

# Students busy in first nine weeks

By CASSIDY SHIELDS

It's hard to believe that the first nine weeks has already come and gone. With so many things like football, volleyball, cross country, and homecoming, it went very fast. Of course, you can't forget keeping up with your grades either!

For many people, sports were a large part of their first nine weeks. The volleyball team had 19 out, cross-country 13, and the football team had 30. Practices began a couple of days before school started and ended the last weekend in October for state cross-country runners.

Kiah Blau said, "It was a fun time and I enjoyed helping the younger girls out!" when talking about her volleyball experience. The volleyball team had an impressive record, winning 24 games and losing 7. They won the Oberlin Invitational and were League Champs for the fourth year in a row.

The football boys had a tougher year, and ended up with a record of 4 wins and 5 losses. They beat two league rivals, Atwood and St. Francis.

The cross country had a terrific season. The boys were League Champs and won the Hill City Meet and came in second at Norton, Quinter, and regionals. They also made it to state as a team. Tyler Shields was the state runner-up. Also competing for Oberlin were Nolan Henningson, Dalton Jones, Matthew Helm, Ganon Henningson and Caleb Koerperich.

Along with the sports, another large part of the first nine weeks was getting to know and adjusting to our new principal, Ben Jimenez. Mr. Jimenez came from a much larger school in Derby, which has around 1,000 students. He said this was one of the biggest differences between our school and his old one. He also noticed that discipline took up a major part of his day at his old school, and here he rarely ever has to discipline.

While talking with Kaine Fredrickson and Hannah May, they both said that they have noticed that the new principal seems stricter and has added many new changes.

Mr. Jimenez said another major difference is that our community here is much closer, and the parents and teachers are much more

involved with the students. When asking him how he thought the first nine weeks went, he said, "Great. I've met a lot of great students, and I've noticed a lot of respect being demonstrated daily."

What surprised Mr. Jimenez the most was how close we are as a school and how we come together really well in times of need. His favorite part of the first nine weeks was homecoming. He loved all the tradition. Derby had nothing quite like it. He is looking forward to the second nine weeks and becoming more familiar with our district.

When conducting a survey on the first nine weeks, the responses were both shocking and expected. Ninety percent of the people responding thought the first nine weeks went either well or fantastic, with only seven percent saying it was terrible and three percent saying it was bad. Ninety-two percent said the nine weeks went very fast.

When asking what their hardest class was, 30 percent said math, 25 percent for science, 23 percent for English, and 14 percent said history. Other responses were Vo-Ag, Career and Life Planning, government, and Spanish.

Perhaps the biggest highlight of at the high school for the first nine weeks was homecoming. During the whole week, students were allowed to forgo the dress code and dress up for days like Hillbilly Day, Would You Still Be My friend If I wore This Outfit Day, PJ Day, Camo Day, and Red and White Day. Each class also decorated a window, which followed a nautical theme and were judged accordingly.

On Friday, there was no class and the each grade spent the morning designing a float for the parade later in the afternoon. The assembly was in the afternoon where Samantha Anderson was crowned queen and Brent Juenemann was crowned king.

While homecoming was definitely the most memorable event of the first nine weeks for some, others had a few different ideas! For quite a few, it was the sports, spirit week, and school. For others it was things such as eating fried rice, science labs, the senior class actually winning something, heated debates, being shoved in a locker, or



**TYLERSHIELDS** came in second at the state cross country meet in Wamego. He was the best Decatur Community High School cross country runner since Darren Horn, who won state in 1986.

— Photo by Cassidy Shields

simply getting a "B" in trig. Most everyone seemed to have a very fun and memorable first nine weeks. All in all, the first nine weeks was a

success and was a great start to the school year. There were many great memories made and many more to come in the second nine weeks.

Voice of Decatur Community High School

# Decatur Dictator

By the DCHS Dictator Staff

## Spanish classes attend concert

By BROOKLYN O'HARE

Several Spanish students got the chance to see Justo Lamas in concert in Kearney on Nov. 2. Spanish II, III, and IV classes along with their teacher, Carol Brown, were excited about the concert, and for some of them, this was the second time they got to experience Justo live.

Justo's concerts are educational programs with the primary objective of promoting the study of the Spanish language through music. While the students are having fun, they are also learning about the Latin American culture, learning Spanish vocabulary, and hearing an affirmative life message about reaching their dreams.

