

the courier

the appleton east student newspaper

Read Books
Be Kind
Stay Weird

A wooden sign with three phrases: "Read Books", "Be Kind", and "Stay Weird". The sign is placed on a desk with a calendar and a "TODAY I FEEL" card. The background is a blurred office or library setting.

EAST XMAS PARADE PREP

Downtown Appleton starts showcasing and celebrating Christmas in November. Many groups and schools will walk down College Avenue on November 26. Luckily for East, the band and dance team participate in this year's Downtown Appleton Christmas Parade.

Appleton East band prepares for the parade every year. The band gets together in the early morning to practice as a group. Whether it's out on the field or in the band room, they're doing their best to perfect their performance. Every person plays a special role for the holiday season in band.

Natalie Tlachac loves playing in the Christmas Parade. "My favorite part of the Christmas Parade is the songs. It's a combination of so many well-known tunes and Christmas music always puts me in a good mood." She adds, "Another big part is just bonding with everyone in band during the Christmas season. It's near the middle of the year at this point, and I love being able to talk with everyone on the bus!" Natalie also shares how she liked to prepare for this time of season, as it can be difficult. "We have morning practices to help us with marching, and we also need to memorize the songs. We play it a lot at the beginning of class, which helps us get memorized too."

Appleton East varsity and JV dance teams also perform in this event. Lighting up the streets with their spectacular moves and joy, the two teams are very glad they get this opportunity.



7 PM NOVEMBER 26

Ms. Forseth, the head coach of both varsity and JV dance teams, looks forward to the Christmas Parade. "My favorite thing about preparing for the parade is seeing our dancers light up and get excited about it. As this time of year is busy for our team, dancers need to take ownership of learning our parade routines because we are not able to spend a ton of practice time learning them. I love seeing it all come together and watching their smiles shine so bright."

It can be difficult to balance parade practice with every other activity the dance teams have going on. "This is the busiest time of the year for the dance team. Our competition season is just beginning, basketball game performances are about to start, and we are preparing for the Christmas parade," says Forseth. "These athletes have a lot of things going on and are putting in a lot of work. The most difficult thing about this time of year is trying to juggle it all and make sure we are using our practice time as wisely as we can. Trying to find the balance between staying motivated to work hard and avoiding burnout in our dancers is the key to success during this time of year for the dance team."

If you love celebrating the holidays or want to go support our school and other local businesses, check out the **Downtown Appleton Christmas Parade on College Avenue on November 26 at 7:00 p.m.** Many joyful faces will keep you warm during the cold night.

--Cynthia Vang

Ways to Watch

- Going to the Parade? [Click here.](#)
- Live on WFRV Channel 5 or wearegreenbay.com

**DOWNTOWN
APPLETON
CHRISTMAS PARADE**

Sounds of the Season

Getting ready for the holidays can be hectic, but despite the chaos, the Appleton East choir will serenade us this December. **The Sounds of the Season concerts will take place on December 16 and 17 at 7:30 PM.** There are four concerts in total, but two shows will be exclusively for elementary and middle school students. All the talented choir members, varying from freshmen to seniors, will sing their hearts out. And, there is no cost for the tickets! The choir community is inviting all of East to come listen. So, lace up your shoes, and go get in the holiday spirit!

Mr. VanSickle talked about the Sounds of the Season concerts and what goes on behind the scenes (preparation, tradition, history, etc). I was surprised to know how far back the effort starts. "Mrs. Conn and I start prepping for our concert in the summer (picking music and deciding on themes). Mr. V. said, "We start rehearsing the music with the students about six weeks before the concert day. We rehearse three or four pieces with each of our six curricular ensembles. Even though not all rehearsals are the same, each group tires to have a variety of music (some slow, some rhythmic, some familiar, some from the past) so that when we piece the whole concert together there is a variety of different sounds to keep the audience engaged, entertained, and emotionally involved."

Mr. VanSickle (bottom right) and Mrs. Conn like to mix it up. "During rehearsals, we alternate between full-group rehearsals (where all of us are working together) and sectional rehearsals (where student leaders help teach their individual parts to the different vocal sections.) It's an elaborate puzzle that's fun to put together!"

You can expect a lot of variety in this concert, but along with this, we can also expect something unexpected. Mr. VanSickle wouldn't spoil the surprise but he did mention some kazoos and sunglasses. (And maybe an appearance from Santa himself!) The amount of time the choir community puts into their art is truly amazing. Mr. VanSickle and Mrs. Conn adore what they do, and so do the choral students. They all work incredibly hard to make sure everything is perfect.

