Feed Our Starving Children

Ella Knight

The National Junior Honor Society of Edgewood Middle School recently had the experience of packing meals for the hungry through the Feed My Starving Children organization. Feed My Starving Children makes Manna Meals, which are “packed with love from the volunteers.” Each meal has a beneficial amount of vitamins, vegetables, soy and rice, and each can feed up to six children. On Wednesday, November 6, the NJHS traveled to Nappanee Missionary Church to pack the meals. The NJHS students were separated into stations, and in about one and a half hours, helped make 93,528 total meals. These meals were enough to feed 256 children for an entire year. The NJHS learned so much about the little things that it takes to make a big difference. “I was absolutely astonished when I realized that in just a few hours, we created enough meals to prevent over 250 children from going hungry for an entire year,” said Kylee Gude-man. Austin Hollowell thought, “It was a lot of fun packaging the food, and knowing that it was an amazing cause just made the experience so much more enjoyable.”

My personal thoughts on the trip were all positive. It was stunning to see students and people from all over northern Indiana give up a little bit of their time, and come to the Nappanee Missionary Church to make the Manna Meals. When I was at the church, there was so much to do and so much to pack that I lost track of time. I knew that every Manna Meal we made had enough food to keep six more children going, and this kept me going. In the end, Edgewood’s final meal numbers were a little over 15,000. I felt so honored and proud to help the hungry mainly in Haiti, but also all over the world. I know that making these meals put a smile on other people’s faces, but not as big of a smile as it put on mine.

About 6,200 children die every day from starvation. That’s 186,000 a month, and 2,232,000 a year. Sadly, Americans throw away approximately 263 million pounds of food a day, and this food is normally a surplus, and edible. The Feed My Starving Children organiza-

And, good news! The goal of making over 2.2 million meals was achieved late Saturday (Nov. 7th) afternoon. Thank you to all of the participants from NJHS, other volunteers, and donators!
Edgewood Middle School is having its first semi-formal dance in almost a decade. Semi-formal means that you don’t go and buy prom dresses or a tuxedo. Dress as if you were going to church. The reason we are having this dance is because of an Edgewood student, Jaden Stout, who passed away in the middle of July. The fundraiser is helping support “The Jaden Stout Memorial Scholarship Fund.” If you buy one ticket, the cost is $7.50. If you want to buy couple tickets, you have to pay $10.00. This dance will be held on December 13, 2013, Jaden’s birthday. It will be held in the Edgewood commons starting at 7:00 p.m. going until 9:00 p.m. You must bring your I.D. to enter this event. During lunch, I interviewed Daisy Travis and Brenna Baney. They told me that this dance will consist of a D.J that plays some music to light up the dance. If you want to show up looking like you match, wear the colors blue and/or silver. Blue and silver are the theme colors of this event because we are going for a winter theme. The commons will have lights hanging all over. There will be tables with food on it for the people taking a break from dancing.

Another big reason why we are having the dance is to prevent bullying. The staff wants to bring us kids together so we can become closer to each other. The kids that wanted to have this dance had the choice to sign a petition. If this petition got a lot of signatures, then Mrs. Smyth would give us, the student body, what we wanted. This event is called “A Night to Dream” because it’s a night that only we can dream of.

Awesome Hobbies Store

Lora Kuhaneck

With the ever-growing technology of the modern world, family activities seem few and far-between. But there is a way to enjoy family time (or time with friends!) while using a minor degree of technology.

Awesome Hobbies (322 North Detroit Street in Warsaw) is a new hobby store in town. Their primary outlet is remote controlled car racing. They also sell a variety of arts and crafts kits, R.C. planes, boats, cars, and helicopters, model cars, puzzles, board games, and more. The store has aisles with the merchandise, as well as an expansive R.C. car track. Races are held every weekend, and you can come in and play on the track at all times for a small fee. If you don’t have your own car, you can buy or rent one.

R.C. racing is a great activity for all ages. Cars come in all styles, shapes, and sizes. You can个性化 a car with colored parts, custom “body” designs and patterns, and other changes. Cars that aren’t super-enhanced can reach speeds of up to 70 mph. There are electric and “nitro” (gas) cars. Nitro cars are faster, but are also harder to control and more expensive. No matter what type or style car you choose, R.C. racing is great fun for everyone.

