CUBREPORTER
ISSUE 3 | DECEMBER/JANUARY 2023/24
VOL. 1

CUB REPORTER

Student Spotlight 03
Meadow Nusbaum

Senior Superlatives 12
By Morgan & Myka

Teacher of the Month 18
Holly Koehn

JH Two Truths & a Lie 15
ByAevry, Faith, Izzy & Crystal

UPCOMING EVENTS

5 December
JH Drama

13 December
K-12 Christmas Concert

18 December
Monday School

22 December - 8 January
Christmas Break

13 January
Father/Daughter Dance

SPORTS

Results and Highlights from Our School Teams

Volleyball:
1A State Runners Up

Football:
Lost to Haxtun in the State Semi-finals game 30-12

Boys & Girls Basketball:
Starts November 28th

5

7

11

21

16

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: JUNIOR CLASS

MEADOW NUSBAUM

Meadow Nusbaum is the Student Spotlight for November. She is a Junior in high school, and has attended Simla Schools for the past ten years. Meadow is the setter on the volleyball team, which just got second at State Volleyball. She is a part of The Future Business Leaders of America, National Honors Society, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. A fun fact about Meadow is that she and her twin, Montana, are miracle babies. Their mom had cancer and was told that she would not be able to have kids anymore, three years later, she had the twins. The first thing that came to mind when she was asked what she loves most about Simla was the community. Meadow loves the community here in Simla. The whole community is so supportive at all her volleyball games. She loves how tight knit everybody is. Meadows favorite subject is lunch, like most high school students. She loves getting to hang out with her friends. Meadow explained that her lunch table is like a family, and they come together for family dinner everyday. When asked about who her role model was, she answered her parents. She credits them with teaching her everything she knows, and they are always there for her. Meadow has multiple scenarios on where she wants to be in 10 years. She wants to either have a career as a vet, photographer, or teacher. Meadow has a bright future ahead of her!

CONTENTS

04 Tucker Tidbits
Kathy Tucker

08 Secondary Principal Notes
Sammi Swennes

11 Counselors Corner
Chad Thieman

12 Senior Superlatives

14 Superintendent Notes
Steve Wilson

15 Teacher of the Month
Holly Koehn

16 Girls Sports Highlight

18 JH Two Truths & A Lie

20 Boys Sports Highlight

22 December Lunch Calender

23 Yearbook & Christmas Concert

24 Merry Christmas
From the Journalism Staff

TUCKER TIDBITS FOR ELEMENTARY

KATHY TUCKER ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

It's hard to believe that the holiday season is already here, and soon it will be time for Christmas break. The Christmas season always brings with it an appreciation for others. Parents, thank you for giving us the opportunity to teach your children. We appreciate all you do on a daily basis such as helping with homework, checking backpacks daily, signing Cub books, keeping kiddoes home when they are sick, communicating with teachers, and for just being there supporting and loving your children. Students, thank you for trying your best and striving to learn more. Remember to make learning a priority as we bring the first semester to a close, and thank your teachers for all they do for you on a daily basis. Teachers, thank you for always striving to improve as instructors, giving of yourselves continually, working hard and putting in extra time to achieve excellence, and for caring and loving our students. We are so blessed and thankful for the school/parent/community partnership that we experience here as Big Sandy Bearcubs!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ELEMENTARY FOR RECEIVING THE GOVERNOR'S BRIGHT SPOT AWARD!

It is my honor to share that Colorado Governor Jared Polis announced that Big Sandy Elementary is among the top 16 schools to receive the Governor's Science Bright Spot Awards. On the 2023 CMAS Science fifth grade assessment, our students who met or exceeded expectations surpassed the state average by at least fifty percent! In an announcement, Governor Polis stated, "By highlighting the top sixteen schools in the state for science achievement, we are shining a light on what works. We look forward to finding out what works at these schools and helping more students excel in science."

