

## Meet Mr. Austad

By Averie Nurmi

Josh Austad is the new superintendent at MACCRAY Public Schools. With the resignation of Sherri Broderius last year, MACCRAY needed to find a new superintendent. Sherri Broderius left big shoes to fill, but Josh Austad is filling those shoes nicely.

Josh Austad came into MACCRAY already knowing about schools. He previously worked at Rocori and has been at a school his entire life. He learned about this position from Rocori's superintendent John Thein. Austad thought that this may be the change he needed after much self reflection. John Thein, long time coworker of Austad, said that there was already a lot going very well at MACCRAY.

Austad says his goal when coming into MACCRAY is to, "Build upon the great foundation that MACCRAY already has and just move it forward the best I can." He wants to be an "addition to the tradition" and expand on what is already going on at MACCRAY.

Helping Austad settle in are the amazing people that surround him. From the staff to the students, everyone has been very nice to him. Austad quotes, "They greet me in the hallways and make me feel welcome." Even the parents have been an amazing support system for his



*Josh Austad, new superintendent at MACCRAY, smiles while pointing at a smiley face that reminds him and others to stay happy.*

transition. He still misses his coworkers at Rocori, but loves the new community that he is a part of. He has nothing but great things to say about MACCRAY.

Austad says that he is proud of all the things that went well. He is proud of the staff for how much great time and effort they put into the students. Within the students, Austad says that the fall activities have been very successful. Austad talks briefly about how the tennis team had two students go very far in the sectional tournament, success in cross country and football, and how the volleyball team had athletes recognized at the conference and state levels. Austad also was happy about the success of the music programs. He says that the musical,

"was a successful event for not only our kids and the people that were a part of it, whether they were in the pit part with the music, but the people that were building the sets." Austad says that he is proud of all things that have happened so far and hopes that they continue.

Austad is a happy-go-lucky type of guy. He always wears some kind of colorful shoe and loves smiley faces. He says it's because it may make himself smile and someone else smile. He says it's a way to be unique and a little bit different. Austad believes that there is a new opportunity every day and smiley faces remind him of that. "There is maybe something that's not so great or there is something negative, but also to force yourself to think of something positive each day too," says Austad. Things may be difficult and challenging, but the smiley faces remind you to find something that you love each day.

Josh Austad has been an amazing addition to the MACCRAY community and staff. He believes that MACCRAY already has a lot of good things going on that are improving this year, that he wants to continue. He mostly loves the people here that he surrounds himself with. Austad wants to remind everyone to be unique and to find something you love every day. Austad's colorful shoes are filling Sherri Broderius's shoes with a bit of spunk.



## Holiday Concerts at MACCRAY

**The Holiday Concert season kicked off on Tuesday, Dec. 5 with the Middle/High School Band Concert. On Thursday, Dec. 14, the prek-5th grade displayed their musical talents with a matinee and evening performance. Finally, the Middle/High School Choir held their Holiday Concert on Monday, Dec. 18. Student are dismissed from school on Thursday, Dec. 21, at noon, and are off until Tuesday, Jan. 2.**

## Meet the editorial team of MACCRAY Media's "The Claw" newsletter

MACCRAY Media is a high school elective class that gives students experience in print and digital media publishing. Students in the course use interpersonal communication skills to identify and report on news-making events to document a year in the history of MACCRAY. Throughout the year we produce a MACCRAY District newsletter, the first of which you are reading right now! Our major final project is the MACCRAY MS/HS Yearbook.

To do this, students will use professionalism and journalistic ethics to conduct interviews and report on their findings, photograph events during and after the school day, sell and design advertising, and market and sell yearbooks.

The class works as an editorial team to come up with the name and layout of the MACCRAY District newsletter. Daily and weekly assignments help to contribute to the newsletter. Every student in the course has contributed to this newsletter in some capacity.

It is our goal as an editorial team to bring the district coverage of the events and news that is important to you. We sincerely hope that you have enjoyed reading our first edition of this newsletter. We will continue to work on future issues throughout the year. It is important to us that we include district news, from preschool to senior high, administration, and school board news.

If you have any story ideas for our next newsletter, please contact Mrs. Donner, or any of the students in the class.



*Students in the MACCRAY Media class include back row, Daniel Roelofs, Chris Sanchez, Colton Jenkins, Jordan Warne, Matthew Wadsworth, Tayte Nokleby, Emersen Tatge, Juan Del Bosque, Quinton Hauck, front row, Riley Roskens, Hugo Vargas Garcia, Keegan Rand, Sebi Cisneros, Jeremy Maldonado, Averie Nurmi, Aubrey Berghorst, Alice Gann. Not pictured: Andy Osorio and Ella Kienitz. The class is taught by Mrs. Donner.*

## OPINION

### Students should think before they try vaping

**By Christopher Sanchez**

There are many reasons why kids might try to vape, but I think it is an important problem to address at MACCRAY because it damages kids' lungs and damages people physically and mentally.

This is an even bigger problem at MACCRAY because there are younger kids in the building and they are getting influenced by the older kids. Students here are also vaping because they are influenced by friends or even family.

