



photo by laura smith

Senior Priscilla Melton steals a high Dallas Lutheran pass. For more information about Varsity Basketball, see page two.



photo by anna mcwilliams

Kindergarten enjoys a homemade feast during Thanksgiving. For more information, see page five.



photo by anna mcwilliams

The junior high choir performs a fun rendition of The Lion King's "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" at the Suburban Safari themed Grandparent's Day. For more information, see page four.



For a review on the family blockbuster *Megamind*, see page six.

the Mane Edition

November/December 2010 McKinney Christian Academy Volume 9 Issue 3

Scotty's Gifts



photo courtesy jill windsor

Charity warms hearts

Sarahbeth Singler, Staff Writer

Scotty's Gifts is an inspiring Christmas time ministry started by the Windsor family in memory of their son, Scotty, who passed away in a car accident in October of 1995. Their pain around the ensuing holiday season led them to consider others' pain during this time of year. They were inspired to do something in Scotty's memory, so Jill Windsor started Scotty's Gifts, a ministry for reaching out to others experiencing hard times during the holidays.

Scotty's Gifts pairs volunteering families with needy families in McKinney. Beginning with only ten donor and ten volunteer families, Mrs. Windsor obtained names of impoverished families and contacted them to get their wish lists and clothes sizes. The volunteer families then went Christmas shopping for their needy family and wrapped the presents. These gifts, according to Mrs. Windsor, are for the recipients as a little something that "gives them hope that helps them to get through their hard times. It lets them know someone cares."

The Windsors and other participants form a caravan to deliver the gifts, drawing a crowd from the neighborhoods. They go into the homes accompanied by Santa for a personal and hands-on experience that truly shows the families they are cared for.

Shortly after starting, the Windsors and volunteers realized it was necessary to have a stock of toys on hand for other children in the area who would see them delivering gifts and ask "Is Santa coming to my house?" They started a toy drive and those toys enabled them to bless the families they encountered along the way to the primary families' houses.

Scotty's Gifts is continually growing, and this ministry now helps over

300 families and 1,000 kids a year every Christmas season. Anyone can help by donating toys or volunteering to help a family. Helping in this ministry for a specific family can be a fun and easy family activity. The ministry has grown largely because of the supporters' heart for the poor. Scotty's Gifts has grown so much that they now have a translator for Spanish-speaking families, Julie Smith, and have had to split into two separate caravans of cars traveling to the homes of the families in need.

There are many remarkable stories of the recipients of Scotty's Gifts outreach and its impact. A young mother living in a trailer park with three kids began to sob out of pure gratitude when the caravan arrived to deliver toys. She thanked the Windsors and explained she had just gotten out of an abusive relationship and didn't have money for gifts that year. One of the first families they helped and continue to visit every year consists of fifteen children. The mother makes hand-made tamales for the whole caravan, numbering over 100 people. The Windsors have visited another of the original families every year since 1996, and last year had the pleasure of delivering gifts to those kids' children. Julie, the Spanish translator, led the mother of one of these families to Christ. The rest of her family followed her in faith. Her son now joins Julie as the Santa of her caravan.

Scotty's Gifts is an extensive outreach ministry that makes an undeniable impact on the lives of many families in need in East McKinney, giving them hope to make it through the hard times. "We prayed that our loss would not be in vain," said Mrs. Windsor, "and that God would somehow turn our tragedy into something good. He has far exceeded our

The Santa of the Scotty's Gifts caravan receives a grateful hug from a girl whose family had just received Christmas presents.

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expectations with Scotty's Gifts, and honestly, we have received more through this ministry than we could ever give."

Varsity Basketball Girls take over the court

Lady Mustangs continue to compete

Priscilla Melton, *Staff Writer*

Making regional qualifiers last season, the Lady Mustangs are posed to go to play-offs again. The loss of Emily Crombar and Aly Collins, first team all-district players, will present a challenge, but one that can be overcome with the help of the coaching staff. Both the JV and Varsity teams are coached by Head Coach Lee Brock and assistant coaches Dan Collins and Jeff Anderson. This year the number of freshmen who tried out for the team radically increase- a total of five freshmen came out. These freshmen play on the JV team but will also assist Varsity, making the total number on Varsity twelve. One major problem the team has had to face in the past is the few numbers of substitutions; however, this year with all the new players it will be a lot easier to change the lineup when someone gets injured or cannot play due to

other reasons.