As part of this reward, our school will receive $50,000 in grant money to be spent towards enhancing further learning in science or STEM related areas. I am proud of our staff for creating engaging, challenging, and rigorous classrooms where all subjects are taught at the highest levels. Big Sandy Elementary students love learning and continue to show some of the highest achievement and growth in the state of Colorado.

The 2023 5th Grade excited about surpassing the state average in Science

ELEMENTARY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The elementary will be presenting their annual Christmas program on Wednesday, December 13, under the direction of Ms. Trowbridge. This will be a K-12th grade program and will begin at 6:30 p.m. The students have worked diligently to prepare for this performance and will be decked out in their best Christmas attire. Don't miss out on this opportunity to usher in the Christmas season!Ranch to learnabout early Colorado settlers and the lives that they led in making Colorado what it is today.

Thank you, teachers, for providing these excellent learning opportunities**!**

COME ONE COME ALL FOR SOME YUMMY FOOD!

Before the Christmas program, our Future Business Leaders of America chapter will be hosting a chili supper for all students and their families. The dinner will begin promptly at 5 p.m. The dinner will cost $5 for

teens/adults and $3 for elementary children or younger. The money will help sponsor FBLA students at their district and state competitions. Come join us, sit back, relax, and enjoy visiting with your family and friends!
students have worked diligently to prepare for this performance and will be decked out in their best Christmas

CUBS DEN NEWS

Cub's Den leaders met with their groups on November 17th. The November theme for the month is "Thankfulness." Leaders taught a lesson on how we should all be thankful and how to verbalize that consistently with others. Thank you to Mrs. Rebecca Stanko and Mrs. Townley for organizing and preparing our leaders to teach these groups!

SANTA CLAUS

Santa Claus will be coming to our school on December 19th. Thank you to our National Honor Society and Journalism dept. for making this possible. Students, bring your lists!

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Christmas Parties will be held on December 21, 2023 which will also be our last day of school before break. Classroom teachers will be hosting these parties.

TOYS FOR TOTS

A local family desires, once again, to make toys available to all students at Christmastime. This requires much time, hard work, and organization. Thank you, Kim, Kayla, and family, for helping our students and families!

FIRST SEMESTER

Our first semester ends on Thursday, December 21, 2023. Report cards will be sent home after we return from our Christmas break. If a teacher has a concern about a student's progress, then parents will be contacted. Please make sure to have your child read and complete his/her homework on time while making quality work a priority.

ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

Our district has several people who serve on this committee. It is comprised of students, staff, parents, community members, and business owners. We appreciate the time and effort that these folks give to help make our schools better!
Our next accountability meeting will be on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 3 p.m. in the library.

TOYS FOR TOTS

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DECEMBER & JANUARY STUDENT OF THE MONTH

I picked Aspen because she is an absolute joy to have in my class! She works hard and has great grades, is considerate of everyone around her and their feelings, and is always willing to help anyone she can! Her bubbly personality always makes everyone happy!
I picked Asher because he always keeps me laughing and is a great student. He works hard and his grades show it. He keeps us all laughing and in a great mood, and is always willing to help and is considerate to others.

Aspen and Asher are great kids who can always turn one of my bad days into a great day! I love having them in my class!

THANKS TO...

All veterans for serving our country

Mr. Tucker, Mrs. Townley, Mrs. Creel, and Mrs. Hamacher for organizing and providing an excellent Veteran's Day ceremony.

All parents for being a support for your children and our school

All elementary students for a great first semester of learning

Accountability committee members for giving of their time to make our school better

All Big Sandy Staff for helping our students experience much success

Our lunch ladies for always providing a yummy lunch served with a smile

Our custodial staff for keeping our facilities in tip top shape

Bus drivers for keeping our students safe

Have a very Merry Christmas and a blessed holiday season! May it be filled with lots of laughter, hugs, and time spent with family and friends!