Sophomore Christian Vargas says vaping is bad because it can really damage your lungs in a long term way. He thinks kids are also influenced by others to vape. "I believe kids vape because its flavorful and because of peer pressure and trying to impress their friends."

According to MACCRAY School Nurse Dona Haines, there are many reasons why students might try vaping.

"Depression, self doubt, needing to follow the crowd or wanting to fit in, may lead to someone trying vaping," Haines said. "Sometimes kids experiment with new things because they think it is exciting, but not fully understand the risks they are taking," she added.

Haines says vaping is not safe for anyone at any age since vapes have many chemicals that can cause harm. Vapes are new, but it has the same nicotine as cigarettes, and Haines warns that both can be very addictive.

The rules about substance abuse and vaping are clearly stated at MACCRAY, Haines said, but she also understands that students are going to try to push their limits and vape. She feels students should be educated about the dangers of vaping and how it can be extremely harmful to your health. "If someone tries vaping, I think it is important to be supportive and help solve any problems. I guess if a person makes a mistake, it should not haunt them for the rest of their lives."

Overall, Haines just wanted students to be healthy, "I wish that students would learn about the extreme risks and make good choices."



## MACCRAY Elementary participates in National Walk to School Day

By Tayte Nokleby

The MACCRAY Elementary has been celebrating National Walk to School Day for several years now. It is always held on the first Wednesday of October. They walked from the Clara City Community Center to the Elementary School. Elementary Principal Mitch Kent decided to do this walk to make going to school a little more fun for the kids. Instead of going to school and waiting for the bell to ring, the kids are able to have a fun walk to school.

"I just liked having everybody get together before school and just getting to walk to school with the kids all with their teachers. I wish I could have gotten the opportunity to walk to school with all my friends," said Mr. Kent.

Every Elementary student got the opportunity to walk to school or ride a bike to school. The school had the ambulance and police officers blocking off the road, so when they crossed the road it was safe for them



to walk. Mr. Kent thought that doing that was very kind of them to do.

Mr. Kent said, "I'm all for longer walks, so more exercise, but based on where school is and some areas just for safety purposes with our main street and highways and stuff like that, it would be hard to make it longer without making it a little bit more unsafe."

The walk was on October 4th in the morning before school.

The kids walked with their teachers and had lots of fun. Walking to school makes the kids feel better by enjoying the fresh air while walking to school. The kids loved it from what Mr. Kent had been hearing.

Mr. Kent thinks we should continue to do the walk to school days with elementary and include the middle and high school as well. It's all about enjoying going to school, he said, "If it's making the kids have more fun, then I'm in!"

## MACCRAY High School FFA goes to the elementary

By Quinton Hauck

The MACCRAY High School FFA goes into the elementary each month to talk to students about FFA and agriculture. The month of November the FFA went into the K through 2nd grade. The students learned about where and how Thanksgiving food is made.

Ben Johnson and Alecia Hanson are both FFA advisers this year. They help organize this elementary activity, with the addition of the FFA officers.

"They focused on a Thanksgiving meal and where the different foods come from. How turkeys are grown and raised, sweet potatoes, what is all in stuffing. They talked about celery

and onions. Mostly where everything comes from and how it is grown. They also did a paper activity making a hand turkey," Hanson said.

Every month the FFA tries to do something hands-on with the students. After the high school FFA Officers teach a lesson, the elementary students make turkeys made out of paper. They used their hands and feet to make templates to cut. Doing a hands-on activity helps the kids get involved in what the FFA is teaching.

For the December event, the FFA planned a holiday activity. The elementary kids were able to unwrap presents, and then learn

about how the present relates to agriculture. Presents included items like food, clothing, or toys.

Hanson believes it's important to teach elementary kids about FFA for many reasons. "Talking about agriculture and making sure the little kids know that agriculture is all around us. Also exposing the kids to FFA and how they can be active in FFA when they hit 7th grade," Hanson said.

The main focus of the events is to get young students interested in FFA so that when they hit 7th grade, they know what FFA is about; it is not just about farming and a lot of students don't realize that.

## MACCRAY Girls Tennis Team finishes 9 - 9 on the season

By Ella Kienitz

The MACCRAY Girls Tennis Team wrapped up their season on October 17th with seniors Greta Meyer and Tayte Nokleby finishing their season in the semi-finals. The MACCRAY Girls Tennis Team had traveled to Sioux Falls to play in the team semi-finals, as well as, semi-finals for individuals.

The team started their season this past August. The MACCRAY Girls Tennis team had a lot of mentors who helped them with their technique. They had started off their season with a home quadrangular with Lac Qui Parle, Redwood Valley, and Worthington. Then, an away match against Pipestone and Luverne the following week. However, after playing Pipestone in extreme heat, the following Luverne match was canceled due to the heat. They had many more matches to come throughout the season.

"We had a couple more come onto the coaching staff. First of all, we had head coach Lindsey Bosch, and myself as the assistant. Ashley Trulock had done some volunteering. We brought on Becky Zimmer, she came on this year to kind of help Lindsey with the varsity side of things. Mr. Thoen came and helped out a few times before the school year started," said Coach Alecia Hansen.

