

Central High Times

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Central Winter Vacation Is *Finally* Here—Have A Great Break!



Gao Thor (12) (left), Pa Voua Vang (12), and Theng Yeng Xiong (12) help students become Secret Santas during a school lunch last Friday. Proceeds were to help fund the “Central Asian New Year 2014” celebration which will be from 4:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. on Friday, January 3rd, in the cafeteria on the day after students return from Winter Break. The celebration will include a dance competition, a talent show, and a fashion show.

Right: Mr. Josh Hirman’s advisory students were the winners of this year’s door decorating contest. Second place belonged to Ms. Pilar Fairchild’s advisory, with third taken by Ms. Emily Gill’s students. At far right, Mr. John Elwell and Mr. Mike Humphrey attend the annual holiday staff potluck luncheon held Tuesday in the principal’s conference room.



What Will YOU Be Doing During Your Special Time Away?

Anne Dombrock (11): “I plan on going up North and sledding with my family.”

Alexis Martin (11): “I will be spending quality time with my family and friends.”

Chi Lee (9): “I will be baking goods with my grandma.”

Sumeya Sheikh (10): “I plan on going to New York City for New Year’s.”

Charleigha Magitt (12): “I’m spending time with my family.”

Halima Wako (11): “I’m catching up on all the sleep I’m missing.”

Isaac VanNatta-Flies (9): “My family and I are heading out to Mexico! Goodbye cold, and hello sunshine and warm weather!”

Mr. Brian Paulson (teacher): “I’m going to ‘the farm,’ near New Ulm, to hang out with my family from all over. They come from Alaska, Montana, Pennsylvania, and Minnesota.”

Tamara Evans (11): “I will be working and spending time with my family and friends for the holidays.”

A’daia Brown (11): “Spending time with my daughter.”

Kijana Jones (12): “Partying and having a movie night with my friends.”

Marvice Jordan (11): “Sleeping! Hanging with family and friends

and eating.”

Ka Lia Vue (11): “I’m planning to help my family design an awesome New Year with them. On Christmas, I am sharing joys with friends, family, and neighbors. A lot of Christmas presents. Every year on Christmas what I want is just joys, no gifts.”

Martha Torstenson (12): “Nordic team holiday camp in Biwabik!”

Sveinn Johnson (12): “I’m crashing the Nordic team holiday camp in Biwabik.”

Ricky Larson (11): “I’m going to visit a bunch of family and I’m also going to a concert.”

Mr. Matthew Shipman (teacher): “I am going to be spending time with my family, getting outside, and remembering what’s important.”

Thomas Nelson (11): “I am going to sleep all the way.”

Ms. Teri Lentsch (Assistant Principal): “I am going to have over 75 people celebrating Christmas Eve at my house. Wish me luck! For the rest of the time, it will be about me.”

Ms. Mary Mackbee (Principal): “It will be a good time to catch up on my sleeping, my reading, and my re-connecting with my grandchildren and children, without time constraints.”

Central Students Privileged To Receive Special Musical Treat

By Sarah Lam

Excitement could be felt in the air as Central students and staff filed into the lower floor of the school auditorium last Friday, everyone eagerly awaiting a concert and educational presentation that would be performed by the “major league music” Members of the Minnesota Orchestra. Sam Jameson, a ninth grader, remarked that “I’m really excited and grateful they’re here and that we get to see them for free, instead of having to go somewhere and pay for a ticket. It’s really kind of them to do this for us.”

The concert was based on musical works from the great Russian composer, Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky. Music that was presented included pieces from the Nutcracker Suite, including the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Waltz of the Flowers, and music from Movements 3 and 4 of Symphony No. 4.

During the program the conductor, Mr. William Schrikel, explained ideas about the music and about Tchaikovsky’s life.

After the performance, freshman Natalie Della Selva’s reaction was that it was “wonderful and crazy. I was blown away. I really appreciated the experience.” Senior Martha Torstenson had the opinion that “It was so inspiring to have such high caliber musicians performing on the Central stage!”