The Varsity team consists of seniors Taylor Brock, Ellie Kimball, and Priscilla Melton; junior, Kayli Bollinger, and sophomore, Kaitlynn McAdams. The JV team consists of juniors Natalie Lemieux and Ellen Taylor, sophomore Sidney Thompson, and freshmen Sarah Grubbs, Kylie Madry, Maria Cueva, Candace Kheun and Lauren Sanford.

True Champions require skill, teamwork, and a lot of hard practices and the team is well aware of their goals that they want to achieve during this 2010- 2011 season. "This year is going to be a difficult year, but with hard work and practice, we can do it! Goals I have for myself are to encourage my teammates, work as hard as I can, and fight till the end," said senior Ellie Kimball. "The goals we have as a team is to work together, be patient,

and make God, our coaches, and our fans proud!" she enthusiastically continued.

The JV team record is 2-1 and Varsity stands at 1-6. District play starts in a few weeks, and the girls are working hard to make sure they achieve their many goals and finish as district champions!



staff photo

Junior Kayli Bollinger sprints down the court, passing up her opponent and scoring two points for her team.

Wrestlers make a name for MCA

With heart and determination, they fight to the end

David Collum, *Staff Writer/Photographer*

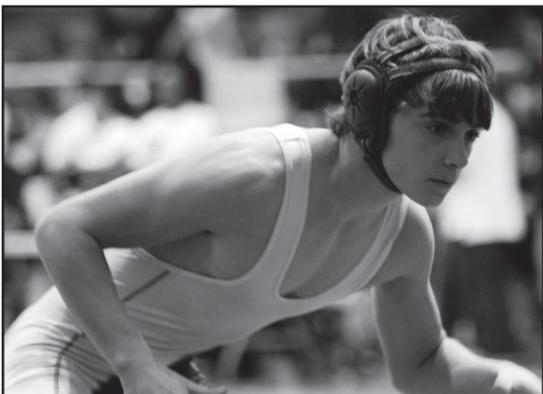


photo by doug gattuso

Sophomore Zach Harrell observes his opponent, determining what his next move will be. This match resulted in a win for Zach, giving additional points to the MCA wrestling team.

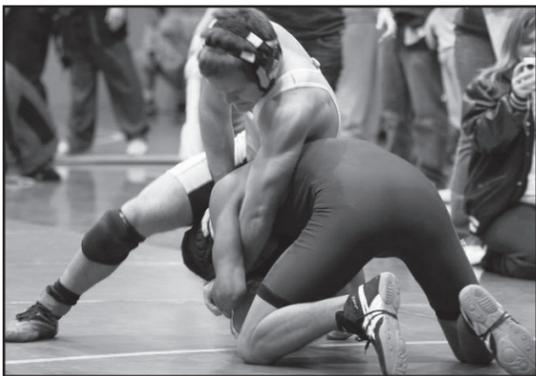


photo by doug gattuso

Junior Trent Stinchcomb wrestles his first match, using his strength to ram his opponent into the mat. Learning quickly, he expects to do very well throughout the season.

With grueling practices and crack of dawn workouts, the wrestling squad, headed by Coach Rodney Doyle, intends to achieve the gold or die trying. To begin this glorious quest, freshmen Alex Minor and Noah Fess, joined by sophomores Graham Kennedy and Christian Doyle, traveled down to the Arlington Invitational, where all four received medals. Christian Doyle and Alex Minor dominated their weight class and placed 1st in their divisions, followed closely by Graham Kennedy and Noah Fess who fought vigorously and placed 2nd in their divisions.

Since football is over, the wrestling season is now in full swing. Returning veterans such as seniors Jake Gattuso and Ethan Kovatch, junior Matt Barber, sophomores Christian Doyle, Andy Harrell, and Zach Harrell come back to once again compete to be wrestling State Champions. All of these team members made it to the state playoffs last year. Along with the returning players, new faces have joined the Varsity squad, including senior Tanner Purdum, junior Trent Stinchcomb, sophomore Graham Kennedy, and freshmen Jack Jenson, Noah Fess, Jacob Weideman, Alex Minor, Hayden Wyatt, and Connor Doyle. With this new talent the wrestling team prepares to once again make it to state.