Throughout the season, the MACCRAY Tennis Team faced some difficult matches. They finished their season going 9 - 9 on the season. Due to rain and weather delays, the conference tournament was canceled for the MACCRAY Tennis Team. The team had arrived on site and after waiting for three hours the match was officially canceled. This however is not the first time the tournament has been canceled. The tournament was also canceled in 2022. This made conference awards difficult to



*MACCRAY includes seven seniors on the girls' tennis team for the 2023 season. Back row: Greta Meyer, Tayte Nokleby, Ella Kienitz, Mackenna Burnett, and front row: Addie Plagge, Erika Pieper, Alex Dirksen.*

distribute to players throughout the conference. However, Greta Meyer and Tayte Nokelby were awarded All-Conference awards with senior Erika Pieper receiving honorable mention.

Coach Hansen said, "Typically two students from each team within the conference receive All-Conference awards."

The MACCRAY Girls Tennis Team had seven seniors, one junior, one sophomore, and one freshman. After lots of hard work and dedication throughout the season, the MACCRAY Tennis Teams pulled off an upset over the number 4 ranked Pipestone team, in round one of the section tournament to continue to play in Sioux Falls the following week.

"We had lots of seniors. We had 7 seniors out of the 10 spots on the varsity lineup. For our singles lineup, so singles number one spot as Tayte Nokelby, second singles was Greta Meyer, third was Erika Pieper, and fourth singles was Mackenna Burnett. For doubles we had Alex Dirksen and Ella Kienitz, for two

doubles we had Addie Plagge and Iris Donner, and three we had Mia Shubert and Ava Janssen," said Coach Hansen.

Finally, the MACCRAY Girls Tennis Team finished their season in a close, but exciting match against the number one seed Luverne. This was the first time MACCRAY has sent their girls' tennis team back to team sections in almost ten years. They faced a lot of challenging matches, but they gave their all from start to finish. It was a season full of lots of smiles, laughter, and hard work. They officially closed out their season with a banquet on November 6th. It was definitely a season to remember.

MACCRAY is looking forward to another fun and exciting season in 2024, and new opportunities with only three players returning to varsity. The team will definitely miss the leadership and experience of the seven seniors who ended their MACCRAY tennis career this season: Greta Meyer, Tayte Nokleby, Ella Kienitz, Mackenna Burnett, Addie Plagge, Erika Pieper, and Alex Dirksen.





The MACCRAY 2023 varsity football team had a large group of talented and dedicated seniors this year. Seniors on the team were back row, Jeremy Maldonado, Isaac Post, Jack Miller, Sebi Cisneros, Juan Del Bosque, Carter Matthews, Sawyer Janssen, front row, Charlie Delbosque, Brady Heiling, Riley Roskens, Michael Thein, Garrett Struxness, Ryan Kortgard, and Colton Jenkins. The Wolverines ended their season with three wins and five losses. The Wolverines beat YME, Lakeview, and Wabasso. They had some tough competition in opponents from Dawson-Boyd, Canby, Minneota, BOLD and Lac qui Parle Valley. The team is coached by head coach Cole Christopher. He said he was proud of the dedicated team and will miss the leadership of the 2024 graduates next year. (Photo by Kim Miller)

## There is more than meets the eye in the MACCRAY Fitness Center

By Sebi Cisneros

The MACCRAY School District recently complete a new addition to the high school building, and one of the most used features of the building is the new Fitness Center. Many students ranging from middle school to seniors have been using this weight room to get healthier and get ready for any sports they play.

The weight room is open for students before and after school. The Fitness Center is also a great asset for physical education classes, like yoga and weight lifting classes. When the weight room is used many students and staff use it at different times of the day. Some people hit different parts of the body to gain muscle or balance. There are even students who are recovering from injuries and use the weight room to recover from them to get back to 100%. With new students coming in and joining the MACCRAY community some even go in there to not be bullied or even stand up to bullies.

"I look cooler, and I can lift

heavier weights, and I have bigger muscles now. You can get pretty lean and pretty shredded," said sophomore Sam Miller, who has taken advantage of the new fitness center.

The weight room isn't only for the students but also for the faculty members of the school. Many teachers and coaches use the weight room to help athletes and students, and even for their own personal use. Many teachers are up early in the morning and even after school hours grinding in the weight room.

Many people have different reasons for working out. Student athletes want to improve in their sports, while others want to improve their overall health. MACCRAY High School Para and Coach Andrew DuHoux recently started to use the weight room after the devastating loss of his cousin Derek DuHoux, who was in a plane crash this summer. "After my cousin passed away I thought I needed to make a change in my life to make him proud so that's why I started coming," DuHoux, better

known as Hooty, said.

Hooty has noticed a lot of improvements in himself since starting to use the weight room.

"So far I have lost a lot of weight, so that's a big benefit. I am a little healthier. I eat better because of it. It motivates me to be able to lift more," Hooty said.

Hooty is glad he started working out at the Fitness Center, and said he recommends others to take advantage of it for many different reasons.