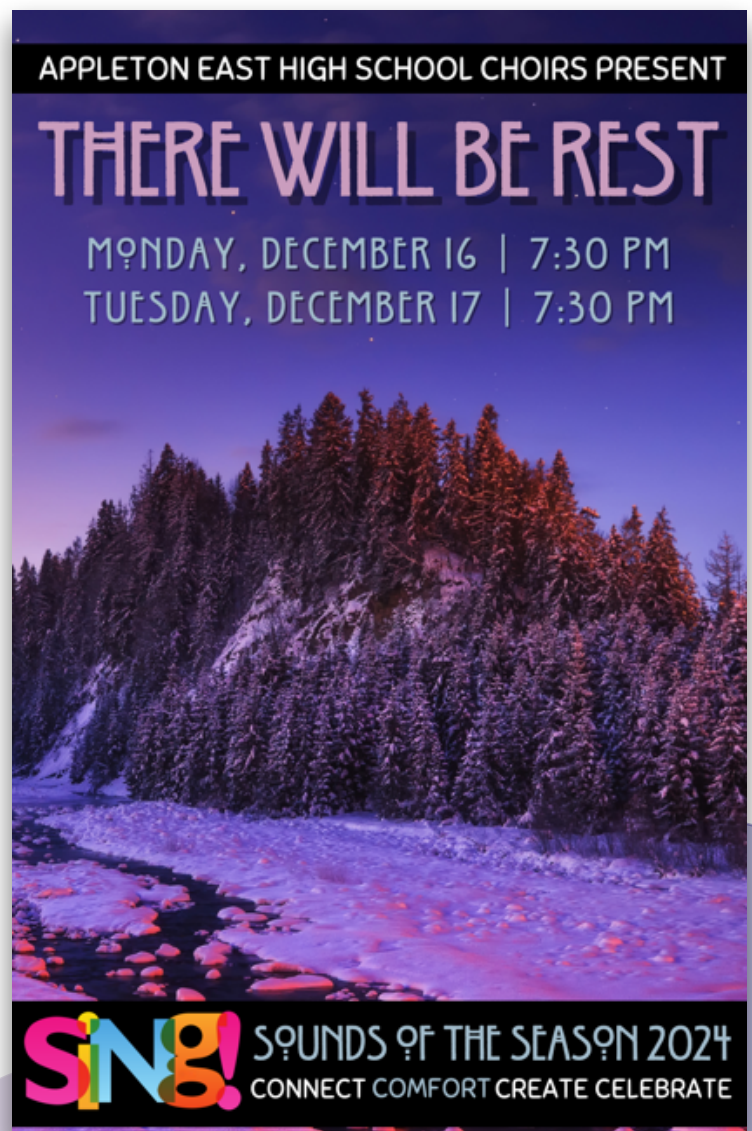
Along with much detailed preparation, there is an interesting history behind the East holiday concerts. "Sounds of the Season has been a tradition for over 30 years at East," Mr. VanSickle said. "Before Appleton North was built, the choir director at East was Jim Heiks. He left to teach at North, and Chris Keelan took over. I believe she began the Sounds of the



Season tradition. Mr. V. added, "The great and wonderful Debbie Lind kept the tradition alive, and when I began at East in 2010, I kept the tradition going." We not only have the talented Mr. VanSickle and Ms. Conn to thank for this concert but also multiple other choir directors (and, of course, the students). We all know the choral students love to perform their art, but what about the directors? "I love seeing (and feeling!) the hard work pay off for the students," Mr. VanSickle declares. "Singing is an easy thing to do. Singing WELL takes effort and practice. This is something that we work on constantly in class. Learning how to blend, balance, listen, extend our ranges, incorporate dynamics, interpret lyrics, harmonize... These are all skills that can be learned but never truly mastered - and I love seeing how this journey ultimately culminates in a performance that the students are proud of." Singing well really does require a lot of work (along with talent). Most people's voices don't make it past their shower concerts. "It takes bravery for people to get on stage in front of many people, let alone sing. It is truly magical what they create."

Alana Radtke, freshman choir student, is looking forward to her first Sounds of the Season concert. "I'm excited but nervous because there are four different concerts, and it's gonna take a lot of energy to prepare," she said. Nerves are common with these kinds of concerts, but anticipation usually overpowers any overthinking. Even if there is some kind of negative thinking, excitement stands out over any other emotion. The rest of East is bubbling with excitement as well, and we can't wait for this year's Sounds of the Season concerts.

Radtke is glad she joined choir. "I joined it because I have a passion for singing, and it makes me feel really joyful and like I have potential for something," she said. The East choir community has a lovely ambiance surrounding it. The concerts can make anyone feel right at home. It doesn't matter if you are in the audience or on stage, the choir community will have an impact on you. So, now that you know how great the concert will be, take my advice and see it!