Senior Ellie Kimball shows her skills on the court. Defended by two Yavneh opponents, she contributed much to the overall score, resulting in a win.



staff photo

Snapshots: Junior High Girls

Junior High Lady Mustangs, Haley Chicarelli, seventh, Karli Henneman, seventh, and Hannah Holtz, sixth, show their skills in defense, dribbling, and passing. This season looks promising as the girls grow stronger, faster, and tougher each day.



photos by laura smith

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Varsity Basketball Boys play hard Difficult practices and long hours make the team

Kaitlynn McAdams, *Staff Writer*

Varsity boys' Basketball is exciting both to play and to watch. Thirty-two minutes of non-stop running may be exhausting, but the boys continue to play hard through the end. Sophomore Robert Kelly says, "Basketball is really fun. Even though the practices are tiring, I still love to play."

Robert Erger is the Varsity boys' head coach, and Hugh Mantooth is his assistant coach. The boys have had five games so far in their pre-season, against HSAA, Lake Country Christian School, Community Christian, and Yavneh. The boys also played Aledo Trinity Christian in what seemed like a practice game; the McKinney Christian Mustangs won 46-16 in this pre-season game. Coach Erger described the boys' workout as, "A good team defensive effort to begin the season." District play has not started yet and they are looking ahead to their season.

District play starts January 7, versus Canyon Creek at their gym.

JV Basketball Boys bring the heat

Mustangs cannot be stopped

David Marolf, *Staff Writer*

As the leaves begin to fall and the temperature drops, the Mustang JV Boys' Basketball team prepares to dominate their league under the guidance of Coach Hugh Mantooth. Coach Mantooth has trained the Mustangs with various skills he has accumulated in his career as a basketball coach.

On November 30th, the team played Yavneh at home. They played hard, but came up short 25 to 50. The team is in the process of learning the "flex" system, a motion offensive style that gives the players more options on how to get past the opposing team's defense. Coach Mantooth has faith that the players will master the "flex," and is glad that Yavneh provided a challenge. "Yavneh was a good test for us as they exposed areas that need work," says Coach Mantooth. The team will be playing Yavneh again at an away game on Thursday, December 16th.

Coach Mantooth not only wants to help his players improve their basketball skills, but he says he is interested in the whole package. "I believe that basketball does not build character, but reveals it," says Coach Mantooth. He finds out what type of character his players have by observing how they respond to the ups and downs, seeing if they place the blame on others or respond by taking ownership and taking care of business. Coach Mantooth not only trains our guys to be players, he trains them to be Men of God.

As the season progresses, the team will become more confident and more skilled in basketball. The season has only just begun.

Snapshots: JV Girls



Freshman Sarah Grubbs dribbles the ball back to score yet another point for the Lady Mustangs. Sarah is one of four freshman joining the high school basketball program this year.

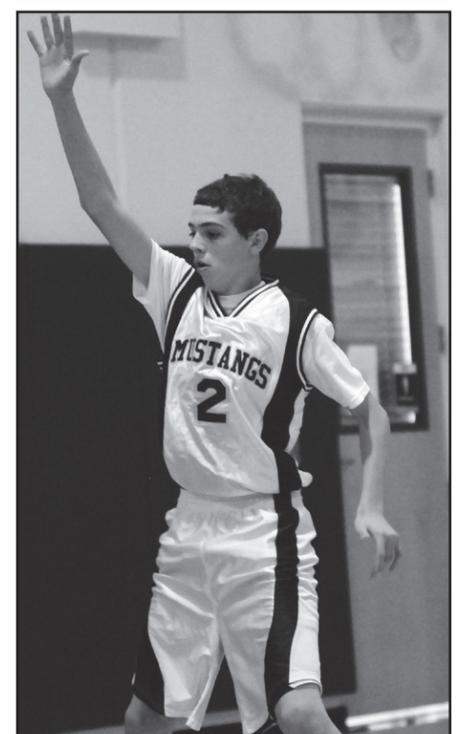
staff photo



photo by laura smith

Senior Kylar Christison makes a shot.

Snapshots: Junior High Boys



photos by laura smith

Jackson Brock, sixth, and Nathan Hamilton, seventh, have the skills to charge down the court, fly past their opponents, and play awesome defense. These skills, along with dedication, are among the many required of the team.