"For people who think they need a change in their life, if they need something that they think they can get healthier with, or if they need just a little pick me up, it kind of helps the mental state a bit, too," Hooty said.

The new Fitness Center is a great addition to the MACCRAY High School. Whether you are a student, athlete, or staff member at MACCRAY, taking advantage of the new Fitness Center could help you make healthier choices in your life.



*Sophomores Elizabeth Johnson and Rachel Seehusen show off their muscles before a race.*

## It's never too late to join a new sport

By Hugo Garcia Vargas

Senior Andy Osorio is proof that it is never too late to start something new.

As a senior, he joined the MACCRAY/RCW Cross Country team for the first time. Though he was scared at first, he said it was a really enjoyable experience.

"Cross country was scary when I first started because it's a new experience for me. I have never run that much in my whole life. I started dropping weight and I got even better and I recommend the experience of joining, but it is just scary at first," Andy said.

Ben Johnson also joined the Cross Country team for the first time as the teacher/coach from MACCRAY.

"I think that the biggest thing for coaching for the first time is knowing the routine. Since I am the assistant coach, just figuring out the routine of the head coach and warm-ups," Johnson said.

Ben Johnson is the assistant coach for the MACCRAY/RCW Cross Country team, and MACCRAY students on the team include Andy Osorio, Elizabeth Johnson, Rachel Seehusen, Ramsey Sorenson, Sam Andol, and Gideon Johnson.

## MACCRAY Volleyball goes 20-11 on the season

By Aubrey Berghorst

The MACCRAY varsity volleyball team ended their season with a 20-11 record, saying goodbye to four seniors, Annie Bourne, Kori Bristle, Callie Macht, and Averie Nurmi.

Annie said the season went pretty well, but unfortunately, the team wasn't a very good tournament team, getting swept by Canby in the subsection semi-finals. Annie did accomplish the milestone of getting 2,000 set assists in her high school volleyball career, though she is modest about her accomplishments, giving credit to her hitters. In the stat book, Annie gets a set assist recorded when she sets to a hitter and the hitter gets a kill.

"So I really just have good hitters. It just looks good for me I guess," Annie said.

Cole Christopher teaches physical education at MACCRAY, as well as supervises the weight room. He loves to share the awesome stuff that gets accomplished in the weight room. "In my time, if any girl reaches 400lbs and boy reaches 700lbs, they earn a club shirt! Their total is when you combine bench, power clean, and either squat or deadlift. If you see any of the students rocking their shirt, please, give them some love!"

**Girls:** Erika Pieper: 3rd shirt, 400lbs. Great deadlift technique by her. Ellary Delbosque: 415lbs. 1st shirt for her! Emme Tatge: 505lbs. 2nd shirt for her. She was the first female student to reach 300lbs in deadlift. Addisyn Pederson: 515lbs. 2nd shirt for her. Very strong



**The MACCRAY varsity volleyball team includes back row, Averie Nurmi, Kori Bristle, Emma Thein, Brielle Janssen, Lexi Nurmi, Addie Pedersen, Callie Jaenisch, middle row Mia Post, Regan Aker, front row, Annie Bourne, Neveah Berghorst, Cadence Rosendahl, and Ella Hultgren.**

Sophomore Brielle Janssen was successful as support and doing all manager duties.

She earned All-State, All-Conference, and All-Area. Basically Brielle is goated and if she keeps this up she could have a big future ahead of her.

The team also gives a shout out to Averie Nurmi and Callie Janish (junior) for being the managers for the team and always giving their

Lots of the players loved their time with the team and are sad to see the seniors go. Hopefully the team can learn how to be positive and support their teammates so everyone can enjoy the sport. To all the future teammates, it's hard on your mind so don't forget to take care of yourself and have fun!

## Weight room success

squatter. Emersyn Pederson: 545lbs. 2nd shirt for her. She has the highest power clean for a girl in our school over the last 7 years. Also, 2nd girl to reach 300lbs in deadlift. Greta Meyer: 545lbs. Greta has earned 5 shirts over her time here at MACCRAY, the most ever for any boy or girl. She also has the highest bench press mark for any girl in the last 7 years(150lbs). Alex Dirksen: 570lbs. 2nd shirt for her. Highest weight total by any girl in 7 years. Highest squat total for a girl in the last 7 years(325lbs).

**Boys:** Grayson Ahrenholz: 700lbs. 1st shirt for him! Sebastian Cisneros: 705lbs. 3rd shirt for Sebi. His number would be a lot higher if not for a lingering back injury. Isaac Post: 725lbs. 3rd shirt for him. Awesome power cleaner.

Jack Miller: 725lbs. 2nd shirt for him. When using a pound for pound calculator, Jack is the strongest kid in our school. Tucker Darville: 745lbs. 1st shirt for him! His numbers have exploded since we took this calculation. Tuck recently also deadlifted 425lbs. The strength in his back is insane. Garrett Struxness: 765lbs. 3rd shirt for him. To no surprise, he is an awesome squatter. Charlie Delbosque: 800lbs: 3rd shirt for him. One of the hardest workers we have ever had in our school. Brady Heiling: 975lbs. Highest total we have had in the last 7 years. Superb strength all around, with his 465lb squat being one of our highest ever.