The store is open every day but Tuesday, and their schedule can be found if you call them at (574) 267-7171. They can order special products on request, and get new items every two weeks or so. This place is really family friendly. The owners, Bill and Jamie Norris, will make you feel welcome. So what are you waiting for?
I interviewed our new School President Lucas. Lucas ran against Alex Koontz and Keagan Rice during the election this fall. Lucas won by an impressive landslide. I wanted to ask him about his presidency, recent school problems, and what he was going to do to change this school.

First thing I talked to Lucas about was why he chose to run for president.

“I wanted to take matters into my own hands and work with the principal to help make this school better.” He also thinks of himself as our voice. “I thought it would be a way to get my point across.” He added.

The second question I asked him was what he was going to do this year.

“I want to add more strict bullying policies to help prevent bullying.” “I also have an idea of modifying our toolkit time every Tuesday and Thursday because it seems pointless and designed to help only certain people.”

The last thing Lucas wants to do is change P.E uniforms because the girls disapproved of them.

I also quickly asked him his thoughts on the candy policy. “I think there are pros and cons to this. A pro would be that if we find the source of the problem we could stop it.”

“But a con is that it would affect everyone, not just a small minority.”

The project was to design a banner for a contest sponsored by The Wagon Wheel Theatre. The winner’s banner will be hung downtown during the month of December. The banner was to promote the holiday musical “The Sound of Music”. Orion’s banner won. I interviewed Mrs. Johnson, the arts teacher, and she said, “Orion is a gifted artist. I noticed his talent in 7th grade and encouraged him to pursue Advanced Art. Advanced Art is a full year class for 8th graders.” She also said he favors working with black and white but she is trying to get him to “get more confidence in his use of color”.

I also interviewed Orion. He rated his art work an eleven and a half on a scale of 1-10. He said he has been drawing since he was two, and his favorite style to use on his art work is pencil and charcoal.

The final banner that will hang downtown this month
Is Christmas All About Material Objects?  
Miriam Hagg

These stores are cutting into the time that we share with our families when we all gather around the table on Thanksgiving evening. Many parents also spend a lot of money on Christmas. In 2011, some parents planned to spend $271 on gifts per child, and one in ten said that they planned to spend over $500 per child.

What do you think? Do you think that the magic of Christmas comes from rushing through ten stores to find one toy, or from sitting around the fire with your family? Hopefully, we will all remember the true meaning of Christmas, through the crowded stores of Black Friday, to when we wake up on Christmas morning.

What would you like for Christmas Poll

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Poll information provided by Kenzie Strichler

On the Edge—Advice & Opinion  
Emily Brink

This issue’s topics include: bullying, and what to wear to the dance. I interviewed several people on these subjects. The following are the questions I asked my peers and here’s what they had to say on the subject.

Question 1: What do you think about bullying?

Anonymous 1: I think bullying is done by people who want to have power over other people and they want to feel better about themselves. Because bullying is such an issue I think that standing up for other people would help a lot and even just standing up for yourself when someone is bullying you.

Anonymous 2: I think people that bully are really insecure about themselves so they try to bring people down so the bully has power. If the bully feels like they have power they feel like they can do anything. Bullying really needs to stop because it really does hurt and when people bully it only makes them look bad. People need to tell an adult or just walk away I mean why stand there and be bullied?

Anonymous 3: It’s bad, we need to stop it. If you don’t like something about someone just keep it to yourself don’t tell the person.

Question 2: What are you wearing to the dance?

Anonymous 1: You really expect me to know this? (After some debate) fine a black dress but I’m not going.

Anonymous 2: A red, form fitting dress with a beaded back.

Anonymous 3: A dress with a zig zag pattern, it’s kind of classy and kind of casual. I’m wearing heels with it and accessories.
Mystery Teacher  Rachel Smith

The mystery teacher is a randomly selected teacher that will be in each edition of the paper. During first and second lunch there will be a form for the students to fill out and guess who they think the teacher is. The form will be next to a box on the stage. You have the following five questions and answers to use and guess who you think the mystery teacher is.

Question 1: What do you enjoy doing in your free time?
Answer: Singing, playing guitar, working out, playing sports, and hanging out with my son

Question 2: What is your favorite sport?
Answer: College basketball and soccer

Question 3: What do you like best about teaching?
Answer: Getting the chance to interact with 7th and 8th graders as they walk through the process of becoming adults

Question 4: Where did you graduate college?
Answer: Grace College

Question 5: What is your favorite food?
Answer: Peanut butter/chocolate ice cream

The winner’s name will be chosen on Wednesday December 18th. Be sure to cast your guess by filling in your name and the correct teacher and placing the form in the box on stage. Winner will receive a special prize. Happy Guessing!