-NO AMOUNT OF MONEY OR SUCCESS CAN TAKE THE PLACE OF TIME SPENT WITH YOUR FAMILY-

-AUTHOR UNKNOWN

IT'S ALL IN THE FAMILY... BEARCUB BROTHERS!

High School Freshman Logan Rayfield and little brother Luke Rapp posing during the State Football Pep Rally

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:

SAMMI SWENNES

YEAR-TO-DATE

STATE VOLLEYBALL

CONGRATULATIONS to our **STATE RUNNER UP** high school volleyball team. They won their region and advanced to the state volleyball tournament where they made it to the finals!! They were one of final two 1A teams left playing in the state of Colorado!! Congratulations girls—we are so proud of you!

FOOTBALL SEASON

What a great season for our high school football team---they were one of the last four 8 man teams in the state. They advanced to the semi-finals---great season boys!!!

BASKETBALL SEASON

Basketball season is well under way for our junior high teams. They will continue to have games in December and January, and the Black Forest League Junior High Basketball Tournament will be held in Elbert on January 19 th and 20 st.

The High School Basketball teams start their season this weekend in the Limon Tournament. The varsity girls will play at 4 p.m., varsity boys at 5:30 p.m., JV girls at 7:00 p.m., and JV boys at 8:30 p.m.

WRESTLING

High School Wrestling will start their season on Saturday, December 2nd in Fowler.

MUSIC

There will be a K-12 music, choir and band holiday winter performance on December 13 at 6:30 p.m.

FBLA DINNER

The FBLA students will also be having a chili supper before the performance starting at 5 p.m. The cost for the dinner will be $5 for teens/adults and $3 for elementary students & younger. Get into the Holiday Spirit with dinner and a show!!

DANCE/CHEER

The winter high school dance/cheer team will be competing in the State Spirit Competition on December 9—GOOD LUCK GIRLS!!

JH DRAMA

The Junior High Drama students will have their performance on Tuesday, December 5.

There are so many opportunities for our community to come see our students doing the things they love—we encourage to come watch a game, come to a performance—we are so proud of all of our students!!

FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS OF AMERICA

Congratulations to our new FBLA officers and inductees.

SIMLA JH IS A BRIGHT SPOT

Congratulations to Simla Junior High Science students and teachers for being awarded the Governor's Bright Spot of Science Award!! Governor Polis announced that Simla Junior High and Simla elementary were among the top 16 schools in science according to the 2023 CMAS science

HIGH SCHOOL FINALS

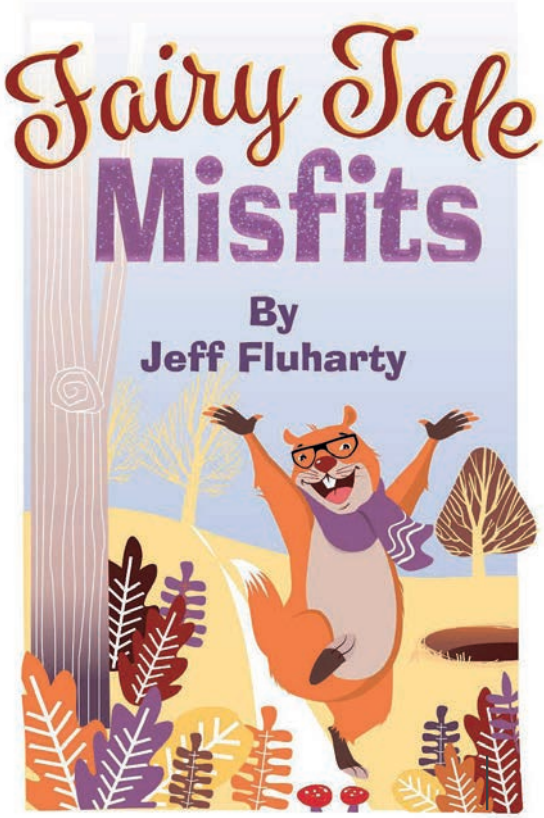
The High School finals schedule will be released in early December—please note that high school students will have finals scheudled on December 20 th and 21 st . High school students are only required to attend for those classes that they have finals in during their scheduled finals time. Keep a look out for the schedule coming home with your student. Junior high students will not follow this finals schedule, the junior high teachers will schedule their finals. The junior high students will participate in an Enrichment Day on December 21—this is something they don't want to miss!!