-- Maddie Cates

'Tis the Season to be Giving

As the winter holidays rapidly near, people tend to be more giving and joyous, with the exception of the stereotypical Black Friday crowds. The holidays can also create stress and difficulties for families in need. They may struggle to find the funds to buy their kids gifts, participate in holiday activities, or afford the big holiday meals. Understandably this can dampen their holiday mood and even create a dislike for the jolly season.

However, during the holiday season, many organizations, families, and programs make it their mission to give back to families in need and help them create positive holiday memories. According to UT Dallas Magazine, "volunteerism" increases about fifty percent during November and December. This could be evidence of the seasonal impact on people's need to give, or that more volunteering opportunities seem to be brought up during the holiday season. Whatever causes the spike of volunteering, one thing is for sure: It is an act that keeps on giving and can have a large impact.

While volunteering opportunities exist all year round, I challenge you to give back this season. Whether you wish to donate time, money, or goods, your contribution will impact yourself and your community. Therefore, 'tis the season to give comfort and joy, and make everyone's holiday season merry and bright.

-- Grace Boe

Service Opportunities

- Donate non-perishable food and canned goods at the **Downtown Appleton Christmas Parade**. The parade takes place on November 26 and starts at 7:00 p.m. At 6:45 the food drive will begin and goods will be collected by Lawrence University for the St. Joseph Food Program.
- Donate your time by ringing bells for the **Salvation Army**, sorting and packing food at **Feeding America** and **St. Joe's Food Program**, serving food at **Pillars**, offering help with snow removal, and volunteering at the Humane Society. Many other opportunities for donating time exist within the community.
- Buy gifts for giving trees such as the East Adopt a Family or tree at Walmart.
- Donate money to organizations for positive causes.
- Donate old toys and clothes to foster closets such as the **Outagamie County** foster closet.
- Make cards for nursing homes and hospitals to spread the seasonal cheer, or carols at these facilities.

-- Grace Boe

Adopt a Family

What is Adopt a Family?

Adopt a Family is a non-profit program run by East's very own student council. With the help from some other groups such as Peers and NHS, families' Christmas wishlists come true.

Whom do the gifts go to?:

There are ten families of East students on the list, equalling a total of 35 people.

What can I do?:

Mrs. Lonechild and student council members may be able to answer your questions. Further information on this program will be sent home in a weekly Friday message and posted in a Monday advisory announcement.

How can I help:

There are multiple ways to participate in this program and help out. A giving tree and Amazon wishlist will be set up for individuals to buy gifts from for the families. A GoFundMe will also be set up for people to donate a given dollar amount rather than buying a gift. Donations of wrapping paper, bows, and tape are desperately needed as well. Moreover, if unable to donate money, a donation of time is greatly appreciated. On December 15, NHS will help student council wrap the presents; however, more help may be needed. If interested, please contact Mrs. Lonechild or sign up for the NHS event.

When does it end?:

The families will pick up the gifts the week of December 16.

-- Grace Boe



Ways to Help

- **GoFundMe**
- **Amazon Wishlist**
- **Money, gifts, and wrapping supplies can be dropped off with Ms. Lonechild in room 3132.**



Thanksgiving Recipes



Mashed Potatoes

Prep Time: 15 min

Cook Time: 20 min

Serving Size: 4

~ Ingredients ~

- 2 pounds baking potatoes, peeled and quartered
- 3 cloves garlic, or to taste (optional)
- 1 cup milk
- 2 tablespoons butter
- salt and ground black pepper to taste

~ Instructions ~

Step 1. First, bring a large pot of salted water to boil. Then add the potatoes and garlic, lower the heat to medium, and simmer until the potatoes are tender. This part usually takes 15-20 minutes.

Step 2. When the potatoes are close to being done, heat up the milk and butter in a small saucepan over low heat until the butter is melted.

Step 3. Drain the potatoes and return them to the pot. Slowly add warm milk mixture, blending it in with a potato masher or electric mixer until potatoes are smooth and creamy.

Step 4. Season with salt and pepper and enjoy!

Prep Time: 10 min

Cook Time: 50 min

Serving Size: 8



Pumpkin Pie

~ Ingredients ~

- 1 (15 ounce) can pumpkin puree
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 (14 ounce) can Eagle Brand Sweetened Condensed Milk
- 2 large eggs

Prep Time: 30 min

Cook Time: 60 min

Serving Size: 8



~ Ingredients ~

- 8 small Granny Smith apples, or as needed
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 (9-inch) double-crust pie pastry, thawed
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1/4 cup water

~ Instructions

Step 1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Peel and core the apples. Then thinly slice. Set them aside

Step 2. Melt butter in a saucepan over medium heat. Add flour and stir to form a paste; cook until fragrant, about 1 to 2 minutes. Add both sugars and water; bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to low and simmer for 3 to 5 minutes. Remove from the heat.