## Homecoming week at MACCRAY

By Emersen Tatge

MACCRAY Homecoming week kicked off with the tradition of Homecoming Coronation. Seniors Kori Bristle and Sawyer Janssen were crowned Homecoming Queen and King, while Annie Bourne and Sebastian Cisneros were crowned Princess and Prince. The other candidates were Erika Pieper, Ella Kienitz, Averie Nurmi, Brady Heiling, Garrett Struxness, and Charlie DelBosque.

The royal court enjoyed their reign throughout the week, as they enjoyed their final Homecoming as students at MACCRAY. Janssen said he enjoyed all the events during the week, minus having school on Monday. He wore his crown all week and participated in the dress-up days.

"I did enjoy it. It was pretty fun and I have something to put out on my graduation day," Janssen said. Janssen said all the events during the week were fun, especially the competitions between classes. He participated in the seniors versus junior boys volleyball game, and helped coach when the senior versus junior girls played powder puff football.

Senior Ella Kienitz said it was important that the senior girls defended their title from the previous Homecoming, as they won two years in a row. "We'll forever be undefeated. Remember the class of 2024," Kienitz said.

Emersen Tatge said, "We had the best quarterback in the league with Greta Meyer, and Tayte Nokleby as the best receiver." Senior Averie Nurmi commented on the competition, "the juniors didn't put up much competition," she said.

The senior boys couldn't defend their win from the previous year, and lost a hard fought battle to the junior boys. The junior boys dominated the staff during the pepfest Friday.

From coronation, to dodgeball, to volleyball and football, the student



**The MACCRAY senior girls took the "W" against the juniors during the Homecoming Powder Puff Game.**

body enjoyed some friendly competitions throughout the week to take a break from the normal classroom. The week wrapped up with a pep fest on Friday in which each class busted out their dance moves for a class dance.

The seniors were lucky to add one day on to their senior Homecoming week since the football game was postponed due to weather and played on Saturday morning rather than Friday night.

"The football game was a unique experience. It was pushed back until Saturday because there was lightning. We also played the

number one team in the state (Minneota). It wasn't a good outcome," Janssen said.

It was a soggy Friday night in Maynard, but that didn't stop the senior high from dancing the night away with a Homecoming dance. Senior Kyrá Jarett got students on the dance floor with her skills as DJ.

The seniors are pleased with the fun events of Homecoming week, and they look forward to another week of celebrating school spirit with the upcoming Snow Week events, which will take place January 16-19.



## MACCRAY Homecoming Court

**The MACCRAY Homecoming Court included Averie Nurmi, Erika Pieper, Ella Kienitz, Princess Annie Bourne, Queen Kori Bristle, King Sawyer Janssen, Prince Sebi Cisneros, Charlie Delbosque, Brady Heiling, and Garrett Struxness.**



## MACCRAY NHS hosts blood drive

By Daniel Roelofs

The MACCRAY National Honor Society hosted a blood drive in the high school gym on December 6th, 2023 during school for students and staff. Some of the staff and students believe that this is a very important event and something that everyone should try.

The high school blood drive has been an important event in which many people can attend in the MACCRAY High School gym. Some of the students and staff have insight on this event and why it is important, including Andrea Lewandoski, who hosts the blood drive as the National Honor Society advisor.

Members of NHS help to run the blood drive and make sure donors feel comfortable. "Their support has

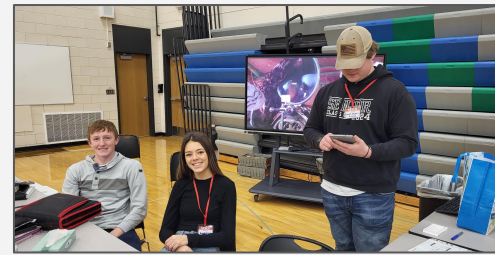


**Juniors Addisyn Pederson and Adrienne Pankratz work the check-in table at the Blood Drive.**

been really helpful for the kids who are or for anybody who's having a hard time or a little anxious, and that's a key part," Lewandoski said.

Other people have had some experiences as well in the blood drive, including High School Business teacher Rhonda Pieper, who had a personal experience with her recent blood donation.

"My mother needed a blood transfusion a few weeks ago and I



**Juniors Tobyn Dalle and Callie Jaenisch, and senior Quinton Hauck, welcome blood donors at the table at the resting area of the blood drive.**

found out she and I were the same blood type. So there's a chance that my blood could have gone over to her," said Rhonda Pieper.

Other people have attended this event too and have concluded that blood donations are crucial for saving lives and can have a significant influence on their lives.

"In the long run, it makes them feel good, and it may be scary at the time, but there's always a lot of people to help."