BACK UP BASKETBALL CLOCK KEEPER

We are looking for someone that would be willing to be trained and keep clock during junior high and high school basketball games when our clock keeper is unavailable. Please contact Mrs. Swennes at the school (719-541-2291 or sswennes@bigsandy100j.org) if interested.

We hope that Thanksgiving was a restful time for you and your family. We all look forward to the Christmas Season and the end of the first semester. The winter break will begin on December 22 nd (last day on December 21st) and we will return to school on January 9 th .

The administration and staff would like to wish you and your family a Happy Holiday season---we are blessed to work with your kids every day and appreciate everything that you do to support your child's education at Big Sandy Schools!



COUNSELOR CORNER

CHAD THIEMAN

SENIORS

It's the first of December! Hopefully seniors have applied to their top choices for college and have been receiving notifications of acceptance. I encourage all of our seniors to work hard in the weeks before Christmas to get their college applications submitted.

In Senior Seminar, our Senior Projects are wrapping up and 8-page research papers will be handed in soon! Based on their research, each student is also creating a PowerPoint presentation to give before a panel of judges from our community Dec. 18 th – 20 th . The senior who is judged to have the best overall presentation will win a gift card!

This year we again required a job shadow experience for each senior. I hope that this was a valuable time in helping our students get a first-hand and practical look at the day-to-day requirements of their career choice. Parents – thank you for helping your student complete this requirement!

In January we plan to begin a Personal Finance unit in conjunction with Farmers State Bank, work through the job application and interview processes, and continue to work on scholarship applications. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) should be available soon. Google "FAFSA" to find the link to the online application. Financial information comes from your families completed 2022 tax forms. This is a free process so if you encounter any charges being requested then you have accessed the wrong site. In order to complete and digitally sign your completed FAFSA you will need a FSA account. The process for obtaining this is found by searching "Federal Student Aid Account". You are looking for the site: studentaid.gov for both the FAFSA and the account creation. I am always willing to help you go through these applications and provide as much guidance as I can!

Farmers State Bank is hosting a financial aid night for parents on Tuesday, Dec. 5 th from 6 – 7 p.m. at the Calhan School. FAFSA expert Jeanette Rojas will be the presenter. I would recommend attending if you are able to do so.

ACT

The next test date for the ACT is February 10th . The regular registration deadline for this test is January 5th . Register at www.actstudent.org. The test fee for the ACT is $68.00.

SAT

The next test date for the SAT is March 9 th . The regular registration deadline for this test is February 23 rd . The test fee for the SAT is $60.00. Register at www.sat.org by choosing the SAT tab. All juniors will be taking the SAT at Simla on April 17th at no charge as part of the State's assessment program.

ALL SECONDARY STUDENTS – CHANGING YOUR SCHEDULE

December 21 st marks the end of the 1 st semester! If you would like to change your schedule for the 2nd semester, you must pick up a schedule change form from my office (this includes 2nd semester online & college courses). 4 signatures are required: Teacher from the class that you are dropping; Teacher from the class that you are adding; Parents; and Counselor. Forms will need to be handed in by Friday, December 15th .

ALL SECONDARY STUDENTS - ASVAB

The ASVAB (military readiness assessment) is planned for Wednesday, January 17 th at 9 a.m. at the school. High school students can sign up in my office to take this optional assessment. There is no cost.

In your holiday traveling, make time to stop and visit some college campuses along the way. One of the best ways to learn about a college is to set foot on campus.

Remember that my office is always open to talk about whatever that you would like. Stop by anytime!

May you all have a Merry Christmas and I am looking forward to a great New Year!