What to do over Christmas Break?  Rachel Smith

Edgewood, like every other school, is always excited when Christmas break rolls around. No school, no homework (usually), and no responsibilities. Yet many teens find themselves slightly bored during the holiday break. What is there to do, when you can’t go to the beach or hang out at the park without freezing to death? Well, believe it or not, there are many activities available here in Warsaw, Indiana, during the winter season.

Bowling is a great winter activity for the whole family. The Bowling Alley, which is located on Detroit Street, provides excellent fun during your break. It is clean, affordable, and entertaining. Your family is almost guaranteed to have an enjoyable time!

Are you artistic? If so, Pottery Bayou is the place for you this Christmas break! It is located in the village at Winona Lake. At Pottery Bayou, you can paint pottery pieces, fuse glass, and do many other activities. The prices at Pottery Bayou vary depending on the item you choose to paint, fuse, etc. Even if you’re not artistic, give it a go this winter! You never know what you can do if you don’t try.

These are just a couple ideas of activities to do over your Christmas break. Why not try one of them? There are many things you can do this Christmas break if you think outside the box. Have fun, and be safe this winter break!

What are your plans over Christmas break?

Poll information provided by Kenzie Strichler
Winter Sports

Lora Kuhneck

You probably enjoy swimming, basketball, football, track, soccer, and the like. Even if you don’t, these are all sports for warmer weather. But have you considered the winter athletics? Activities like skiing, snowboarding, ice skating, ice hockey and (even though it isn’t technically a sport) sledding are all good fun for the cold season.

I personally ski, so I know what it’s like. Sliding smoothly over the fresh snow, skidding on the ice, getting stuck in the powder. Racing down a hill to climb up the next one. Gracefully executing perfect turns to keep an average speed. It can be exhilarating, promising, and wonderful all at the same time. Skis are two long thin platforms, which you lock into by wearing special tight ski boots.

Skiis are exhilarating, promising, and wonderful all at the same time. Skis are mounted side-by-side on one board, facing sideways. You lean forward and back while wearing boots that seem similar to tennis shoes. You can execute more tricks with this, but it can be harder to keep your balance.

Ice skating. You’ve seen it on TV, with the dressed up kids sliding around the ring, being judged. It isn’t always like that.

Yes, there are competitions, but it’s really different. Your tightly laced boots have a blade on the bottom, which lightly carves into the ice to keep you mounted. You must keep a mostly constant forward motion. With practice, it gets easier.

Ice hockey is advertised in the media too. You hear the term, and you probably think of bulky-looking guys skating around the arena. You probably do want padding for this, because it is an aggressive sport. You have a hockey stick that almost resembles a slanted “L” shape. You smack it against a small, round disc called a “puck” and try to get the puck into a net.

Continued on Pg. 7

Santa– A Christmas Controversy

Meredith Phipps

Santa Clause, Papai Noel, Father Christmas, Kris Kringle- all of these names refer to the same man. We have all heard the legend of Santa, the jolly old man who breaks into your house every Christmas Eve to bring you gifts. Most of us were lead to believe in this popular tale when we were children. There are, however, some parents who do not believe that telling children about Santa is in their best interest. As future parents, we all must ask ourselves, is it a lie to tell children about Santa? If it is, is it ok to lie to kids in the spirit of Christmas?

Some parents argue that Santa is not a total lie. The character Santa is based off of Saint Nicholas, a man who lived in the early 300’s. Even though he did not have much money, Nicholas gave everything he had to help the poor and sick, especially the children. He would often leave presents on the windowsills of sick children, and sneak away so that they would not know it was him. That is how the legend of Santa Clause started. Many parents state that by leading their children to believe in Santa, they are honoring the man who helped the poor so many years ago. By carrying on this tradition, they are making sure that the spirit of his humble kindness will live on in the generations to come. One family that I spoke to stated that their main reason for leading their children to believe in Santa is the sense of wonder and hope he brings children around the world. Even though Santa is not real, the spirit of giving anonymously is very real.