The MACCRAY National Honor Society inducted 14 new members on Tuesday, Nov. 7. The new members include back row, Grayson Ahrenholz, Tyler Nett, Ryan Marcus, Lexi Nurmi, Quinton Hauck, and Sam Andol. Front row, Adrienne Pankratz, London Hoffer, Mikayla Wiler, Sam Hultgren, Callie Jaenisch, Kyra Jarett, and Tobyn Dalle. Welcoming the new inductees to NHS include back row, Erika Pieper, Charlie Delbosque, Mackenna Burnett, Molly Loe, Addie Plagge, front row, Averie Nurmi, Greta Meyer, Ella Kienitz, Callie Macht, and Kori Bristle.



## By Riley Roskens **MACCRAY Middle School hosts a Thanksgiving Food Drive**

MACCRAY Middle School students hosted a Holiday food drive in the middle school from November 14th to the 17th. With higher food costs and the holiday season underway, families have a hard time affording food. Middle School students were responsible to gather and bring non-perishable food items to the middle school.

Their goal was 600 pounds of food donations to help their local community.

Mrs. Sunderland agreed to have the drop-off location in her classroom because that was easiest for the students to weigh the donations and keep track of their goals. By the last day they had a total of 570 pounds of non-perishable goods.

"We fell a little short by 30lb," said Wheatley.

At the end of the holiday food drive, the donations were delivered to a local Church in Clara City. The food

donated to the Church was provided to families for Thanksgiving. Canned foods, rice, and noodles were the main items donated.

The Middle School students planned this holiday food drive because they wanted a project for themselves. They wanted to give back to their community and it felt good to help people in need. The reward for the middle schoolers was a pizza party.



## MACCRAY gets strict on cell phone use

By Jordan Warne

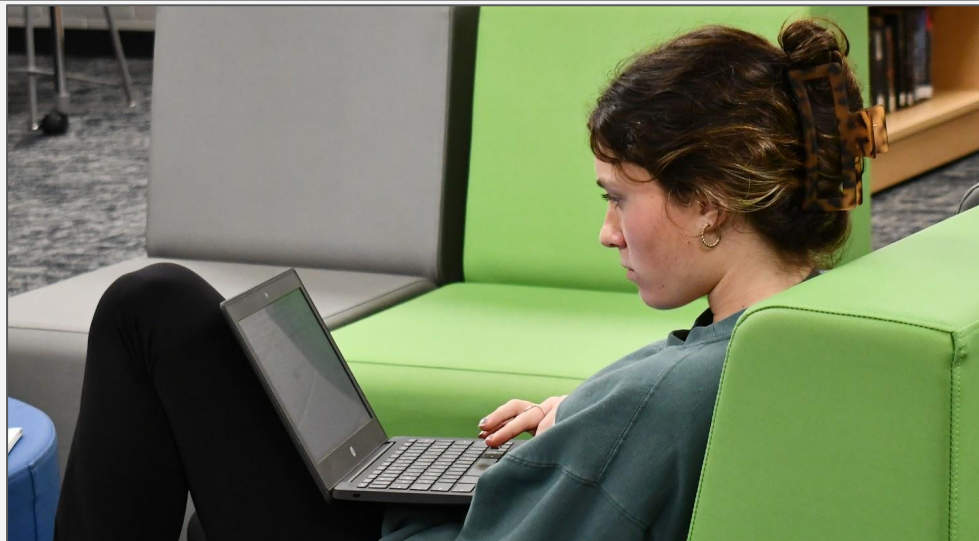
MACCRAY High School started the new school year with a new phone policy. Students are to report their phones to a box for the entire hour until the hour ends. Many students don't like the policy because they don't think it is necessary to have to put their phones in the box. However, teachers disagree and like the policy.

Many students at MACCRAY seem to disagree with this new phone policy, saying that it is unfair and that they should be able to keep their phones on them. The students who feel the most passionate about disliking the new phone policy are the seniors. MACCRAY Senior Brady Heiling said, "I feel like as a senior it is kind of dumb."

Teachers however disagree with that statement stating that they are a fan of the new policy because they believe cell phones are too much of a distraction to learning.

"I am a fan of the new phone policy. I think that it is too tempting for kids to have their phones. I do think seniors should be able to keep it and or use it in study halls or during their down time in class and advisories, but other than that I think it's an earned piece," said Phy Ed Teacher Cole Christopher

One thing students and teachers seem to both agree on is that they should be less strict with seniors and seniors only. Seniors should be allowed to at least keep



**MACCRAY senior Erika Pieper works on a school device in the library. Every student at MACCRAY middle and high school is provided with a school issued device, so technology is still heavily used at MACCRAY, even though the rules state students should not be on their phones throughout the school day.**

their phones in their pockets, and if a teacher sees it during class, the phone should be taken.

Brady agrees that students shouldn't have their phones during class, and he thinks the new policy is more useful for younger kids. Seniors with senior privileges should be able to have their cell phones on them and seniors should be able to earn phone privileges.

Brady believes students should be able to have their phones if they "have senior privileges or if you're good in class or have a passing grade then yeah, and if you have work time you should be able to have it," Brady said.

Christopher recognizes that students probably absolutely hate the

phone policy, but he believes it's good because he said he is even tempted to check his phone when he hears it buzzing. He believes that maybe the policy is a little strict for seniors, but for all other students, it's totally fair. However, if students, even seniors, are not following the policy, then it's fair for teachers to take their phones.