SENIOR SUPERLATIVES

CLASS OF 2024

Written & Designed by
Morgan Swennes & Myka Smith

Biggest Heart

J dan R e

Best Dressed

Tayten Blasingame

Biggest Smile

Skyla H

Funniest Laugh

C Kleck

Most likely to trip at graduation

Most likely to be on Broadway

Biggest Bookworm

Cutest Couple

SUPERINTENDENT BOARD NOTES

STEVE WILSON

NEW BOARD DIRECTORS

We will have three new board directors serving on our school board starting in December. Judy Book, Curtis Stanko and Hank Smith will be joining Chad Maranville and Greg Mitchell.

Thank you to our board directors who have served our students, school and community the past several years: Nancy Sotomayor has served all of us for the past 8 years; Tika Ethridge has served all of us as well as spending much time on many board related outside of school committees... for the past 4 years; Scott Lutz came back and filled in for a year as an appointee, after serving 8 additional years in the past...thank you!

CONGRATULATIONS ELEMENTARY & JH

Congratulations to our Elementary students and Junior High students for being two of the top 16 schools in Colorado as rated by the state science testing last spring. There are over 1900 schools in Colorado. Governor Polis is recognizing the top 16 schools by giving them $50,000 each as awards for being the best in science achievement and also asking them to be models for the other schools in Colorado.

STATE PLAYOFF COMPETITIONS

Congratulations to the players, coaches and teams for the successes during the state playoff competitions!

VETERANS DAY

Our students remembered our veterans on Veterans Day; thank you to our Veterans, Mr. Tucker, Mrs. Hamacher, Mrs. Creel, Mrs. Townley, teachers, principals, cooks, custodians, and students for making this day special.

STEAM NIGHT

Thank you to the elementary and entire school staff that helped make the Family STEAM night a success; thank you especially to our community members for coming in and having educational booths!

WATER TESTING

After testing around 60 water facets within our school building for the state, we have 56 facets that have water good for drinking, we have four sinks that we plan to put signs on that say for handwashing only.

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET

The Governor's Preliminary Budget was introduced in November. He proposes to pay off the remaining portion of the Budget Stability Factor next year so that money is no longer taken away from K-12 education unconstitutionally ever since Amendment 23 was passed in 2000. The legislative session which starts in January will take the current Governor's Budget as a starting point and then will be working on it throughout the legislative session.

FACILITY UPDATES

We plan to do some parking lot crack sealing soon and also have plans to put Simla Cubs banners up on some of the light poles. Our Visual Arts and Performing Arts Departments have purchased these banners/flags and hope to dress up our drive ways.

SNOW SAFETY

Hopefully, we will be getting some moisture soon. When that time comes, please be careful when driving and walking around the school during the snowy season. Although our custodians do a great job with snow removal, please let our children know to use extra caution on inclement weather days.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please also let Alisa Easler in the office know of any contact information changes in phone numbers or e-mail addresses so that we can keep in contact especially with short notice communications such as school late-starts or cancellations.

THANKFUL

We look forward to the many school activities this winter. We are very thankful for the good start to our school year and thankful for our students and staff at Big Sandy Schools!

We hope you and your families have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Go Cubs!