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Grateful hearts and happy stomachs Lower School students enjoy their Thanksgiving festivities

Kaitlyn Sparks, Staff Writer

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Thanksgiving is usually a very traditional meal. This year, however, the kindergarten class invented a new tradition of their own; preparing the feast themselves. "Making the food was really fun," says kindergartner Madigan Matthews, "Making the butter was easy, but the rest was difficult." The preparations included shaking the butter, shucking the corn, making the corn bread muffins, and sticking toothpicks covered with marshmallows into an apple to make turkeys.

I walked into the Lower School multipurpose room to find an extremely long table covered with delectable food and an assortment of Juicy Juice and Hi-C. The parents ran around making sure each plate had the right amount of Chic-fil-a chicken and all the dishes the students had prepared. When all was done the parents smiled and anticipated what each student would think. Soon you could hear the hungry pilgrims and Indians (or KA and KB) coming down the Lower School deck. Parents rushed outside, cameras and phones in hand, chuckling and murmuring how cute their child looked in his or her outfit. The Indians made vests out of brown paper and had a paper headband that they drew figures on as well as

a feather taped to the back. The pilgrim girls had white trash bags as their skirts and a white paper as a bonnet, the boys, black trash bags with a traditional pilgrim hat made out of black construction paper.

The parents' faces were filled with joy as the children came in and saw the feast. The children finally had the chance to eat their food, but like before any good meal, they sang their favorite prayer over their food. There was no need for the normal five minutes of silence that the students endure before every lunch meal, they chowed down and chatted about what they were thankful for. The parents stood around and talked to each other, taking lots of pictures along the way. Each greeted me warmly and gladly told me about their son or daughter and how exciting it was to make this meal and enjoy this event. Thanksgiving is a time that we thank God for all he has done and as the meal continued, no one forgot how thankful they were for their family, friends, and food.



photo by anna mcwilliams

Second graders Keaton Jackson and Asa Miller celebrate with their class' Thanksgiving pie feast.



photo by anna mcwilliams

First grade, in traditional Indian and Pilgrim Thanksgiving dress, wait on the deck to go participate in their Thanksgiving Feast.

Suburban Safari MCA students celebrate grandparents and great friends

AJ Hans, Staff Writer

"In the jungle, the mighty jungle, the lion sleeps tonight," sang the junior high choir at the Grandparents and Great Friends day. On a brisk Friday morning in November, the day before Thanksgiving Break, students started a normal day. Soon after, students flooded the gym for an exciting Suburban Safari! MCA Upper and Lower School students along with their grandparents and great friends enjoyed performances by each of the Lower School Fine Arts and the junior high and senior high bands and choirs, an art show put together by MCA parents and students, along with a buffet table of cookies, mini cinnamon rolls, and other snacks and refreshments.

The fine arts performances were directed and coordinated by Mr. Knight, the US band Director, Mrs. Keyes, choir for 3rd-12th grade, and Mrs. Bass, the pre-K-2nd Music teacher. One of the performances included Rubber Ducky by the second grade. First grader Will Penny said, "My favorite part was watching second grade sing Rubber Ducky." The third grade also performed a song in which some of them played xylophones. Samantha Verbsky, first grade, said, "My favorite

part of Grandparents Day was when the third grade was playing the xylophones." The junior high choir performed "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" from the movie The Lion King, and had a dance to go along with it.

All the performances were excellent and the grandparents really enjoyed the animal theme as well as seeing their grandchildren sing, dance, and play in the bands while listening to the toe-tapping animal songs. This day was also a great opportunity for the students to spend time with their parents and grandparents. Kendall Moore, fifth grade, said "I liked getting to see my dad and grandparents during school."

Right, the High School Girl's Ensemble debuts "The Mouse Madrigal."

Pre-K and Kindergarten perform the Sunday School favorite "Arky Arky."

photo by anna mcwilliams



photo by anna mcwilliams

Second grade sings "Rubber Ducky." The song was a highlight of the program, according to the students.



photo by anna mcwilliams



McKinney Christian reaches out

High school students partner up with GAIN to make blankets

Priscilla Melton, *Staff Writer*

On November 9th the high school met the challenge to serve the people in our world in a different and unique way. MCA has worked with GAIN, Global Aid Network, in the past, putting food together in bags which were taken to the different countries that GAIN visits, and going on mission trips to places such as the Ukraine, Jamaica, and Guatemala. But this year for community service, the high school made no-sew blankets to provide people with the warmth they will need throughout the cold winter season.

