

# Central High Times



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SCHOOL CLOSINGS caused by cold weather and wind chills have happened five times this month, perhaps more times than in any other year—or even entire decade—in Central’s long history. The many cancellations raised the possibility that at least part of the missed time might have to be made up later. This picture was taken on Monday.

## Four Central Debaters Compete in Minnesota State Tournament

Four Central students did an impressive job of representing the Minutemen in the state tournament on January 17th and 18th at the University of Minnesota.

Debate partners Ayaan Nataala and Tiana Bellamy went all the way to the competition’s quarterfinals, gaining their position on the strength of a 3-2 mark in earlier rounds. Debate partners Maren Schroeder and Ruth Foster also finished 3-2 in the earlier rounds.

Nataala and Bellamy gained their state entry by winning the Section IV championship, a competition which saw Schroeder and Foster finish fourth.

Later this year, Nataala and Bellamy will compete in the national Tournament of Champions at the



CENTRAL DEBATERS Ayaan Nataala (left), Maren Schroeder, Ruth Foster, and Tiana Bellamy represented our school in this year’s state tournament.

University of Kentucky. According to Nataala, she and Bellamy will be the second all-female African-American team in the tournament since 1988.

Central debate destinations this year have also included Iowa, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and California.

## What Would King Think Of Today’s U.S.?

In conjunction with the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday last week, some Central staff members were asked what they believe the late Civil Rights leader would think of today’s America. Here are ideas they shared:

“He would be pleased to see that our President is a black man, a sign that things have changed. However, he would be dismayed at the reality of race in America. For all our “progress,” we still have ghettos, huge racial job gaps, and a prison system with [too many] African-Americans...”

- Mr. Alex Achen

“Dr. King’s vision of all Americans having access to opportunities in our society has not been fulfilled. There has been some progress, but we continue to struggle with race-related issues that have systematically oppressed certain groups of people. Dr. King would continue to fight against the inequities that continue to penetrate America’s liberties, freedoms, and justice.”

- Mr. Duane Dutrieuille

“I think the natural reaction of many people is to assume that MLK would be profoundly disappointed in the progress the United States has made with its race relations. However, I think it’s important to factor in MLK’s mission and his unwavering positivity. I think he would



Photo: King’s 1963 “I Have A Dream” Speech

“Let’s get going, there’s still plenty of work to do.”

- Mr. Jesse Kwakenat

“Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., would have mixed feelings about the U.S. today. He would be pleased by our first Black President. He would be disappointed by our low graduation rate and high incarceration rate of African-American males, in addition to so many of our nation’s children living in poverty.”

- Ms. Mary Mackbee

“I believe MLK, Jr., would be glad that overt racial discrimination is no longer legal or even acceptable in the public sphere, but sad that our institutions and systems continue to provide advantages based on race.”

- Mr. Lucas Murchie

“He would look at events such as the Travon Martin case in Florida, racial profiling, and all the discussion in the news about the educational achievement gap...and would think: “We have come a long way since the Civil Rights era, but we still have a long, long way to go.”

- Ms. Meg Petersen



WHO WILL YOU BE GOING WITH to the SnoDaze Dance on February 14th at the Great Hall? For Te’Ron Welch, the person is none other than Ms. Sreyla Khorn! This year’s theme is “Be My Valentine.” The colors are red, pink, and white, the cost is \$15 per person, and the hours are from 7:30-10:30 P.M.

## Upcoming Events

**JOB DASH:** The rest of this week, in the Cafeteria, 8:00-10:00 A.M.

**YU-GI-OH! TOURNAMENT:** Friday, in the cafeteria, 3:30-6:00 P.M.

**AUDITIONS FOR SPRING PLAY, “A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE”:** February 4-6—sign up at Office Window

**CENTRAL SHOWCASE:** February 6th, various places at Central, 6:30-8:00 P.M.

**MUSIC DEPARTMENT RECITAL AND SENIOR CONCERTO:** February 11th, 7:30 P.M., at Central

**SNODAZE WEEK:** The week of February 10th-14th, at Central

**SNODAZE DANCE:** see above

**SENIOR SNOWTUBING:** February 19th at Buck Hill. Cost: \$17.



TEN CENTRAL ACTRESSES from the Central Touring Theatre produced a stage version of *The Laramie Project* on January 10th and 11th in the auditorium. The ten students each played from six to eight roles. The play is about how people reacted to the murder of Matthew Shepard, a gay University of Wyoming student in Laramie, Wyoming, in 1998. Many persons considered the killing to be a hate crime.

## Congratulations to Central Competitors

**Kudos to Central chefs** Christian Photisanh, Tamara Evans, Gillian Innes, Mai Nhia Vang, and Ryan Vojtech for winning the Master Chef Competition at the school level January 15th. The quintet was required to use a spaghetti base to develop a team recipe and to also prepare and serve the final product. The five students earned the right to represent Central at our school district competition February 28th at St. Paul College.