HOLLY Koehn

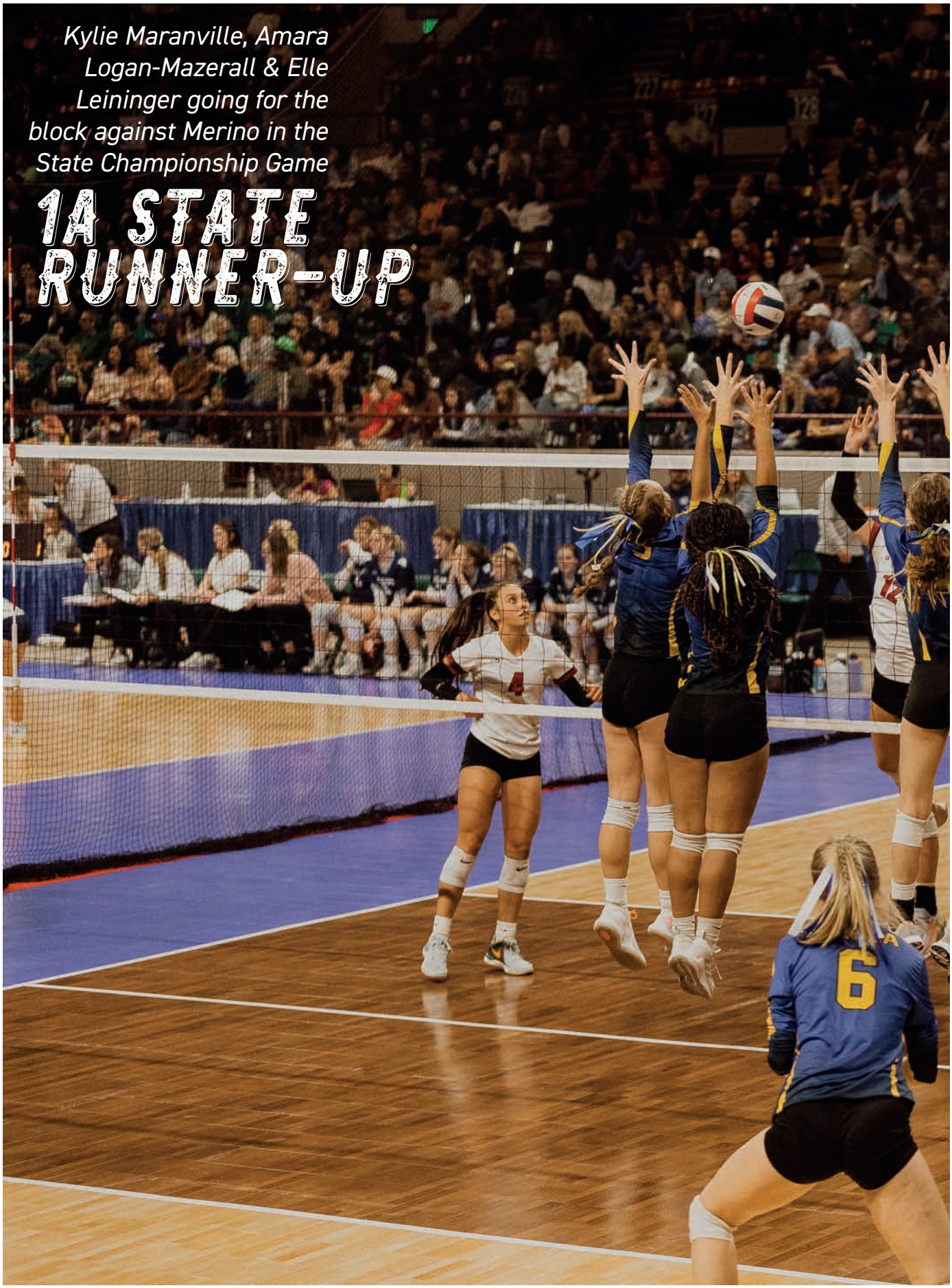
Teacher Of The Month

Holly Koehn has worked and been the Kindergarten teacher at Simla for the last seven years. She loves coming to work and seeing all her kids here ready to learn. She loves how they all learn together and grow together. One of her favorite things about teaching is seeing light bulbs come on in kids heads when they figure something out. Holly knew from a young age that she wanted to work with kids, she just didn't know how. It wasn't until she had followed a diferent path of working in an office that she realized she wanted to be in a classroom with kids. She didn't want to sit in an office all day. A piece of advice that she wanted to share with people who are interesed in becoming teachers is that they need to be ready for lots of hugs. Holly Koehn has loved her time here at Simla. She has stayed in Simla because of the great teachers she works alongside, the awesome guidance and support from administration, the amazing students and families she gets to interact with, and the extraordinary community here. Ms. Koehn says her number one job is to keep her kindegarteners safe and teaching them comes after that. She prays that her students will come away from her class knowing they are loved and that she believes in them.