Step 3. Press one pastry into the bottom and up the sides of a 9-inch pie pan. Roll out remaining pastry so it will overhang the pie by about 1/2 inch. Cut pastry into eight one-inch strips.

Step 4. Place sliced apples into the bottom crust, forming a slight mound. Lay four pastry strips vertically and evenly spaced over apples, using longer strips in the center and shorter strips at the edges.

Step 5. Make a lattice crust: Fold the first and third strips all the way back so they're almost falling off the pie. Lay one of the unused strips perpendicularly over the second and fourth strips, then unfold the first and third strips back into their original position.

Step 6. Fold the second and fourth vertical strips back. Lay one of the three unused strips perpendicularly over top. Unfold the second and fourth strips back into their original position. Repeat Steps 6 and 7 to weave in the last two strips of pastry. Fold and trim excess dough at the edges as necessary, and pinch to secure.

-1/2 teaspoon ground ginger

-1/2 teaspoon salt

- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg

- 1 (9-inch) unbaked pie crust

~ Instructions ~

Step 1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees Fahrenheit

Step 2. Whisk pumpkin puree, condensed milk, eggs, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, and salt together in a medium bowl until smooth.

Step 3. Pour the mix you just made into the pie crust and bake in the preheated oven for 15 minutes.

Step 4. Reduce oven temperature to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) and continue baking until a knife inserted 1 inch from the crust comes out clean, 35 to 40 minutes. Let cool before serving. Then enjoy!

Gift Ideas

Every year, people around the world show thanks to others by giving gifts during the holiday season: And every year, those people struggle to find the perfect gift for their loved ones. To make things a little less stressful this holiday season here are some tips and ideas for finding the perfect gift.

It's difficult to buy gifts for your parents when you have a limited amount of funds for the perfect gift, but what if you could give a gift that costs nothing. Just being a good kid by doing your daily chores, going above and beyond, and creating one less stressful thing for your family. Another easy idea is hanging out with them and enjoying some family time by watching a movie, playing a game, making cookies, or any other way that your family bonds. If you spend a little bit of money though, people often prefer something that you made; whether it is a simple card or a small painting, it will be cherished.

One of the greatest joys of the holiday season is being able to be with the ones we love. This is why it is so important to show our thanks to grandparents. With grandparents, the best gift is being there for them and hanging out with them. Also, if your family has recent photos, put one in a nice frame. Your grandparents will always appreciate a good photo of you!

Finding gifts for friends can be a ton of fun and easily modified to be less difficult for you. Some easy examples of gifts might be a magnet from a trip or an event: Walgreens often has great deals online to get custom magnets for you and your friends. You could make a tasty treat for the holidays, like snickerdoodle bars or even chocolate-dipped oreos. It can also be fun to just go ice skating, sledding, or just relaxing with a nice cup of hot chocolate.

People commonly pass gifts around by drawing names or doing a white elephant. In these cases, it is a good idea to find a gift that your friends will find amusing. This can be an inside joke for the friend group or some sort of meme that you all enjoy.

It is important to remember that the best part of the gift is you remind somebody you were thinking of them. Happy holidays and have fun!



- Layla Schiesl

Black Friday

Black Friday is always one day after Thanksgiving. This year, it's November 29. Since it's that time of the year, many people want to buy and give gifts. This being said, it's very expensive. In 2024, you rarely find a good deal around the holidays. Here are some options for keeping it cheap during the holidays: 65+ Best Amazon Deals; blackfriday.com/ (various ad scans); and 45 Tech Deals. If you need to buy technology like (phones, computers, laptops, etc), you should wait to shop until Dec. 2 because Cyber Monday is when most electronics go on sale.

Black Friday was different before modern technology. People used to crowd the stores and fight for what they bought. But nowadays people can buy online. Since it's easier and more convenient. However, a lot of people forget that the in-person deals are sometimes a lot cheaper than online. A lot of stores feature their own deals. For example, Target announced the return of its popular Deal of the Day event, taking place Nov. 1 through Dec. 24. Shoppers will be able to take advantage of the deals with the one-day-only deals that go up to 50% off and exclusive deals for members of the target circle program. Also, Target also has a new sale coming up before Black Friday. The company announced deals across a selection of major national brands like LEGO, Barbie, Dyson and Shark. Available at target.com, or the app as well as in stores. A lot of other stores, like Walmart, have announced multi-day online and in-store shopping events. According to the company, the deals will offer savings on toys, tech, home, fashion, décor and more. Click [HERE](#) for Black Friday store hours