"Working with GAIN has really opened my eyes to how much of an impact this organization really does have with other countries. I have worked with Gain before but it was not anything like this. Though making blankets for those who do not have any, was not as big of

a deal as going global, spreading the gospel to people, I still feel as if what I had done would make a huge difference in someone's life, and support them with the warmth and comfort that they need." said, junior, Sarah Hamilton.

At the end of the day, over one hundred and fifty blankets were made. This means that one hundred and fifty more people will have warmth throughout the night; one hundred and fifty more people will know that they are cared for; and there are one hundred and fifty more people who will not have to live their lives in the dark; due to the fact that they know someone loves them through Christ.

photo by shawn johnson

Mr. Anderson and senior Maggie Marshall work together to create a no-sew blanket for GAIN out of two warm, sturdy pieces of fleece.



Elizabeth and Darcy

Drama performs a classic

Kaitlynn McAdams, *Staff Writer*

Darcy and Elizabeth is a beloved romance novel and now play. The independent Elizabeth meets the wealthy Mr. Darcy and is determined not to let her feelings come to the surface. Darcy falls in love with Elizabeth and in return she reluctantly falls in love with him. The Drama department worked long and hard for many weeks to perfect this wonderful play.

Dallas Brock, who acted as Mr. Darcy, says, "It was an outstanding experience to perform our first period piece. Our director did an amazing job of getting us ready to perform this sophisticated play." The costumes were very intricate and fit the play quite well. Allyson Richey, who played Miss Bingley, says, "I liked the elaborate costumes, they were so much fun to wear, especially my awesome hat!"

Drama students perform the classic play, Elizabeth and Darcy, for their classmates.



photo by rebekah johnson



photo by rebekah johnson

Sophomore Dallas Brock and junior Sarah Loop perform their characters of Darcy and Elizabeth brilliantly.



photo by anna mcwilliams

Senior Caleigh Franzmeier's Jane Bennett comforts hysterical Mrs. Bennett, played by senior Heather Groff.

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Movie Mania



4 Stars

AJ Hans, Staff Writer

[PG]

It's not easy being a super villain, and that is just what Megamind is. *Megamind*, the recent re-twisted super hero movie, is aimed at families with older kids. Director Tom McGrath along with producers DreamWorks Animation, Pacific Data Images (PDI), and Red Hour Films did an awesome job putting this movie together. With the distributors Paramount Pictures and DreamWorks Animation behind it, this movie had a great turnout in the box office, grossing over \$131 million in the US alone.

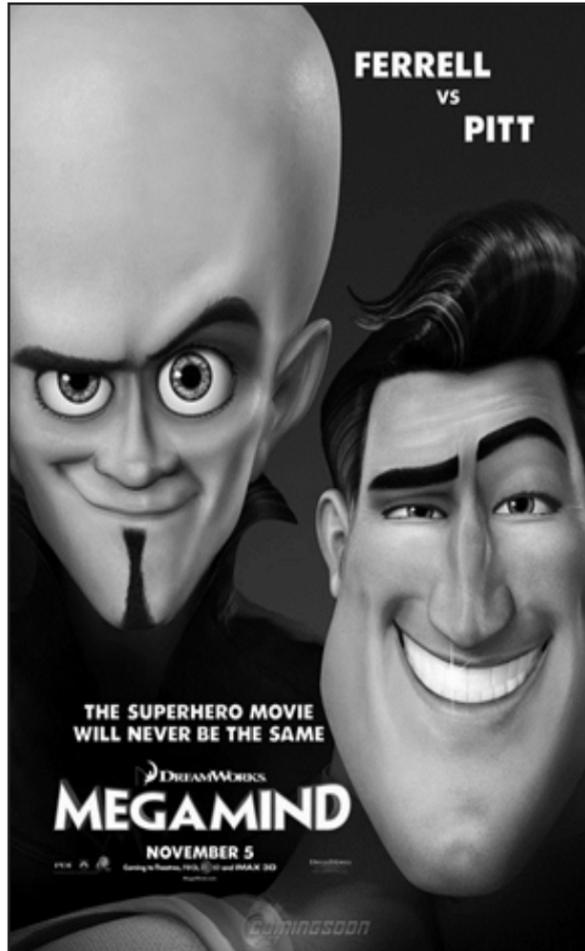
The movie begins in a "Superman" kind of way. The main characters, Megamind and Metro Man, are babies and are sent to earth in rockets because both of their planets are falling apart. While Metro Man lands in a very wealthy family's home, the little blue alien Megamind, along with his fish friend, Minion, lands in a nearby prison. The two children are sent to the same school where they are constantly trying to out do each other. Their conflicts continue throughout their adult lives until one day Megamind wins, killing Metro Man. In his victory he finds himself unfulfilled because

