bus, I learned, was a flat screen TV that they watched a movie on, seats, and a 8x8 jail cell.

All of the students got an opportunity to go in the cell. "Yes, I went inside the cell. It was small, claustrophobic, and it would be bad to live in."

"I wouldn't drop out. You make a lot more money if you stay in school and get an education," said Zeke Blackwood. A college graduate earns \$1 million more than a high school dropout over their lifetime. "I went inside the cell, and it was scary and it felt weird."

Next I spoke to Jake Kennedy, "Dropping out is not cool," he said. He told me that the Choice Bus was very life changing, and it is because 75% of drop-outs go to prison. "Don't ever drop out!"

"Dropping out will make it hard to get a job and you won't get an education," said Abby Christie. Which is true, according to Mrs. Muire, that 75% of prison inmates can't read or write. "The most important thing I learned was that if you drop out, you aren't likely to be successful."

"Yes, I went into the cell, and it was cramped and nasty," said Jimmy Perez, the last person I interviewed. "You shouldn't drop out. It makes you less likely to get a good job." He was the only person out of all the people I interviewed that doesn't know someone that has dropped out.

Holiday Health

This holiday season, be sure to stay healthy. Go for the turkey and vegetables instead of the creamy casseroles and desserts.

Also, here's a tip for any evening- keep calcium in your meals by adding sides such as baked beans or green veggies like broccoli, okra, peas, or collard or turnip greens.

Here is a nice recipe for your Thanksgiving dinner:

Cut 2 acorn squashes in half. Scoop out the seeds. Dice 1 apple and 1 celery stalk, and sauté with 1 tsp. canola oil. Stir in 2 cups cooked brown rice, 1/4 cup raisins, and 1/4 cup apple cider. Spoon the stuffing into the squash halves, and bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.

Mission Statement:

Our goal is to keep parents, teachers and students informed of all the important and exciting things going on at West Rowan Middle School.

In compliance with federal law, the Rowan-Salisbury School System administers all educational programs, employment activities and admissions

without discrimination because of race, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, age, military service, disability, or gender, except where exemption is appropriate and allowed by law.

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THE PAW PRINT

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