- Chris Schmidt & Bryajah Johnson

Small Biz Saturday

Small Business Saturday is an annual shopping event held on the Saturday after Thanksgiving in the United States, much like its neighboring events Black Friday and Cyber Monday. It was first invented by American Express in 2010 to try to encourage people to support small, local businesses during one of the busiest shopping periods of the year. Small Business Saturday serves to spotlight the unique products that are only offered by small shops, which make our cities feel more like home. In downtown Appleton, there are many small businesses that might spark interest in you! Blue Moon Emporium features handcrafted items made by different artists. Lillian's along with Olive and Rose are boutiques that sell women's clothing, along with accessories and other merchandise. Also, Appleton is holding a special event where you can grab a **free passport** (of savings along with other offers and discounts) and collect stamps at the small businesses in there to have a chance to win over \$3,000 in prizes. By shopping at smaller stores, customers can support their local neighbors and economy, and potentially help spread the word and help something small turn into something greater. And like some other big businesses, many small ones offer special discounts and events to attract customers. This day has grown significantly over the years and is a reminder to support the local growth of entrepreneurs who contribute character and truly make the season of giving prominent in their city.

-- Tori

Voting Registration for Students

Exercising the right to vote is one of the most critical responsibilities a U.S. citizen possesses. The foundation of our democracy is built upon the voices of American citizens, and casting a vote during election season is one of the most effective ways to get your voice heard.

In preparation for the 2024 presidential election, a group of six students here at Appleton East worked to increase voter turnout among their peers. Four of the six students – Audrey Loritz, Lila Bornemann, Owen Mineau, and Dylan Swaim – attended Badger State back in June. This experience, along with guidance from East staff member Mr. Kurth, catalyzed the formation of Rock the Vote Club. Alex Simon and Henry Benz joined the cause soon after.

The main objective of Rock the Vote Club is to help register seniors at East eighteen years of age or older to vote. In coordination with the League of Women Voters, each of the students visited senior homerooms on October 14th and helped their peers through the online voter registration process. In total, the group was able to register twenty-four students through the site myvote.wi.gov. This number was sent back to the League of Women Voters, who were therefore inspired to establish similar chapters at each of the Appleton high schools, saying our “degree of success with this [was] very persuasive.”

If you were not able to vote in this election, don't worry. Simply becoming acquainted with the political processes that go into selecting candidates for office is a great way to prepare for being able to cast your vote in the future. Learning as much as you can about each candidate is vital to making an informed decision regarding who you will support.

The midterm election will occur in November of 2026, so if you are eighteen now or will be by then, you can vote in the midterm elections. Midterm elections happen every four years, and are held roughly halfway through the current president's term in office; this is when Wisconsin's state's governor is elected. You will need to register to vote in the midterms, too, so make sure to register as soon as you are able in order to make your voting process easier.

The current members of Rock the Vote club will all be graduating in May, but that doesn't mean that the East community should cease its efforts to increase political participation. If you're interested in continuing to help your peers get involved during the next election, contact club advisor Mr. Kurth for more information.

-Lila Bornemann



KICKOFF TO Forensics!

It's a new season, a new year, and we have a team that is BACK-TO-BACK state champions. That team is Forensics, run by all-world Mr. Paul Miller. Forensics is the art of speech and interpretation, and there are numerous categories to choose from that can fit your personality and performance level.

"Forensics is a competitive public speaking and acting team." Head Coach, Mr. Miller adds, "Students compete in a variety of speaking events ranging from dramatic reading, informative speech, or news reporting. You can perform a work of poetry, act out a scene from a play, or bring your favorite short story to life. We are always looking for new team members. Everyone is welcome to join us at our first team meeting late in November. Watch the advisory announcements page for updates."

Students are welcome to joining the team throughout the school year. If you missed the first meeting, reach out to Mr. Miller in room 1122 or send him an email. He'd be happy to help you out. Forensics has a supportive community; it is an energizing space to do what you love, and you are open to creating new memories and accomplishments and cheering on your team.

- Jo Buck & Cynthia Vang

HELLO WINTER SPORTS!

As the temperature continues to drop, we say goodbye to another memorable fall season of sports. However, the new frosts are only bringing more activity with Appleton East's 2024-2025 Winter Sports season! Welcome to some of the sports offered at Appleton East this winter season.

INTRODUCING ATHLETICS STAFF!

- ▶ **Samuel Engelland - Associate Principal - Activities Director**
- ▶ **Kyle Hayes - Head Strength & Conditioning Coach**
- ▶ **Daniel Rafalski - Assistant Strength and Conditioning Coach**
- ▶ **Darian Van Offeren - Athletic Trainer**



BASKETBALL

At last, the most popular winter sport of East is beginning soon. Basketball is widely beloved at Appleton East due to its competitiveness with other schools in the conference. Boys are coached by Turner Botz, and girls are coached by Brian Paschen. Boys season started November 18 and the girls season started Monday, November 11.