**Way to go, Central artists,** who were honored at an awards ceremony held in the Concordia University Gallery on January 16th for their winnings as part of a four high school competition in the Concordia Annual High School Honors Exhibit. Jade Mulcahy scored a second prize victory and Miles Austin, Paulina Heng, Elena Renken, and Hannah Weissman received honorable mentions.

**Congrats, Central music scholars,** for your excellent showing at last Friday’s annual Minnesota Music Listening Contest Regional Competition at the University of Saint Thomas.

The team of Isaac Blumfield, Erin Kennedy, and Paul Ihlenfeldt earned

the first place score and will advance to the state level competition at Augsburg College on February 7th.

Hana Brod, Happy-Sarah Kim, and Ethan Levin also did well in the contest, earning the third place score in the region.

## Who Will Win The Year-book Senior Class Polls???

The Senior Class Polls categories have been announced, with nominations scheduled for yesterday and the final vote—with one senior male and one senior female to be named for each category—slated for February 5th. The categories include:

“Most Likely to Change the World,” “Most Changed Since Freshman Year,” “Biggest Flirt,” “Cutest Couple,” “Best Friends” (2), “Class Clown,” “Couples We Wish We’d Seen,” and “Most Likely to be F a m o u s .”

They also include “Most Creative,” “Most Athletic,” “Prettiest Eyes,” “Biggest Party Animal,” “Person You Wanted to Get to Know,” and “Loudest.”



MARTA WICHMAN (left) AND RACHEL WILSON served as Masters of Ceremonies January 8th in the 2014 CIS Modern Fiction Performance held in Central’s Blackbox. Students produced original texts, artwork, and film based on fiction that they read earlier in the school year. All of the productions for the evening centered on the theme of “loss,” which was also the theme of the CIS course.

Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors, Staff! **Don’t miss your chance** to order your Central yearbook **BEFORE THE PRICE INCREASE** (from \$68 to \$75) that happens Saturday, February 1st. Buy at [jostensyearbooks.com](http://jostensyearbooks.com) OR purchase your book at school.



CENTRAL ROBOTICS CLUB MEMBERS Riley Dolan (left) and Connor Norgren work with wheel and chassis materials.

## Central Students Work On Robot-Building

By Sebastian Alfonzo

To some people, robotics might seem like a thing of tomorrow. However, it is very much a thing of today. Even here at Central, robotics is a very real thing, as we have a robotics club.

Central's robotics club is currently preparing for this year's FRC (First Robotics Competition) event, which is titled Aerial Assist. The Central students will have to build a robot with the capabilities to catch, pick up, and throw large balls. The robot will have to do such things as throwing the balls into baskets and through hoops.

This is Central's second year of Robotics Club and FRC participation. Aaron Ludvigsen is the team captain. His goal is to have the team make it to the elimination round of the competition, which comes after the state round.

The club is still accepting members. It meets in Mr. Nelson's room (1314) on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.



CENTRAL'S TALENTED JAZZ BAND, shown playing here for Central students as they arrived on the last day of school before Winter Break, will provide music for next week's Central Showcase on February 6th. The Showcase, an annual event, is designed to attract new students to Central.

## Central Male Gymnasts Compete With Johnson

About thirty male gymnasts from Central physical education physical education classes traveled to Johnson High School January 10th for an informal meet with about the same number of male students from Johnson. Even though it wasn't an official athletic competition, students did receive scoring from MSHSL judges. Johnson won the abbreviated duel which, because of time constraints, did not include events using equipment.

The meet is something that the two schools have been doing for three years. It is a way for students to show what they have learned and to add a little competition. It's possible that a more expanded match might be held in the spring.

Although it used to be a state high school league sport for males, gymnastics hasn't been one for several years. Ironically, however, 1980s Central graduate John Roethlisberger, whose father coached gymnastics at the University of Minnesota, was an American Olympian three times!

## The Chinese New Year Arrives Tomorrow!

By Ellen Gee

The Chinese New Year, which starts January 31st, has been celebrated for as long as anyone can remember. There's a legend that once every year, on the lunar new year, a beast called "Nian" would rise out of the ocean and eat Chinese villagers.

Red was worn and firecrackers were used to frighten away the creature. People say "gong xi" or "congratulations" to each other for surviving the beast attack. They continue to say it to this day to congratulate each other on a successful year.

The Chinese New Year celebration lasts fifteen days, ending with the Lantern Festival. To prepare for the New Year, people clean their homes to get rid of the bad luck from the previous year, decorate, and buy new things.