Ms. Koehn genuinely cares for her kids. She does whatever she needs to ensure their learing.

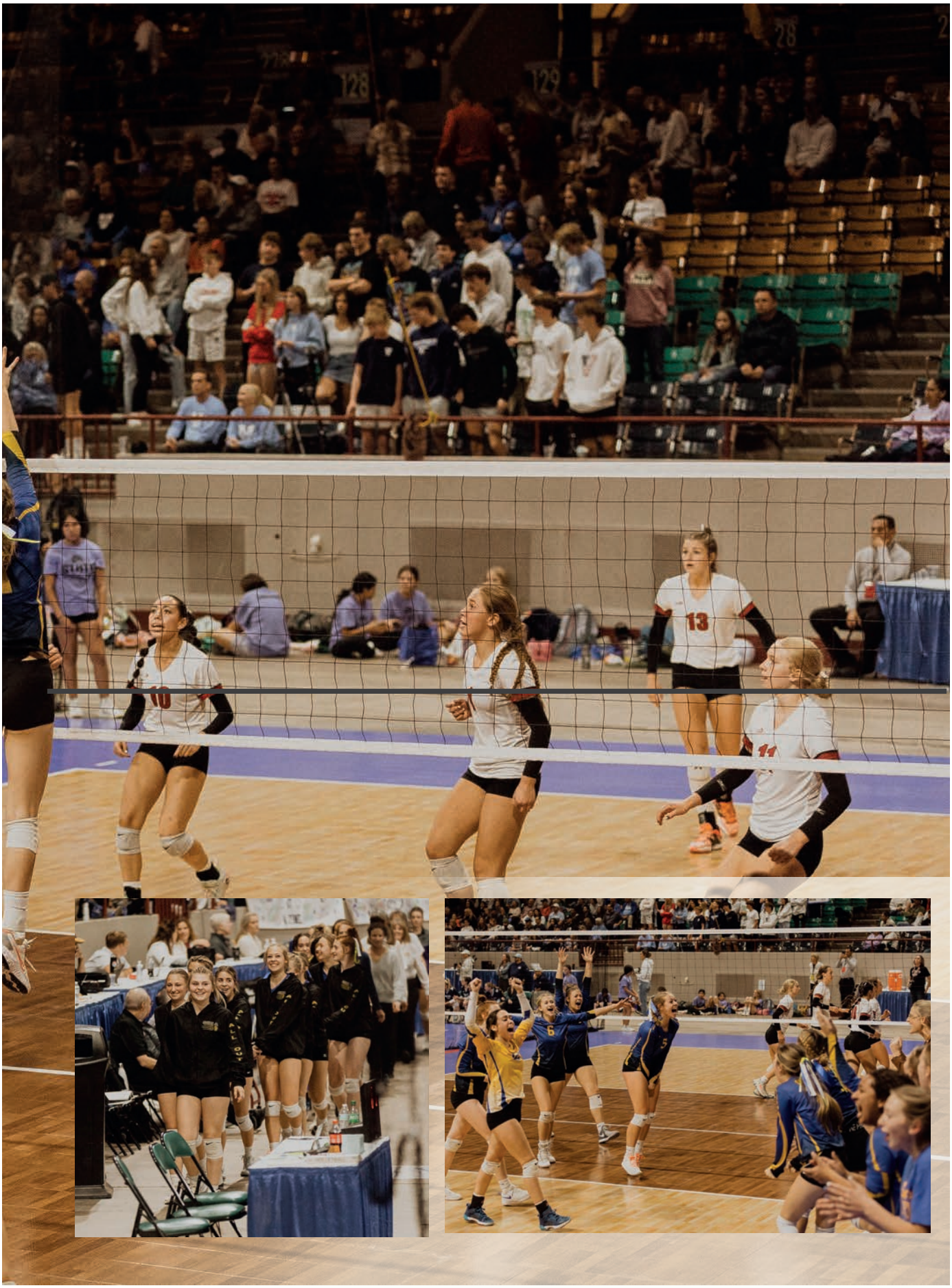
-Kathy Tucker
Elementary Principal

Designed by: Charley Maranville



Kylie Maranville, Amara Logan-Mazerall & Elle Leininger going for the block against Merino in the State Championship Game

1A STATE RUNNER-UP



Designed and Written by Aevry, Faith, Izzy & Crystal

I am... the tallest in my house!
I... love math!
I... love volleyball!

I... lived in Texas my whole life!
I've... never broken a bone!
I'm... 5'2!

Two TRUTHS and one LIE

I... was born in San Francisco!
I... died my hair!
I... wear glasses!

I... used to do gymnastics!
I... dressed up as a bat!
I... like sledding!

I... wear glasses!
I... have never died my hair!
I... have green eyes!

Two TRUTHS and one LIE

STATE
SEMIFINALS
QUALIFIER

LUNCH

DECEMBER 2023

Big Sandy 100J

This Institution Is an Equal Opportunity provider.
Menu Subject to Change.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1 Corn Dog Chips, Baked Beans Salad bar, Fruit Milk
4	**5** Ham Cheesy Scalloped potatoes Green Beans, Dinner roll Salad Bar, Fruit Milk	**6** Grilled Cheese Sandwich Chicken/ Tomato soup Carrots, Celery Salad Bar, Fruit Milk	**7** Tacos w/ Rice Lettuce, Cheese Salad Bar, Fruit Churro Milk	**8** Sloppy Joe Tater Tots, Lettuce Salad Bar, Fruit Milk
11	**12** Chicken and noodles Whipped potatoes Green Beans, Dinner roll Salad Bar, Fruit Milk	**13** Hot Dogs Chips, green beans Salad bar, Fruit Milk	**14** Tater Tot casserole Corn, Bread slice Fruit, Salad bar Milk	**15** Ham and Cheese sandwich French Fries, Baked beans Carrots, Salad bar Fruit, Cookie Milk
