

Central High Times

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Central Senior "Sainted"

Central Senior Linnea Peterson (above) has been selected by the American Swedish Institute to portray Lucia during performances by the Lucia Choir December 13th and 14th at the institute in Minneapolis.

Lucia was an Italian saint "adopted" by Sweden after she appeared on a Swedish ship on a Swedish lake. The ship was full of food and candles to help Swedes who were running out of food.

As part of her qualification process, Peterson chose to write her application in the Swedish language.

It's "Showtime!" For "Little Shop of Horrors"



"Little Shop of Horrors" key human cast members include, from left, Orin (Will Pratt, 9), Seymour (Will Brueggeman, 12), Audrey (Lela Nesheim, 11) and Mr. Mushnik (Jimmy Morrissey, 12). The show's man-eating plant, also known as Audrey II, is not pictured here but is known to be played by itself.

CAUTION: Theater patrons are hereby warned of the presence of a large, man-eating plant.

By Sebastian Alfonzo

Central students raise the curtain on the annual school musical this weekend, with tonight's and Saturday night's performances set for 7:00 P.M. in the auditorium and the final show for Sunday at 2:00 P.M.

"Little Shop of Horrors" is a comedy horror rock musical that follows Seymour Krelborn (played by Will Brueggeman), a poor young man who works at a flower shop with Audrey (Lela Nesheim), a pretty blonde on whom he develops a rather large crush. Everything changes after Seymour comes in possession of a mysterious, Venus flytrap-like plant that gets a taste for human blood.

Brueggeman, a Central senior, is particularly familiar with his lead role as he witnessed his brother Marty perform it for a Central musical production in 2001 when Will was only five years old. The "Little Shop" story captivated young Will and became very special to him.

Student director Sophie Elwood says it's important for everyone to come and see the musical because it means supporting your school and the people who make the program possible. Please, however, be very careful of that man-eating plant.



Help yourself by always knowing what is going on at Central. Listen every day to your CMN team.

Which December Concerts Will You Attend?

By Sarah Lam

The winter concert season is right around the corner, with the dates of the orchestra concert set for Wednesday, December 11th, the band concert slated for Thursday, December 12th, and the choir concert scheduled for Thursday, December 19th. Each concert is set to begin at 7:00 P.M. in the auditorium.

According to Mr. Matt Oyen, conductor of Central's orchestras (including the Orchestra and the Chamber Orchestra), the highlights of the concert will include the First Movement of Ludwig Van Beethoven's Fifth Symphony and Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's "Dance of the Tumblers."

Oyen, who also conducts the various Central bands that will be performing the next night (including

Varsity Band, Jazz Band, and Concert Symphonic Band), indicates that the band concert will include Gustav Holst's Second Suite and Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride." "We've been working really hard," said Max Forsman (9), one of the band members, "and I'm really excited for people to hear our work."

Central's choirs have been working hard, also, including those known as Central Women, Central Men, Central Mixed Choir, and the Central Chamber Singers. According to choir director Ms. Martha Graber, "All of the different groups of choirs will be playing songs that follow the theme of 'journeys.'"

Please come to the concerts and support your fellow friends! I hope to see there, Central!



Central Student Selected As Miss Hmong Minnesota

Congratulations to Central's very own Mary Pazoo Xiong for being crowned Miss Hmong Minnesota last Sunday night during the Hmong New Year Celebration at St. Paul's River-Centre. The Central senior will hold the title for one year, during which she will be available to help the Hmong community by doing such things as appearing at Hmong community events and participating in fund raisers and projects.

Xiong competed against seven other Hmong women, preparing for the contest five hours a day, six days a week, for two months. "I didn't think I was going to win," she said. "I was very happy. Even though I won, I thought all of the contestants were winners."

One of the things that Xiong was

asked about during the contest was how she could best help the Hmong community. Her reply included that she wanted to encourage education, emphasize and improve the role model nature of Hmong parents, and encourage the Hmong community to do a good job of representing itself.

One Last Special Theme Week

Yes, here is your last chance *this calendar year* to dress in a special way during a Central theme week:

Monday, December 16th: Fourth of July in Winter Day; Tuesday, December 17th: Oscar Night Tuesday; Wednesday, December 18th: Wild Wild West; Thursday, December 19th: Throwback Day; Friday, December 20th: Ugly Sweater Day.

Have you ordered your yearbook?



Central twin sisters and freshmen Xiong Mee Vang (left) and Wamee Vang show their Hmong pride at Central last week, just days before celebration of the Hmong New Year.

What Do You Know About Hanukkah?

About this time of year, some Central students celebrate the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights or Feast of Dedication. This year Hanukkah began at sundown on November 27th and ended last evening at nightfall. (The beginning of Hanukkah in 2013 happened to coincide with the American national holiday of Thanksgiving, something that won't occur again, we are told by some sources, for perhaps nearly 80,000 years.)