Justo was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. As a child, Justo had a very difficult life. When he was 3, his mother was diagnosed with schizophrenia. At age five Justo walked into his mother's room to find her with a belt around her neck trying to commit suicide. Justo struggled to get the belt free from his mother's neck and saved her. Justo said luckily his dad was more stable and gave him and his mother plenty of support and love.

As a child, Justo moved 12 times

and had to change schools six of those times, which was very hard for him. At age 16, his mother died of cancer. One week after his mother's death, he decided he wanted to become a singer. Singing, he said, gave him security and happiness. Justo realized at that time something existed for his life. Now, his dream has come true, and he has thousands of fans around South and North America. His story inspires people.

The students had an awesome time and love Justo,

"Justo is so energetic and fun," said Mika Hackney. "He did great at getting everybody up and dancing."

Nolan Henningson said, "The Justo concert was a blast!"

Señora Brown said, "I loved seeing all the students singing Spanish along with Justo. It is a good opportunity to see so many students learning Spanish."

It was overall a very good day for the Spanish students at Decatur Community High School. After the concert, the students all went to eat at San Pedro's, a Mexican restaurant in Kearney.

"The food at the restaurant was very good," said Megan Wentz.

## School Menus

Nov. 14-18

**OBERLIN SCHOOLS**

**Monday:** Late start, no breakfast. Lunch: pigs in a blanket, baked beans.

**Tuesday:** Breakfast: ham patie, waffle. Lunch: ;asagna, garlic bread.

**Wednesday:** Breakfast: fruit turnovers. Lunch: chicken wrap,

potato wedges.

**Thursday:** Breakfast: pancake wrap. Lunch: sliced turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, pumpkin pie.

**Friday:** ham combo, muffin. Lunch: pizza, carrots.

Fruit served with breakfasts, choice bar with lunches, milk with all meals.

## Schools work together on project

By MIKA HACKNEY

Computer technology students Mika Hackney, Zach May, Ryan May and Sammy Meitl visited the Rotary Club last week to show off their technology collaboration with the fourth graders. Their presentations involved the fourth grade class presenting their reports on the planets.

Computer Technology teacher Wendy Scott said, "I'm really glad that the kids got to share some of the skills that they developed in the class."

First, the fourth graders studied

the solar system and chose the planets they wanted to learn more about. Then, they researched that specific planet and wrote reports about them. After that, they downloaded pictures of their planets that they wanted in their presentations.

The Computer Tech class videotaped their reports in front of a green screen, which enabled them to transfer them to a computer program, "After Effects", and edit them. The computer class incorporated the pictures the fourth graders picked out for their presentations.

After the Computer Tech class

edited the videos individually, they exported them into an editing program called "Final Cut", where they could put together all of the individual videos into one big presentation.

It was a good learning experience for the fourth graders in introducing them to technology. It was also beneficial for the Computer class because they got to work with the computer programs, and become more familiar in using them. Everyone had fun working with this project.

**Check out this MAN CAVE Special!!!**

These **ELECTRIC** theater style recliners are perfect for any **MAN CAVE**. Whether you're watching a movie, the game, or just hanging with the boys.

**Samway Floor Covering and Furniture**  
"You'll Love This Store!"  
1801 N HWY 83 McCook, NE 69001

## THE OBERLIN HERALD

and the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce welcome Equipment Locator to the business community

Equipment Locator is owned by Wayne Zwickle, who said he enjoys his business of finding equipment for people at reasonable prices. He said you can learn a lot from people. He has been in the management business for 46 years.

Wayne also has camper space available. Depending on the size of campers, he has room for six large or 12 small campers or a combination.

Wayne and his wife Phyllis like to support Oberlin in any way they can.

"People need to support our businesses and be proud of what we have," he said.

He said we need a vision or purpose for our town and then market it accordingly.

**"Generations of our family have received great care at Good Samaritan Hospital."**

Bob Hobbs — Kearney, Neb.

### Orthopedic care you can believe in.

"After a while, things in our body kind of wear out. My doctor and I decided I needed a hip replacement.

"Our family has confidence in Good Samaritan Hospital's medical staff, so we wouldn't have considered going anywhere else for the surgery. After a reasonable healing period, I was doing everything I did before the surgery, including bicycling and skiing.

"My care was excellent. I believe in Good Samaritan Hospital."

Bob Hobbs, Hip Replacement

**When orthopedic experience matters, believe in Good Samaritan Hospital.**

**Good Samaritan Hospital**  
Kearney, Nebraska [www.gshs.org](http://www.gshs.org)

*The medical center, centered on you.*