BOYS SWIMMING/DIVING

Calling all boys who love the water! If you enjoy track or cross country or other running and endurance sports, you will feel the real thrill with competitive swimming. Practices include drills, team bonding, and stamina-building workouts. Appleton East Boys Swim/Dive currently has a co-op with Appleton North and practices take place at the Appleton North Natatorium. Swimming is coached by Shalene Huth and diving is coached by Mike Schuelke. The season began Monday, November 18.

HOCKEY

Finally, we see the revered winter football on ice - Appleton Alliance unites all three schools with both the boys and girls hockey teams. This rigorous sport demands experience, strength, and stamina in skating and maneuvering on the ice. Boys are coached by Sam West, and girls are coached by Jeff Fox. The season began Monday, November 11.

WRESTLING

Get ready to rumble. Tournaments and self-defense skills are highly prevalent in this sport. Wrestling is coached by Dave Novickis. The season started Monday, November 18.



-ELLA RANES



The Mind's Matter!

There's a new club at East, called the Mind's Matter Project. You might've seen posters around the school, but many don't know what the Mind's Matter Project exactly is. This club focuses on the study of brain cancer and volunteering opportunities around the community to help those suffering from brain cancer.

"The Mind's Matter Project is a new club starting this 2024-2025 school year that solely focuses on benefiting the community in support of families battling against brain tumors." says President Brynn Wilson. "They plan to accomplish this through several fundraising events and donating that money to families within the community who need financial help for medical care. Meetings will be held during flex, typically on Thursdays, so please sign up! They have several fun events planned, so stay tuned!"



If you have a passion or interest in this type of opportunity, or you're looking for a new club, the Mind's Matter Project has much to offer and many fundraising activities planned. Please consider joining this club to help benefit others in the community.

=Jo Buck

Getting to Know Mr. Burwell!

Mr. Burwell is a relatively new staff member here at East. He lived in Beloit, Wisconsin from 1998 until he moved here in October 2023. Mr. Burwell has five children and three grandchildren, with two more on the way. Mr. Burwell is East's campus security. He started working at East in January 2024, after winter break ended.



With a compassionate spirit and focus on student well-being, Mr. Burwell's responsibilities include supervising the campus and halls, assisting students in In-School Suspension, ensuring students have the necessary passes, and offering support to students in times of distress. What Mr. Burwell likes about his job is that it helps him see from a younger perspective. He also likes that he's making a positive difference in students' lives. Mr. Burwell enjoys being around students, talking to students, and discussing his kids with students.

Mr. Burwell's least favorite thing about his job is having to remind students to follow the school rules and constantly warn them. Especially when the same students are fooling around, Mr. Burwell dislikes repeating the rules. Mr. Burwell did not have a specific reason for why he chose to work at East, but he did want to be able to work again. Mr. Burwell said that even after 40 years, he still wanted to work. He also mentioned that he wanted to get closer to his grandchildren, who live near East.

**-Delinda Herr &
Yuna Lee**

WHAT IS EAST THANKFUL FOR?

Out of 152 responses,
here are some of our
favorites!

I am incredibly thankful for the time I get to spend with my family and dog-and close friends of course!

I am thankful for the wonderful teachers here at this school and how supportive they are, I am also thankful for all of my friends that make me feel a part of this community. I am also thankful for the theater program and how accepted they make me feel.

I am thankful for my parents who have sacrificed so much of their time and energy for me, my friends for always being there for me and making me laugh everyday, and Beyoncé

My mom helped me through the good and the bad even if I saw her actions or words against me. No matter how close we were she looked out for me and let me pursue the things I loved doing most. Without her, I wouldn't be who I am due to her guidance.

Having the opportunity to work with the best staff and students anywhere!

I'm thankful for friends and food on the table, or course. And specifically on the food front, bread and pastries. Nothing like warm bread on a day you're feeling low. :-)

I am thankful to be alive and learning during the process

I am thankful for the many people (family, friends, colleagues, acquaintances) who share their lives and time with me.

I am thankful for my boyfriend, he makes me happy and he brings out a side of me that allows me to be myself. I am thankful for my family, they are a big part of my life and have helped me become who I am today. I am thankful for the people around me; because of who I'm with or who's around me, I am able to find myself and find who I can be comfortable with. I am thankful for the teachers and peers at my school for being able to help me out when needed. And lastly, I am thankful for the strangers who carry kindness in their hearts and treat everyone around them with love.