there was no one to oppose him. To fill this gap, he decides to create a new hero named "Tighten" and trains him to be good- but Tighten turns out to be evil. Will Megamind help the people of Metro City and defeat Tighten or will he join Tighten in his destruction of the helpless city?

This animated movie is full of action and some very realistic destruction of a city, as well as the use of crude words. The characters might also present younger viewers with lots of moral ambiguity.

Overall this was a great movie. Older kids would find it very funny and I would also highly recommend it to families. Some of the negative elements of the movie present great opportunities for parents to talk to their children about the difference between right and wrong. *Megamind* is definitely an excellent film for the family to enjoy together.

For more information and a more detailed review go to christiananswers.net.



SNACK TIME

Michal Smith,
Entertainment Editor

Chicken and Cheese Empanadas

Ingredients:

2 cups shredded cooked chicken breasts
1 cup shredded cheese
1/3 cup Chipotle-flavored mayonnaise
2 Tbsp. chopped fresh cilantro
1 egg
1 Tbsp. water
1 pkg. (14.1 oz.) ready-to-use refrigerated pie crusts (2 crusts in total)
1 tsp. chili powder

Directions:

Heat oven to 375 degrees.
Combine first 4 ingredients. Whisk egg and water in a separate bowl until well blended.
Unroll pie crusts on a lightly floured surface.
Use the rolling pin to roll each crust to 12-inch circle.
Cut each crust into 8 4-inch circles with biscuit cutter, re-rolling dough as needed.
Place on parchment-covered baking sheets.
Spoon 2 tbsp. chicken mixture onto center of each circle; brush edge with egg.
Fold dough circles in half. Press tops lightly to remove excess air; seal edges with fork.
Brush tops with remaining egg. Sprinkle with chili powder.
Bake 15 min. or until golden brown.

Source: www.allrecipes.com

BITS N' PIECES

1. The word 'News' is actually an acronym standing for the 4 cardinal compass points - North, East, West, and South.
2. It's estimated that millions of trees are accidentally planted by squirrels that bury nuts and then forget where they hid them.
3. In Albania, nodding your head means 'no' and shaking your head means 'yes'.
4. A fly that appears to have drowned can be revived with the use of everyday table salt.
5. "Rhythm" is the longest English word without a vowel.
6. There is a city called Rome on every continent.
7. Honey is the only food that does not spoil. Honey found in the tombs of Egyptian pharaohs has been tasted by archaeologists and found edible.
8. Approximately 1% to 2% of the human population has red hair.
9. The last letter to be added to our alphabet was "J".
10. Borborygmi is the noise that your stomach makes when you are hungry.
11. On average, you'll spend a year of your life looking for misplaced objects.
12. Koalas and humans are the only animals with unique fingerprints.
13. In many cultures, the groom, historically, often kidnapped the bride, and the groom's friends would help him, leading to the modern-day groomsmen.
14. Mark Zuckerberg made Facebook blue because he is red-green color blind. The color he can see best is blue.
15. The "roly poly" bug isn't actually a bug! It's a crustacean, like lobster, shrimp, and crab. Its official name is the "wood louse", and technically it could survive just fine underwater.
16. Yawning is contagious - even thinking about yawning is enough. After reading this fact, there is a 50% chance you will yawn.
17. Four is the only number that has the same amount of letters as its actual value.
18. The 57 on Heinz ketchup bottles represents the number of varieties of pickles the company once had.
19. Lethologica is a psychological disorder that inhibits an individual's ability to articulate his or her thoughts by temporarily forgetting key words, phrases or names in conversation.
20. The month of April is the only month with the letter "I" in its name.