Of particular interest to the Central audience was the appearance of two Central graduates, Danny Kim (Class of 2007), and Evan Vivic (Class of 2008), who were helping the orchestra and who were introduced



Professional musicians (and Central graduates!) Danny Kim (left) and Evan Vivic are happily reunited with their former teacher and conductor, Mr. Matt Oyen (center). The two viola players appeared in a concert/educational presentation by the Members of the Minnesota Orchestra last Friday that was held in Central’s auditorium.

to wonderful applause. What advice do they have for aspiring musicians and vocalists? According to Kim, “It’s a very hard life and jobs are difficult to come by, but if you truly have a passion for it, go for it and work your hardest. Things will come together if you keep at it and don’t get discouraged.” Among many tips, Vivic suggests to “Practice diligently. Quality over quantity...”

Do You Want To Help A “Shadow?”

Ninth grade students with good grades, attendance, and behavior are being sought to help introduce prospective freshmen to Central. If you are interested in helping, please see Ms. Norma Hollins in the Guidance Department for an application.

What A Great Month For Central Music!



Above, left: The month of December brought special entertainment to Central audiences, whether they attended the musical “Little Shop of Horrors,” the band, choir or orchestra concerts, or the appearance of the Musicians of the Minnesota Orchestra. Thanks to all of you who made our month more special.

Editorial

Remembering Nelson Mandela, 1918-2013

Nelson Mandela was a man who taught the world valuable lessons about peace, perseverance and forgiveness. He was a leading member of the African National Congress (ANC), which opposed South Africa's white minority government and its policy of racial separation known as apartheid.

In 1960, the government banned ANC and Mandela was convicted of treason and sentenced to life imprisonment in 1962. Mandela spent 27 years in prison before then-South African President F.W. de Klerk finally lifted the ban on the ANC and released him.

In 1994, Mandela was elected as his country's first black President and served one term in that office. On December 5th of 2013, he died of natural causes at the age of 95.

After his death, the South African government called for a day of mourning and hundreds of ceremonies celebrating his life broke out around the country. Last Sunday his body was laid to rest in his hometown of Qunu, South Africa.

In his speech after his release from prison, Mandela said "there is no easy walk to freedom anywhere, and many of us will have to pass through the valley of the shadow of death again and again before we reach the mountaintop of our desires."

Mandela dedicated his life to fighting for peace and equality in South Africa. He should be celebrated as a respectable leader and hero, a man who undeniably made this world a better place. E.Z.

Central Students Selected To Produce "Play" At Guthrie

By Sebastian Alfonso

The dream of working with one of the most important stages in professional theatre will be a reality for 21 Central students this winter, as they participate in the Guthrie Theatre's "Schools on Stage" program. The artist-in-residence program will allow the students to work directly with Guthrie teaching artists, to discover themes of Guthrie productions (in this case, "Othello"), and to produce and act in an original, 10 minute theatre piece.

Central is only one of five schools in Minnesota participating in the program this school year. Central's Mr. Anthony Jacobs and Ms. Clara Hutchinson will lead Central's part of the program. The Guthrie's teaching artists will include actor and educator Laura Esping and performer, director, and theater teacher Dario Tangelson.

Nearly forty Central students applied for the program. One who made it is Bao-Tran Bui, who indicates that "I can't wait to collaborate with all the talented people we have at Central." Malik Curtis, another person who made it, suggested that "I wanted to add the Guthrie to my acting career and possibly get signed. I'm thankful for this great opportunity."

Central student Deja Whitfield also made it. According to her, "I'm really excited to get to work with the Guthrie and great people who are really passionate."

The Central High Times' advisors are Mr. Dave Greener and Mr. Jack Schluckebier. The editors are Elizabeth Zalanga and Tia Tong. Would YOU like to join us? See Mr. Greener in Room 3402.



Minuteman Math Team Continues Central Success

The Central Math team, coached by math instructors Mr. Mark Schwach and Mr. Brian Paulson, outscored all other teams Monday in its third round of city competition this season. The team accumulated 81 points, outscoring its nearest rival, Highland, by 10 points. The team is ranked first in the city and as of November 25th, was rated seventh in the state.