18 Sausage, Egg and Cheese English muffin, Hash brown Carrots, Salad bar Fruit, Milk	**19** Turkey Whipped potatoes w/ Gravy Corn, Dinner roll Salad, Fruit, JELLO cake Milk	**20** Pizza Lettuce, Salad Bar Pudding, Fruit Milk	**21** Turkey Salad sandwich Chips, Fruit Carrots Milk/ Juice	**22** No School
25	**26**	**27**	**28**	**29**

2024 YEARBOOK ORDERING IS LIVE!

Hey there, high schoolers! Time to put down your emoji-laden smartphones and listen up because we've got a yearbook situation on our hands. You see, ordering a yearbook ASAP is like securing a ticket to a nostalgia rollercoaster, and trust me, you won't want to miss that ride. Sure, you might think you'll remember every awkward cafeteria encounter and epic football game moment, but alas, memory tends to fade faster than last season's fashion trends.

So, here's the deal: get your paws on that yearbook before you're haunted by the ghost of teenage hairstyles past. And don't even think about relying on Instagram to capture all those precious memories. The yearbook is the real OG when it comes to preserving the moments that'll make you smile, cringe, and wonder what on earth possessed you to wear that outfit on picture day. So, fellow teens, don't procrastinate, lest you be doomed to a future filled with hazy recollections and regret-filled sighs. Order that yearbook pronto, and let the memories live on in gloriously printed, ink-on-paper perfection! #MEMORIESMATTER

ORDER ONLINE OR PICK UP AN ORDER FROM FROM THE JOURNALISM STAFF TODAY!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

FROM THE JOURNALISM STAFF