<http://hubpages.com/hub/Simply-Awesome-Facts>
Omgfacts.net

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Tongue Twisters

Kaitlyn Sparks, *Staff Writer*

- Which wristwatches are Swiss wristwatches?
- Many an anemone sees an enemy anemone.
- Red welly, yellow welly.
- One was a racehorse, Two was one too. One won a race, Two won one too.

<http://www.alphadictionary.com/fun/tongue-twisters/>

The Soundcheck

Area Concert and Event Listings

December

12/19 Secondhand Serenade, Forever the Sickest Kids.

12/19 Trans-Siberian Orchestra at American Airlines Center in Dallas.

Jazz in the Atrium- Every Thursday through December at the Dallas Museum of Art.

January

1/14 Family Force Five at the House of Blues.

1/14 Superchick at First Baptist Dallas.

1/21 Revolve Tour with Hawk Nelson, Group 1 Crew, Brit Nicole, and more at Special Events Center in Garland.

February

2/18 Winter Jam with Chris Sligh, David Crowder Band, Kutless, Red, KJ-52 and more at American Airlines Center in Dallas.

April

4/1-2 Acquire the Fire Student Conference with Ron Louce, Israel Houghton, and Tony Nolan at Superpages.com Center.

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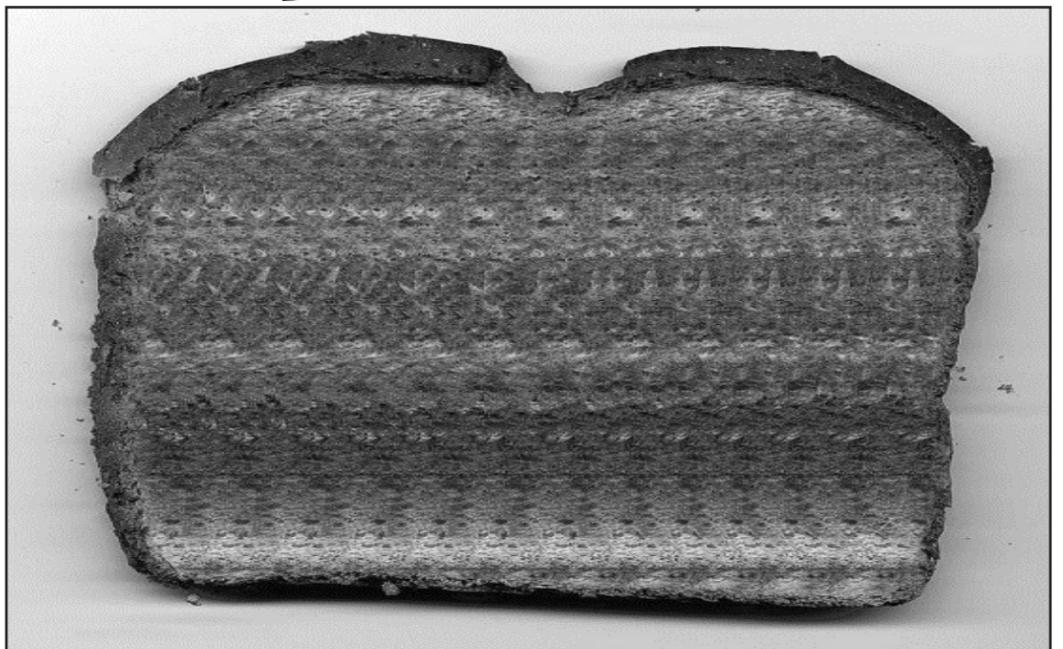



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Optical Illusion



Within this piece of toast is a hidden picture. Put the picture close to your face, and pull it away slowly from your face. Answer is at the bottom of the page.

Four things Continued from page 8

have it covered. She can also attest that she always has the event planned and covered, and most of my above mentioned freaking out is unnecessary. Mrs. Collins also gets these panicked phone calls. She came in the other morning after the second issue had gone to press and said Jim Jarvis, our printer, had called at midnight and left a voicemail saying "Call back ASAP!" I can tell you from experience that is the last thing any editor wants to hear from a printer. The last thing.