"We've done well," said Coach Schwach. "We lead our division. We should be competitive in State."

The City Division includes all St. Paul public schools, St. Paul Prep Academy, and Cretin High School. In city competition, the team has accumulated 171 total points, ahead of its nearest competition by 32 points.

Led by Co-Captains Hannah Davis and Colin Finnegan, team members believe the team prospects are good

for a high finish in State. Other members of the team are Isaac Ash, Vince Dzik, Tori Garveu, JonErik Ickler, Serena Jing, Tommy Mao, Linnea Peterson, Doug Snyder, Mairead Solvang, Tyler Wolf, Ben Young, Anna Goetter, and Anna Kazlauskas.

Mock Trial Team Prepares for Case Competitions

In the mock trial this year, Central and other teams compete in a "lawsuit" in which the mother of a deceased crew member of the sunken ship Edmund Fitzgerald is suing a company for negligence in his death...or was it an act of God?

The team composition can be eight students—three "lawyers," three "witnesses," a timekeeper, and a "bailiff." Central's team is coached by Mr. Peter Knapp, a professor at the William Mitchell School of Law,



A quartet of Central seniors step out in style on "Oscar Night Tuesday" this week, as part of Central's last theme week of the calendar year. From left, the students are Brogran James, Micah Varnado, Quinessa Stibbins, and Mason Krelitz.

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and assisted by Andy Dawkins, a lawyer and a former Minnesota state representative.

According to team member Margaret Cohen (10), "I really like mock trial. It's a lot of fun."

According to Dawkins, "They're learning how to be lawyers."

The team went to a scrimmage with Edina on Tuesday night. Dates for the upcoming regionals include January 14th, January 21st, and January 28th.



The Minutemen pose for a picture, shortly before leaving for a two game road trip to Milwaukee.

Boys' Basketball Team Plans To Hit The Road Three Times This Season

Central's varsity boys' basketball team returned from Wisconsin Saturday night, the first of three overnight road trips the Minutemen are taking this season. The team lost to Milwaukee Bradley Tech, 54-40, but defeated Milwaukee Morse-Marshall, 57-50, in overtime. The Minutemen's mark through last weekend is now three victories and three losses.

What's behind the idea of taking overnight road trips?

According to Coach Scott Howell, the trip to Milwaukee was for competition, for a good experience, and

for team bonding.

The team stayed in a hotel and also got in a little sightseeing. The squad will travel again, to a four team tournament in Cloquet, Minnesota, during Winter Break and it will make another overnight visit, to Sioux Falls, S.D., in January. Players participate in fund raising and also benefit from being sponsored by Whole Foods Market of St. Paul.

According to guard Sam Galland (10), the Wisconsin trip "was a great experience. We played some different teams. Our team became a lot closer."

DID YOU KNOW that you can get recent Central sports scores by going to sports.spps.org ?



Photo (left): M-Team member Madeline Reed delivers food, collected as part of admission for last month's Sadie Hawkins Dance, to a local food shelf in St. Paul.

Former Central Athlete Serves As Current Team's Head Coach

A woman who played with former Central Coach Willie Taylor's first Central girls' state tournament basketball team—which finished third—is off to a great start as Central's new varsity head coach.

Marta Waalen, a 2001 Central graduate, has so far guided the girls to a win-loss mark of 5-1. "She's a good coach," says Central guard Chelcie Kizart. "She knows what to do while we're on the court. She has good plays."

Waalen says her team is "real quick. We have a lot of guards. We have a strong inside presence in the post. We have six seniors, so there is a lot of leadership. I think we shall be the top of the conference."

What does she think of coaching at Central? "I love it. I kind of dreamed about doing it since I played here. Coach Taylor is my mentor and my friend. He kind of inspired me to do it, along with my love for basketball."

Waalen became a Teaching Assistant in Special Education at Central a few weeks ago. When she was a student here, she was not only in basketball, but was also on the cross country running and track teams. She won the Athena award, which is given to the Central senior who is considered to be the school's best female student athlete.



Central Coach
Marta Waalen