Christopher has also noticed that behavioral problems are down due to students not having their phones during the school day. He believes the phone policy will last for years to come. "I think it has gone hand-in-hand with behaviors not as bad as they once were," he said.

There are many different opinions about the new phone policy. What are your thoughts on it?

## Are service hours really important?

By Matthew Wadsworth

Completing service hours is an important part of learning at MACCRAY, but I don't think every student has the same opportunity to complete service hours.

Senior Jordan Warne believes that service hours should not be necessary and that students should have to only focus on school. "I don't think that they should be necessary for students to graduate. I think that students should have to work hard in

school and not have to worry about getting service hours done," Jordan said.

Mrs. Donner speaks on the argument that service hours could be very stressful for students.

"I agree that it's an extra requirement that could be stressful for students to complete on top of school work and athletics and jobs and everything else that they are involved in."

Even though it can be stressful to add another item to students' already long list of things to do, both interviewees think that service hours do help students get more involved within the community.

"I think it's good that it gets students out in the community and helping to volunteer with other things...So I mean, even though it is hard it is part of doing what is expected of you," said Mrs. Donner.

## It's a supercalifragilistic performance of Mary Poppins



**By Alice Gann**

A supercalifragilistic performance of *Mary Poppins* was put on by the MACCRAY Drama Department in the Performing Arts Center. For three days in November the MACCRAY community was transported back to 1910 London, England in the musical-fantasy of *Mary Poppins*.

Senior Averie Nurmi played the lead role of *Mary Poppins*. She has been involved with MACCRAY drama for seven years.

Nikki Erickson directed the play again with the help of Joel Gronseth as the music director. Bonnie Kluver was the costume design and construction director and Jasmine Goblish worked on the props and set production.

"I've always loved *Mary Poppins* so much," said Erickson, as one of the reasons they chose this play.

Many students were involved in the play. "I think it's a really big show and we had a lot of people that had to play a lot of parts. I think that they handled it really well. It was a huge undertaking, so I'm proud of them," Erickson said.

The cast of characters in order of appearance included: Kyra Jarett as Bert, Caden Schueler as George Banks, London Hoffer as Winifred Banks, Iris Donner as Jane Banks, Abel Mares-Ciriaco as Michael Banks, Molly Loe as Katie Nanna/Bird woman/Miss Andrew, Adrian Evenson as policeman, Adilee Dambrotten-Neu as Miss Lark, Orion Day as Admiral Boom/Park Keeper, Chelsea Lopez as Mrs. Brill, Emily Reetz as Robertson Ay, Averie Nurmi as *Mary Poppins*, Rachel Seehusen as Neleus/Von Hussler/Northbrook Susie Johnson as Queen Victoria, Mia Goldenstein as Bank Chairman/Annie, Kaylee Hirman as Miss Smythe, Alondra Escobar as Mrs. Corry, Ella Pauling as Frannie, Kresson Bratsch as Valentine, Karly Bratsch as Mr. Punch, Isabelle Mickels as Doll, Elsa Fosso as Bear. The ensemble included Ella Pauling, Elsa Fosso, Isabelle Mickels, Karly Bratsch, Maiya Cardenas, Adilee Dambrotten-Neu, Orion Day, Susie Johnson, Mia Goldenstein, and Kresson Bratsch.

The tech/backstage crew was Bryson Kimpling, Jay Goldenstein, Michael Goldenstein, Keana Goldenstein, Lilyanne Pauling, MJ Stokes, Sarah Seehusen, Quinton Hauck, and Evan Petersen. The pit orchestra included Deena Steen, Tim Caylor, Laura Streich, Elias Hultgren, and Addie Sunderland.

Junior players included Piper Bristle, Gracie Dahlke, Harris Fosso, Kasen Fragodt, Aubrie Hagemeyer, Sadie Hagemeyer, Zoey Heiling, Alison Hess, Aleah Johnson, Daxton Kleinhuizen, Evan Loe, Aleysia Phelps, Hattie Roelofs, Henley Roskens, Kara Rosenau, Brenzlee Schwab, Lydia Taatjes, Landry Thissen, Lynnlee Thissen, Mira Thompson, Avery Van Eps, Liam Westbrook, and Claire Wulf.

"I'm just proud of the kids," Erickson said. "It's more about the learning process, not the final product."





## Day of the Dead

### celebrated at MACCRAY

By Juan Diego Del Bosque

The Day of the Dead is a holiday that you get to celebrate with your family to remember your passed loved ones. It is celebrated on November 2nd every year. This year, MACCRAY set up a Day of the Dead display to recognize those at MACCRAY who celebrate the holiday.

Laura Finley is an EL para at MACCRAY, and she celebrates the Day of the Dead every year. Mrs. Laura was part of celebrating the Day of the Dead at MACCRAY High School. These are some of the things that she said they did to celebrate it: "We made an altar so that the American community were able to understand this amazing tradition."

Altars mostly include photos, possessions of the dead, candles, flowers, calaveras, water, and toys for little angels.