During New Year's Eve, families often have reunions, set off fireworks, and eat. Common foods to eat on Chinese New Year's Eve include meat, a whole fish, and hot pot (which refers to several east Asian varieties of stew). A whole fish is an indication that "every year we have a surplus."

It is a tradition during the Chinese New Year to go and visit family, relatives, friends, and even bosses and teachers to show one's respect. Every household gives visitors peanuts, lotus seeds, candy, or tangerines to eat; especially to newlyweds, which for them symbolizes wishes for their fertility.

"Nian gao" or New Year's cakes made out of sticky rice symbolize wishes for growth, be it physical, career, or for a relationship. The cakes are therefore a popular gift.

Children usually receive red envelopes with money in them from par-

ents and older relatives during the New Year celebration.

The Chinese Zodiac animal for this coming year is the horse. There are twelve animals in the zodiac, which forms a twelve year cycle. Traditionally, parents would want their child born in the Year of the Dragon because it is considered lucky.

The Chinese New Year will begin the Chinese year of 4712!



PART OF THE PROGRAM that was billed as "Central Asian New Year 2014" and held January 3rd in Central's cafeteria included models wearing clothing from a variety of Asian cultures (top picture). The evening also included vocalists, musicians, dancers, and dancing by the audience and program participants (lower picture). The event was sponsored by the Central Asian Culture Club.

## Who Do You Want To Win The Super Bowl?

Luke Almquist: The Seahawks, because I don't like the Broncos.

Christian York: The Seahawks, because they are good.

Abdulahi Yusuf: The Broncos, because they have the best QB in the last decade and the Seahawks are a young and cocky team.

Ben Bushnell: The Broncos, statistically the best offense in history/all-around amazing.

Keng Lee: The Seahawks, because Russell deserves his first Super Bowl ring.

Sueraya Kalib: The Broncos, because they are one of the best teams in the NFL and if Manning retires, he deserves to retire with another ring.

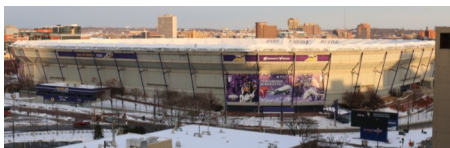
Ermias Abraham: Seattle, because they have a great defense. They also have a good core of receivers and a good quarterback.

Yoshi Abate: The Broncos, because Peyton Manning is the best QB and the cheerleaders are bomb.

Kate Rogers: Seattle, because I like the city.

Domanic Pierce: Broncos—Peyton Manning is awesome.

Arre Harris: I don't really care who wins the Super Bowl. I like both teams and Manning is one of my favorite QBs.



EVERYONE KNOWS that the roof of the Metrodome has been allowed to deflate and that the building will be torn down. Did you know that Central played at least two baseball games at the dome, at least one basketball game, and perhaps one football game? Did you know that the new football stadium will cost about \$1 billion?

## Winter 2013-2014 Central Sports Report

As January is ending, some Central sports are getting close to the end of their seasons. Also, because of the weather, some sports contests have been postponed or canceled. Others records are tricky to report for various reasons, including when not all St. Paul public high schools have teams in a particular sport. Here is a partial assessment of where Central sports are as of January 28th:

**IN GIRLS' SPORTS,** Central's BASKETBALL team is in first place in the conference, with a 4-0 record. Overall, the team is 11-4.

**IN GYMNASICS,** the Central ladies find themselves with an 0-2 conference mark, behind Highland Park and Johnson, and a 3-2 overall record.

**IN HOCKEY,** where Central has two participants with the Blades, the Blades are 0-4-2 in their conference and 4-12-4 overall.

**IN NORDIC SKIING,** Central's females have gained the following team finishes: 3rd of 3, 3rd of 4, 3rd of 7, 5th of 10, and 5th of 11. The ladies are in second place of the three conference schools listed in the standings.

ALPINE SKIING may have scores to report later.



ALL HAIL THE CHAMPIONS! Hussen Osman (left) Obssa Omar, Hassen Osman, Mohamed Galab, and Abdulmalik Hashim won Central's dodgeball tournament January 17th, which was sponsored by Roots & Shoots.



MUSICAL AND DANCE ENTERTAINMENT, as well as a meal, were part of last Friday's Fresh Force "Wish Upon A Charity" event in the Cafeteria. Proceeds were designated for Our Brothers and Sisters Orphanage in St. Paul.

**SENIOR SNOWTUBING!**

**FEBRUARY 19TH**

SIGN UP ALL THREE LUNCHES FEB. 3-17TH!

SEE YOU THERE, SENIORS!

The Central High Times' advisors are Mr. Dave Greener and Mr. Jack Schluebier. The editors are Elizabeth Zalanga and Tia Tong.



HIGH ENERGY in a win over Highland.