Fourth, and finally, being on the Mane Edition is the most fun job ever. We've won State Championships for four years running and received commendations on both our photography and design. We, as

a staff, face many logistical and technical difficulties, but our paper turns out very well on the whole. There are many things that exasperate me, especially since I am the Editor-In-Chief, but I love it! To see you guys, our readers, enjoying our paper and what we work so hard on makes all the weird fonts and panicked phone calls worth the effort. I am very proud of my baby, the Mane Edition, and want to thank you readers for making us what we are today. I hope you enjoyed your little behind-the-scenes tour of the Mane Edition's inner workings, and that you can laugh about all the crazy things we go through to put eight pages, three times a semester, into your two hands.

The hidden picture in the optical illusion are the words "toast and eggs."

Four Things I Bet You Didn't Know About The Mane Edition Staff

Rebekah Johnson, *Editor-In-Chief*

As my best friend Rachele and I were chatting on the way to the Tech Lab during Economics class to work on our Global Economic Systems project, I must admit, I had a lapse. "Okay, so we've finished the research for the poster," I said. "Now we just need to start the page's layout..." I continued until Rachele started to look at me funny, in the way only someone who has known you for several years can. "Umm, Bekah? Don't you mean the poster's design?" she asked. "Bekah," she laughed, "You have been spending entirely too much time working on the paper. You have Newspaper on the brain!"

I must agree with her. I do have Newspaper on my mind, but that is only to be expected when you are in charge of twelve people, five cameras, and eight printed pages three times a semester. It may not sound like much, but believe me, the paper you now hold in your hands is only there because of endless hours of writing and designing and working with computers. So, in the next 500 or so words, I would like to tell you a little bit more about some of what goes on in this newspaper class. Welcome to "Four Things I Bet You Didn't Know About Being On The Mane Edition Staff!"

First, we have extensive dealings with computers that have a mind of their own. Mr. McIntyre does a great job keeping

them under control, but sometimes a photographer will swear they downloaded pictures and we cannot, for the love of anything, find them. Sometimes pages will print with a strange orientation. Still other times the electronic templates we use for our spreads will spontaneously and unexplainably change sizes. Even still, InDesign's text wrap feature goes bananas and text wraps everything on the page. Oh, goodness, things get crazy. But, hey, we do our best!

Secondly, the font that we used in the last two issues magically transforms our captions from logical, coherent sentences to conglomerations of backwards sixes, eights, alphabetical letters and the occasional DNA double helix interspersed between the regular words. Mrs. Collins and I have puzzled over that strange font for quite some time, and we cannot figure out why it always prints weird. So for those of you who got a strange symbol in your name the last few issues, we're sorry. But you've got to admit, you've never seen your name spelled like that!

Third, being on the newspaper staff means you get panicked phone calls or text messages on a fairly regular basis. Anna can attest that I freak out that no one is taking pictures and run around like a madwoman trying to make sure we

continued on page 7

Coming to an End Sometimes bittersweet change is good

David Marolf, *Staff Writer*

All good things come to an end... or do they? That seems to be the sad truth in this world. I've mainly realized this from both preparing to move and reading. Everything in this world is temporary. But I now know through my spiritual life that there may not be an end to everything.

My family and I are getting ready to move to a smaller house since both my siblings have gone to college. I know that I'll love the new house, but I still find myself feeling a little lost. The idea of leaving is odd. I'm excited to go to a new place, but the thought of my time in my current house coming to an end is disheartening. I feel lost in all my memories of this house as I walk around seeing all the packed-up boxes. I've lived in this house for five years. This is the house that I was in when my brother and sister went to college. This is the house I was in when my grandpa died. This is the house I was in when I finally beat my cousin in one of our annual Thanksgiving video-game tournaments, and now my time in my house is coming to a close.

The idea that everything comes to an end has been reinforced through my love of books. If you asked my friends what I like

to do in my free time, most of them would say I like to read. When I finally finish a book, I always find myself surprised. The story is finished. There are no more adventures, no more chapters. There's a definite sadness when it's over. It's like the feeling at the end of a vacation. After you've had so much fun and then you realize you're going back to the normal world. You have all those happy memories, but there's still the realization that it's all over.

But I'm starting to realize this isn't the case for heaven. I think that this is why heaven will be so exciting and amazing. It's the one good thing that will never end. We have all eternity to be with God and to experience the eternal greatness that He is. C.S. Lewis once equated heaven to a story, "which goes on forever: in which every chapter is better than the one before." Heaven won't have an end. We can enjoy it fully without worrying about that bittersweet finale. So, not all good things come to an end after all.



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