Senior Andy Osorio is a student at MACCRAY who doesn't celebrate the Day Of the Dead with an altar, but he loves the way it gets celebrated. Andy's favorite thing about this holiday "is getting to remember my loved ones who passed away."

The day of the dead is an amazing holiday to celebrate and both Andy and Laura agree that it is something wonderful that you can do for your loved ones.

## MACCRAY Students take a trip to the Chippewa County Courthouse

By Jeremy Maldonado

MACCRAY offers a bunch of electives for high schoolers, and one nice one is a Business and Personal Law class offered by Rhonda Piper. In this class, students learn laws, torts, contracts, and others in the constitutional system. It is a great class, and the class even got to go to the Chippewa County Courthouse for a tour on October 31.

Chippewa County located in Montevideo in District 7 is a small building with lots of Law enforcement to help the Chippewa community. It was built back in 1883 and has improved in security and structure. The MACCRAY students got to talk to some law enforcement and ask questions.

"We sat in the big courtroom and that's where Judge VanHan answered some questions," said Rhonda Pieper.

There are many reasons why Rhonda Pieper thought a tour would benefit her students. "I thought it would be good for my business and personal law class to actually sit in a court hearing to meet a judge because maybe student may never actually get to do that, also to see what a jail cell looks like and to visit with the sheriff. I thought it would be good for them to actually see how the whole jail system is set up," Rhonda Pieper said.

The MACCRAY Students did a lot during the visit getting to see all the areas of the courthouse.

There were many offices and rooms the students got to visit. The students even got to listen to some court hearings.

The Chippewa County Courthouse isn't only just a courthouse but also a jailhouse.



Students even got to visit the jail and learn about the inmates booking process.

The students in the class who got to tour the courthouse and jail enjoyed the day out of the traditional classroom to learn more about our county.

"It was very good and it was very interesting to see the courthouse and to know that they have different rooms for certain court cases and it was also pretty cool to see the jail and all the different people that were in there," said senior Erika Pieper.

Rhonda Pieper said the tour is very beneficial to her class because they are taking a personal law class. Even if the students in the class don't think they will be a lawyer later in life, it's still good to talk to a judge and see the process. It gets students out of the classroom and learning hands on rather than just from a text book.

The MACCRAY students had a wonderful time on their visit with all the things they had to show and offer to the students. This is the third time the class has taken a trip to the courthouse and it has been a great experience and it is always successful.

## MACCRAY explores future career opportunities

By Andy Osorio

Throughout the school year, MACCRAY Counselor Laura Bristle sets up different career exploration opportunities for students to get an idea of what they'd like to do after high school.

On Friday, Oct. 13, the sophomore class traveled to Ridgewater College in Hutchinson for the Ignite Your Future Career Exploration event. There were over 1400 students from 13 different schools who attended the event. The event featured over 70 hands-on career activities available for students to explore a wide range of potential career opportunities.

"It was such a cool event, and I think the students had a lot of fun," Bristle said.

Students in grades 10-12 also had the opportunity to attend the tour of manufacturing event on Oct. 3 if they chose to. The tour of manufacturing is a free opportunity for the MACCRAY High School students to get involved in new job opportunities outside of your common jobs. Some of the jobs at the manufacturing facilities are line assembly, welding, construction workers



**Sophomores Angie Cisneros, Bree Dirksen, and Reyna Mendoza get career experience at the Ignite event on Oct. 13.**

etc... This tour was held October 3 2023 and there were five tours. Warner Manufacturing, Granite Fluid Power, Granite Falls Energy, Extreme Panel Technologies, and SpecSystems are the names of the companies attended on tour.

The MACCRAY manufacturing trip was a small fun experience for students who attended to get a better understanding of the work field outside of school and for students to get prepared for the future, and the tour was not only for students who are interested in a trade but for students to experience new jobs opportunities.

## Job Shadow at a Funeral Home

By Quinton Hauck

Have you ever been behind the scenes at a Funeral home? On Friday, Oct 27, Aubrey Burghorst, MACCRAY senior, had a job shadow at Harvey Anderson Funeral. She was able to learn all the different things that happen to prepare a body.

Aubrey was able to talk about the whole process of how the bodies are prepared. Aubrey wasn't able to work on any of the bodies, but she still got a great understanding of what happens.

"I did go with the dude to go pick up a deceased body. It was fine, but this person that was saying goodbye to the body made me cry," Aubrey said.

Aubrey explains that she was able to go to a place to pick up a body. When she arrived there was a lady who was sad to see the person go and this made Aubrey upset.

"I think I would go for cosmetology for real people or alive people. I think I would do good in a cosmetology school but that's what interests me," Aubrey said after the job shadow.

Cosmetology is something that Aubrey believes she would enjoy. She is still unsure if she would like to work on dead people, but it is still a possibility.

Seeing other people cry and sad about their loved ones dying would be very difficult for Aubrey. It is not for everyone and it takes a special person, but Aubrey enjoyed the experience. She has some thinking to do about what her future holds.



## MACCRAY's 1st Grade Thanksgiving Parade

**As a take on the famous Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, MACCRAY's first graders created their own balloons and paraded around the school the day before Thanksgiving.**