I am thankful for the supportive friends I have who tell me to keep going. I love coming to school and being able to see them and have classes with them everyday. I am also thankful for the amazing teachers I have this year for making the classes even more enjoyable.

I'm thankful for the sunrise and river that I get to see every morning on my bike ride to school. I'm thankful for Alma Rivera who is my cooperating teacher, friend, and part of my support system. I'm thankful for the students that make me laugh when the day is difficult. I'm thankful to the staff that keep this school up and running. I'm thankful to the parents who trust us and support us. I'm thankful to be part of a community that listens and supports each other.

LAUNCHING ONTO RADIO WAVES

Some weeks ago, I signed up for a free field trip to Woodward Communications, which is a combination radio station and magazine publisher. They have several locations throughout the state. They reach millions each day with their six radio stations and each month with their business publications.

Ms. Coonen from the Launch Studio came along with family and friends, using us to the several employees and heads of various departments, including the sound designers, podcasters and the head videographer. Unfortunately, the antenna engineer was not available, but we were able to learn about the anti-frost measures taken to keep the antenna from freezing over in the harsh Wisconsin weather. Did you know the ropes on every side are full of liquid?

Not only did they let us, and our fellow students from North and West, hold expensive equipment, but we were also able to record a public service announcement for the school that would be aired. Ivor Musiiwa and I were given a script and recorded, picking the best takes and learning how sound and effects are added. Every commercial is scheduled up to weeks in advance. During campaign season, political ads take precedent, but all ads are given equal treatment besides.

[LISTEN HERE! 2024 - 30 seconds - Once a Patriot Always a Patriot.mp3](#)

We were all given copies of the magazine to take home as well. The Launch Studio offers trips like these all the time. Keep an eye on announcements in Home Room for any of the next amazing opportunity! You can also email Ms. Coonen at coonenkaren@aad.k12.wi.us for more information.

Liliana Monson



I am thankful for a bond with my parents. I am thankful for being in school, I am thankful for having friends, I am thankful for a positive mindset, I am thankful for the struggles I have to deal with, I am thankful for the emotions I deal with, I am thankful for having a lot on my mind, I am thankful for being overstimulated, I am thankful for the best and the worse of me, I am thankful for finding the positive and negatives of me, I am thankful for trying to finding my peace and happiness, I am thankful to be human.

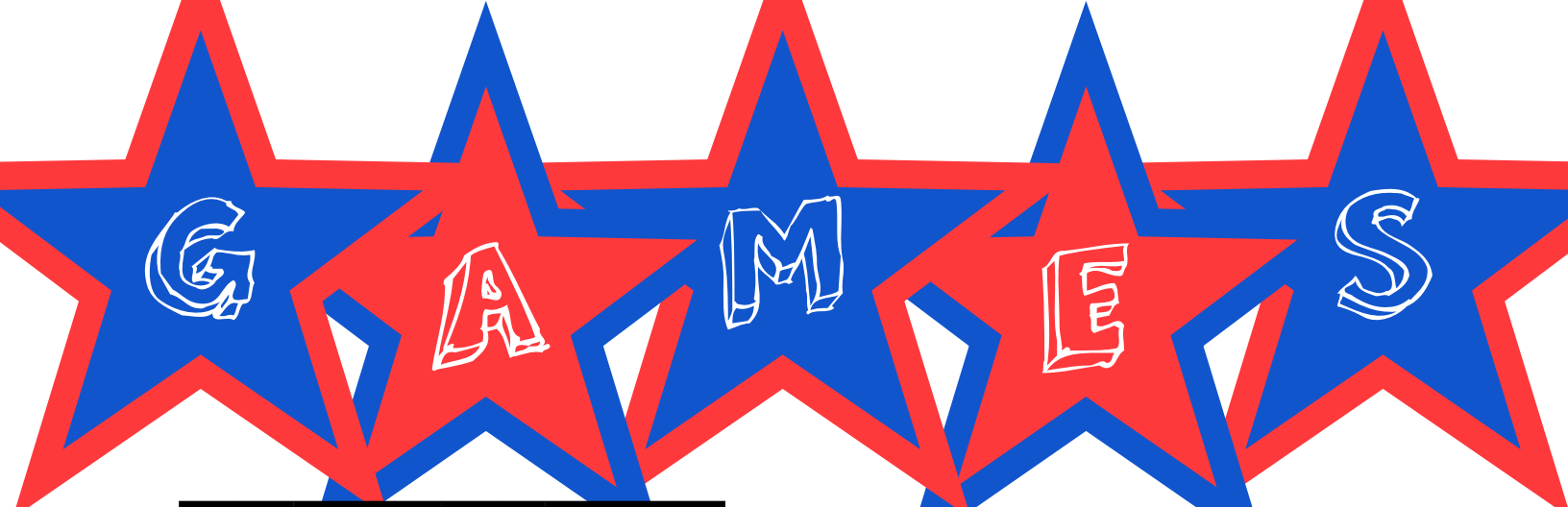
My family and friends that support me

Having a job and home

Food

supportive friends

I am thankful for my education and the chance to work in the school district that I grew up in. Working in education is tough, but I remind myself every day not to take these opportunities for granted. I am truly lucky to be here and to love what I do.