The eight day festival of Hanukkah commemorates the rededication of the temple in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean revolt. The temple lamp had only a one day supply of sacred oil left, yet it remained burning for eight days.

Hanukkah is often celebrated using a lighting candle on the Menorah (the Menorah is a type of special candle holder) to light one other candle, doing so at a rate of one candle per night, until all eight candles are burning.

Many Jewish families celebrate by singing special songs, playing the dreidel game (a dreidel is a four-sided type of spinning top), eating specially prepared food fried in oil, reciting prayers, and giving Hanukkah gelt (either a type of money or small chocolate coins wrapped in gold foil).

Each year Hanukkah begins on the 25th day of Kislev, according to the Hebrew calendar. If you haven't heard of the Hebrew calendar, you may want to consider that several cultures in history have had differing calendars.

About 220 Attend Sadie's Dance On November 14th

According to Assistant Principal Teri Lentsch, about 220 persons attended the Sadie Hawkins dance last month at the Crowne Plaza in downtown St. Paul. The dance, said Principal Mary Mackbee, "was enjoyed by both students and staff." Here are a few pictures from the event:



The Central High Times' advisors are Mr. Dave Greener and Mr. Jack Schluker. The editors are Mansura Aereha, Elizabeth Zalanga, and Tia Tong. Would YOU like to join us?



Young people and adults gather for discussion and a meal.

Central Staff, Students Meet For "Justice for Lunch"

By Cadaja Brown, Event Planner

A new event took place at Central on November 12th, called "Justice for Lunch." Inspired by the death of Trayvon Martin, Justice for Lunch was created with the sole purpose of having students sit down with teachers and talk about the issues and misconceptions we get from one another, while discussing potential solutions to the problems we face in the classroom and the community. We want to insure that what happened to Trayvon Martin will never again happen to anyone else.

The St. Paul Federation of Teachers and the Mentoring Young Adults Program collaborated with student leaders to make the event happen. The event was held at Central, Harding, and Highland.

At Central, forty-five students participated in the event, which was held in the Principal's Conference Room. Nine Central teachers took part in the event, which brought different people together, at different times, for a free meal and discussion during our school's three scheduled lunch periods. A few other people also participated, including community leaders from the American Association of Teachers, Capital Hill Middle School, and Augsburg College.

I was glad that students got the opportunity to talk about issues they encounter every day in the school and in the community. This was a refreshing moment, to speak our minds.

It is possible that another meeting day may be held later in the school year.

The 2013-2014 Winter Sports Begin*



Central boys' basketball players defeat Minneapolis North, 52-51, last week in a Central home game two days before Thanksgiving. (Sports photos by Mr. Greener)

What Were You Thankful For This Thanksgiving?

By Tia Tong

Many Central students and staff undoubtedly enjoyed last weekend's Thanksgiving four day break. What were some of them particularly thankful for at this Thanksgiving time?

Ayantu Bikila (9): "I am thankful that I have an amazing mother."

Rasheeda Harper (11): "I am thankful for God waking me up this morning."

Michelle Mathias (10): "I am thankful for fiction."

Tori Garvey (9): "I am thankful for having a great year at Central so far."

Francesa Bergin (11): "My friends and family."

My'Eisha Jackson (10): "My family."

Brian Michalec (12): "I am thankful to be alive and kicking."

Elizabeth Zalanga (12): "I am thankful for having really good friends that are really supportive."

Dave Greener, Yearbook and Social Studies Teacher: "I am thankful that there are so many interesting things in life."

John Ekblad, Science Teacher: "I am thankful for my health."

Evelyn Nordquist, 11th Grade Administrator: "I am thankful for my children."

Whatever you are thankful for, be sure to let the people you are thankful for know how much they mean to you. I hope that you had a great Thanksgiving. Keep on being thankful.

Swimmers Finish Super 2013 Season



Central senior swimmer Kate Nelson enjoys a personal victory in a dual October meet with Highland Park after finishing the 50 Yard Freestyle by breaking a thirty year old conference record. Nelson was involved in establishing all but one of the eight conference or school records reached by this year's Central girls' swimming team.

The 2013 Girls' Swimming and Diving team had a great season, with Kate Nelson, Mary Cerkenik, Reilly Ingersoll, and Erin Kennedy swimming in the state finals November 20th and diver Sienna Lundeen making it to the state meet.

The team earned a first place finish (5-0) in the city conference standings, ended in second place in the conference meet, and finished 5-2 overall.

Central swimmers set three new conference records during the season and also established five new school records for Central. Besides Nelson, Cerkenik, Ingersoll, and Kennedy, Maddie Robertson and Natalie Rucks were also involved in some of the Minutemaid's record-making.

The conference records that fell to Central swimmers were in the 50 Yard Freestyle, the 200 Freestyle Relay, and the 400 Yard Freestyle Relay.

*Look forward to reading more about them in our next issue!