Other parents believe that telling their children that Santa is real will lead their children to believe that they are untrust-worthy when they learn that Santa is a lie. These parents also believe that Santa takes away from the real meaning and spirit of the holiday. While Santa is a fun tradition, he is not the reason for Christmas. The holiday Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus. Telling children about Santa often makes them more excited to open their presents than they are to celebrate the true meaning of the season. Another family that I spoke to stated that their main reason for not leading their children to believe in Santa is the need to keep their children’s trust, so that they will not doubt their faith.

Both sides of this argument have very valid points. In the end, it often depends on the maturity and attitude of a child. Each family is different, and that does not make them wrong. So, whether you believe in the concept of Santa or not, “Merry Christmas to all, and to all, a goodnight.”
Winter Sports Continued

Sledding might not qualify as a sport in most books, but it’s definitely fun. Sleds come in varying shapes and sizes, including tubes, platforms, and dishes. This one can be done around here. You may know of a place around your home or a friend’s house, but a popular area is Madison Hill. The old Madison Elementary has a hill leading down to the soccer hill that is especially fun. Maybe you’ve been there, maybe not.

You might be a summer person or you might be a cold weather person. Maybe you prefer to just stay inside. Summer is well-known, but winter activities are not as common. Hopefully this encouraged you to get out there. Remember that if you do go outside, you need to stay really warm and (I know it sounds strange for winter) wear sunscreen. The sun can reflect off of the snow, making sunburn even more likely. And no one, summer, winter, and stay-at-home alike, likes a sunburn!

Robotics – An Inside Look

Lego robotics is all about programming robots to do certain tasks on a board. For any science plus student, it was a fun learning experience and those who did make it to competition, the fun isn’t over. Let’s meet one team and their robot.

Team: Edgewood Avalanche.

Members: Marc Motter, Collete Smith, Sarah Meade, Grace Miller, Caleb Warner, Emily Brink.

Robot’s name: F.I.D.O.

F.I.D.O is my team’s robot which placed first in the school’s Lego competition. He has a moderately simple design that is practical to run the tasks required of him without having too many extra parts or attachments. It was a great experience, though sometimes stressful, to see our team go from just starting out and (for me at least) go from barely knowing how to program a robot to being able to do so well. The robots aren’t the only part of robotics. The research teams had hard work to accomplish too; such as meeting with real professionals and having to create a safe and reliable solution to a natural disaster. Our team, Edgewood Avalanche, is (obviously) researching avalanches.

Even though we didn’t go on to IPFW we still had a lot of fun at Grace College getting to present and run our robot. I hope the groups that did make it to IPFW have a lot of fun and good luck to them all!
**Principal’s Wish for You this Holiday Season**  
Mrs. Smyth

**Reflect:** We ask you what your dreams are and what you want to do with your life. We talk to you about aspirations and living up to those dreams. We believe in you and we want to give you the tools to believe in yourself and to make those dreams come true. So, ask yourself, “What am I doing to reach for my dream? What am I doing that interferes with me making my dreams come true? Am I on track? Do I need help? Who can be part of my “dream team” that will help me reach my potential?”

**Resolve:** As a new year approaches, we make resolutions that will hopefully improve our life, health, and success. This year, determine what you need to do or do differently to reach for the stars, believe in yourself, and become the best person you can be. Do you need to spend less time on computers and phones and more time face to face with friends and family? Do you need to learn how to take notes and study for tests so you can get better grades? Do you need to pay attention in class or select team mates wisely when doing a group project? Would it help if you set aside a time each night to complete your homework, instead of waiting for SRT or Success time? Do you need to get more sleep and eat healthier so you feel focused and don’t miss school? Do you need to reach out to help others more or to stand up for doing what is right, even if it isn’t popular? You determine what you need to do to improve your life and then resolve to do it.

**Rejoice:** We live in a country that allows us the freedoms to pursue our dreams. Rejoice! We have a supportive community that works hard to build a solid and safe learning and living environment to grow up in. Rejoice! We have a school that is filled with staff who are committed to helping you learn and succeed. Rejoice! You are truly someone who is special and we do want the best for you. Rejoice! There are so many blessings each day, just look around you and find the positives. They are abundant. Rejoice!

May this holiday season give you the opportunity to reflect, resolve and rejoice!

Merry Christmas!

Mrs. Smyth

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**BE GREEN**

**Recycle Me When Finished**