CONNECTIONS

Connections is a word game that challenges players to find themes between words.

Players are given 16 words and find groups of four items that share something in common.

For example:

- FISH: Bass, Flounder, Salmon, Trout
- Things that start with FIRE: Ant, Drill, Island, Opal

Each group is assigned a color (Yellow, Green, Blue, or Purple), with Yellow being the easiest category and Purple being the trickiest.

[Play here!](#)

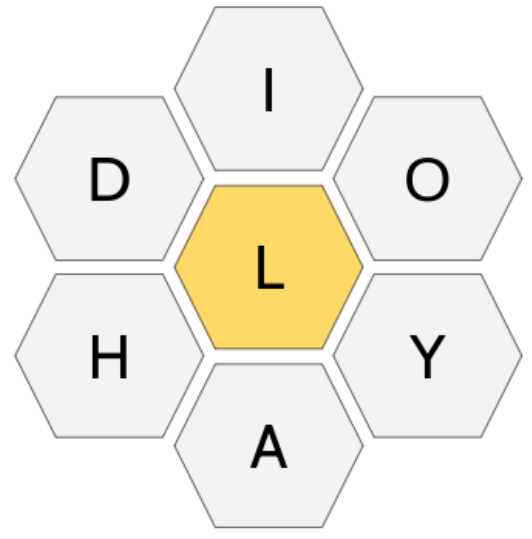


Try to guess the hidden word in six guesses or less!

- R** = the letter does not appear in the word
- O** = the letter does appear in the word, but in a different spot
- W** = the letter appears in the word in that spot

[Play here!](#)

SPELLING BEAST



Make as many words as possible with the given letters!

- All words must contain the center letter
- Words must be at least four letters long
- Letters may be used multiple times within one word
- Four-letter words are worth one point, any words longer than four letters are worth the number of points equal to the number of letters in the word
- There is at least one word that can be made using all seven letters, called a pangram. A pangram is worth seven bonus points plus the word's length, so a seven-letter pangram would be worth 14 points. *Answer on last page of The Courier!*

- Mats Ridlehoover

Pumpkin

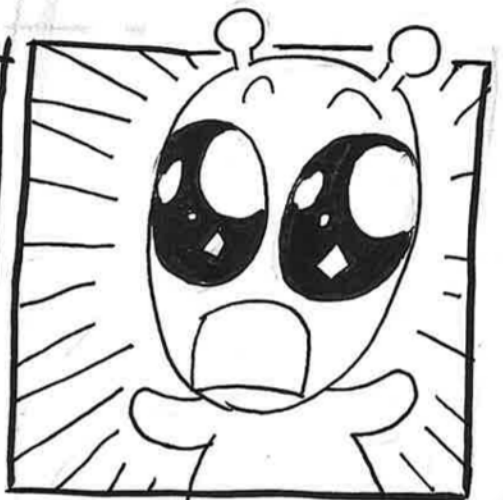
Comics by Liliana Monson



An Even Worse Take



Not The Takeaway



Nora

And a new comic from Nora Buck

the courier

the appleton east student newspaper

Courier Contributors:

- Jack Albrecht:** Thanksgiving Recipes
Tori Baerenwald: Small Business Saturday
Grace Boe: Adopt a Family
Lila Bornemann: Student Voter Registration
Jo Buck: Mind's Matter
Jo Buck & Cynthia Vang: Forensics Kickoff
Nora Buck: Comic
Madie Cates: Sounds of the Season
Delindra Her & Yuna Lee: Mr. Burwell Spotlight
Liliana Monson: Radio Station & Comics
Ella Ranes: Winter Sports
Mats Ridlehoover: Games
Layla Schiesl: Gift Buying Guide
Chris Schmidt & Bryajah Johnson: Black Friday
Cynthia Vang: Christmas Parade Prep

Editors:

- Lila Bornemann
Jo Buck
Liliana Monson
Cynthia Vang

Adviser:

Mr. Otis

The Courier, Appleton East's student newspaper, is written, edited, and distributed by Patriot students and staff.

EAST

Next Meeting!

Thursday, January 9, during Flex! Room 1112 Sign up for Mr. Otis. We hope to see you there!

Pangram Answer- Holiday