

~Junior High Students Serve the Community: Class officers and student council representatives served nearly 45 meals to members of the community during the Manna House meals program on Saturday, November 5th at the Reformed Church. Class advisors Louise Clute and Maria Burton helped the students to prepare a meal of ham, mashed potatoes, butternut squash, corn and coleslaw. Students made pumpkin bread in their home and & careers class and brought it along to share. The students also waited tables, cleaned-up, and sat to visit with the community during the dinner. Manna House offers low-income members of the area and senior citizens fellowship and a hot meal each Saturday and Sunday night. Food is donated by volunteer groups and the church.

~Elementary Drama Group Presents Play: "The Day Before Christmas At Our School" is a musical holiday play that will be presented to the public on Friday, December 16th and Saturday, December 17th at 7:00 p.m. each night at the Jr/Sr High School auditorium. Admission is \$1 per person. The play features students in grades 2-8.

~Jr/Sr High School Drama Club Play Announced: The Fort Plain Jr/Sr High Drama Club has announced an early spring production of the musical "The Fantastiks." The play will run March 29th, 30th and 31st and will feature students in grades 7-12. "The Fantastiks" will be directed by Drama Club Advisor William Ryan, with musical direction by music teacher Julieanne Sincavage. Auditions will be held the first week in December.

~Digital Photography Students Make Projects: Twelve digital photography students recently learned about Photoshop from art teacher Geoff Snyder. The software can be used for everything from creating postcards and posters to cropping images. In the class' latest project, the students had to pick a character, turn themselves into that character, and photograph it. The students used props of their choice and then used Photoshop to enhance the results. Mr. Snyder described the software as having many uses that will serve students well in college and beyond.

~Anti-Bullying Week a Success: In recognition of Anti-Bullying week, the Bee the Change Committee planned a week of activities starting November 14th. The week culminated with a Mix it Up at Lunch Day, where students sat with someone new, including faculty and staff members, and initiated a conversation. Students were also encouraged to sign an anti-bullying pledge. During the week, faculty and staff members wrote student names on pieces of construction paper if they "caught" them engaging in a random act of kindness. The paper strips were linked together to form a chain for display in the school. The theme for this year's Anti-Bullying Week and yearlong campaign is, "Stop and Think, Words Can Hurt." Throughout the week daily announcements were made that featured a positive quote or bullying statistic. One hallway featured a Wall of Fame, displaying pictures of celebrities and stories about how they were bullied. Finally, staff members during the week were asked to sign a sheet saying, "I agree to be identified as a caring adult who pledges to help bullied students. I will listen carefully to all students who seek my help and act on their behalf to put an immediate stop to bullying. I will work with other caring adults to create a safe learning environment for our school." The Bee The Change Committee is headed by teacher Kolbe Gray and staff member Michelle Boylan.

~Sports News: The winter sports season arrived with the bowling team having several matches before Thanksgiving. The rest of the winter sports start the first weekend in December, with the girls varsity and j.v. basketball teams hosting an inter-sectional including Berne-Knox, Poland, and Herkimer. The boys varsity and j.v. teams will be traveling to Waterford-Halfmoon to play in the 2nd annual Coaches vs. Cancer games. The wrestling team will be at the Mohonasen Tourney on Saturday, December 3rd.

~Holiday Concert Schedule: The Jr/Sr High School Band will present a holiday concert on Sunday, December 11th at 2:00 p.m. in the auditorium. The Jr/Sr High School Vocal department will present chorus and select vocal groups on Sunday, December 18th at 2:00 p.m., also in the auditorium. The elementary school band and chorus will perform holiday music at their concert on Monday, December 12th at 7:00 p.m. at the Jr/Sr High School auditorium. Admission for these events is free and open to the public.

~Fitness Center Update: The fitness center will be open during the month of December. Membership is \$20 for the month. The December hours are: Monday-Thursday from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Saturday from 8:00-10:30 a.m. Memberships may be purchased at the district office during normal school hours.

~Morning Program Continues to Brighten Students' Mornings: The very successful Harry Hoag School Morning Program has entered its 15th year of starting students off to a positive day. The program begins daily at 8:10 a.m. in the gym at the Harry Hoag School. It serves students in grades K-2. Students take part in songs and presentations, hold sharing days, host guest speakers, and receive curriculum reinforcement. The students also participate in citizenship and volunteer activities, such as making placements for the nursing home and collecting canned goods for the local food pantry. The thirty minute program sees about 30 parents and other community members watching each day. On Fridays, students have the opportunity to introduce their guests to the rest of the assembled students. Says first grade teacher, Mrs. Arndt, "It's a nice way for parents to be a part of the school day." The benefits of morning program, with its positive values and teamwork, are seen in the student behavior and performance throughout each school day.

~Schedule Changes: Please note that school will be closed for Christmas Break from Friday, December 23rd through Monday, January 2nd. Classes resume on Tuesday, January 3rd.