



Thanking Kindergarten

Kindergarteners Learn About Thanksgiving For the First Time

By Bethany Cusac

This week in Kindergarten, students learned about Thanksgiving and the importance of the holiday. The lessons revolved around the different aspects of Thanksgiving, such as Pilgrims, Turkey, and the traditions involved with the holiday.

The students constructed many arts and crafts like turkey dressings, a project where the students had to disguise their own turkey so they



The Kindergarten classes' projects hanging above the students' lockers. This was the favorite Thanksgiving project the kids completed before Thanksgiving break.

would not be eaten on Thanksgiving. Batman, a mermaid, and a gumball machine were just some of the clever disguises thought up by the students.

They also wrote what they were thankful for and many answers were

pointed to one toy. They will finish their Thanksgiving activities on November 24 with a Friendship Feast where each classroom will make a snack and share the snack with all three classes.

Community Cans Hunger

By Sam Giftos

The 2015 Canned Food Drive kicked off at Illini Bluffs High School on November 9th. Frantic students rushed to get the first bonus of the week in order to try to take an insurmountable lead over their rival classes.

"The first week bonus was rough. We did not quite get what we wanted in order to make the bonus that week," said senior Elsie Croasdale. However, there are bonuses every week that help make up for missed bonuses.

Every year the Illini Bluffs High School Stu-

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The 7th Graders are Due on Maple St.

By Emily Depperman

Recently, the seventh graders read a teleplay in their English class. A teleplay is a play written for television. The tele-

play the seventh graders read was called "The Monsters are Due on Maple St."

"The Monsters are Due on Maple St." was originally an episode of the 1960's TV show *The Twilight Zone*. It follows

the lives of the residents of Maple Street as hysteria takes over due to a massive power outage. Some of the residents believe that aliens may be the cause, while others began to suspect their fellow neighbors.

The students read the teleplay out loud in a reader's theater style. This allowed them to act out the characters without using any props, sets, or costumes. Mrs. Halverson said "The students

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7th Grade Continued

loved acting out the characters because it allowed them to add their own personality to the piece.”

Teleplays are not only enjoyed by the students, but they also help with literacy skills. During their reading, students analyzed the characters and the format of the play. It also provided an opportunity to teach the students about film analysis techniques.

Can Food Drive Continued

dent Council organizes and conducts this event for the community. It supports our community by providing people with the surplus of food that has been donated. Planning for the Canned Food Drive starts in the middle of October to ensure everything will run smoothly on opening day. “We start planning early for the Canned Food Drive so that we can identify what went well and what still needs

improvement from the previous years,” said Student Council advisor Mrs. Walser. “We also make sure to contact the Christmas Basket organization to be sure our collection of food is meeting their needs so that we can adjust our requested amounts accordingly.”

The goal of the Canned Food Drive is to surpass the amount of food donated from the previous year so as to be able to provide more food to families. Both the community and students at Illini Bluffs

High School will prosper from this event. “There are students in our own school that benefit along with some homebound and elderly residents of our area,” said Mrs. Walser.

There are many ways that the students and faculty of Illini Bluffs High School help better the community, but the Canned Food Drive goes above and beyond. “It is a wonderful thing to see our students and their families support such a worthy cause for their own peers and neighbors,” said Mrs. Walser.

Mastering A New Technique

By Maggie Look

Mr. Hallstrom’s Photography class spent the last week learning about the rule of thirds and applying it in their own photographs. They started the unit out by doing drawings as examples before moving on to shoot their photos and apply this dynamic.

Students were given several days in class to

take and edit their photographs. They used their new knowledge of the rule of thirds to divide their pictures up into nine subsections before deciding which of the four side-points would be best to keep the focus of their picture on. The point of the assignment was to photograph objects and have the viewer’s eye to be drawn to a spot that *wasn’t the center of the picture. This way, the photographers were shooting more dy-*

amic shots that keep a viewer’s eyes moving across the picture rather than immediately moving on.

The rule of thirds is one of the most well-known photography techniques. It states that a photograph is the most visually pleasing when the focus of it is along imaginary horizontal and vertical lines that divide the photo into thirds. It is a mathematical rule being applied to an artistic field, and it works

wonders in capturing a viewer’s attention for longer.

The photos were viewed by the class on Thursday, where everybody piled into the art room’s computer lab to watch their classmates demonstrate how they incorporated the rule of thirds into their photography. It was an interesting project that gave many students a new technique to master for their future work.

A Strive for the Drive

By Lexie Swardenski

When?	Number of Donors	Pints of Blood Collected
Fall 2014	48 Donors	37 Pints
Spring 2015	55 Donors	45 Pints
Fall 2015	44 Donors	39 Pints