

**THE**

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# Saydelphic

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

*Homecoming 2014 • Band Results • Musical Info*

*And More*

Homecoming 2014 OUT SCORE OSKAIOSQ

# HOMECOMING

## A Week's Worth of Fun

by Hannah Van Houten



Homecoming has been around for as long as anyone at Saydel can remember. The traditions started at colleges in the Midwest in the late 1800's. The colleges would ask alumni to return and "bless the field" at the football game against their biggest rival. Homecoming Week at college would consist of parties, parades, and events for students to participate in. Over the years high schools adopted Homecomings and that is what brought us to where Saydel is now.



This year, Homecoming Week started with a parade, an old tradition that returned. Clubs, activities, organizations, churches, and businesses decorated floats and threw candy to the crowds watching the parade. Hopefully students didn't stay up too late after the parade because they had an early morning the Monday of Homecoming Week.



It started around 5:30 AM when students started pulling up with their trucks, trailers, and lawn mowers. Monday was Hick Day, or Western Wear, which meant pulling out the overalls, boots, plaid, camo, and cowboy hats! Students came to school at the crack of dawn to kick off the week and had breakfast with their classmates in the parking lot.



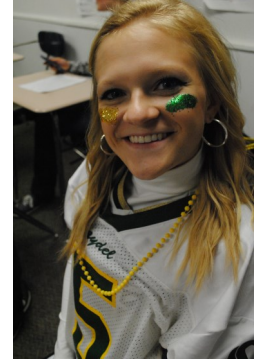
Tuesday was a little more professional this year and was known as Career Day, or "ER Day". Students dressed up as a career or something that ends in -er or -or. There were many doctors, police officers, lawyers, and teachers! Tuesday was the Clark Kent or Peter Parker day of the week, dressing in business clothes and coming ready for work.

Wednesday, however, was when Superman and Spiderman came out to save the day. Superhero Day gave the students a chance to dress as their favorite superhero or hero. There were a lot of Supermen and Spidermen, but seeing camouflage around the halls was common too. Every year more and more students dress as real-life heroes, and for many of them it's someone in the military. Wednesday night is celebrated in a traditional way at Saydel, when students paint the hill white. (The color and designs came Thursday night.)





Thursday was Twin Day, and for the seniors, Toga Day! Dressing up as a twin can be complex or simple. Some students were matching all the way to the socks and hairstyle! Staying school appropriate, seniors were allowed to wear togas which represented their senior status; with the help of the juniors, they wrote their names on the togas with colorful spray paint. This took place after the volleyball game and yearly football jersey auction.



Friday of Homecoming Week is always a day to get crazy and wild and dress in green and gold and show school spirit! This year a lot of students participated by wearing a Saydel shirt, to painting their entire face. The student body was asked to participate in a pep rally Friday afternoon, where students were introduced to the Homecoming Court and had fun getting pumped for the game! Friday night was the football game where Saydel's alumni were asked to come back and help celebrate and cheer on the Eagles.



Before the game, the Homecoming Court was introduced and the king and queen were revealed. Congratulations to everyone on court, and our 2014 Homecoming King and Queen, Justin Carr and Maranda Bear. The game was rough for the Eagles, and we fell short with a final score of 44-30, but an amazing student section helped keep our team pumped up. We love our Eagle fans, especially for sticking out the whole night! The football players, cheerleaders, and fans had a night to recoup before the Homecoming Dance Saturday night.

The theme this year was a Hawaiian luau. Students danced and celebrated all night and, like every year, were dismissed with the song "Don't Stop Believin' by Journey.

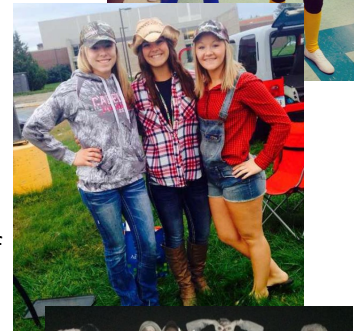




When it comes to traditions, Ashley Frantz, a past Saydel student and current Special Education Assistant, has experienced many throughout her years of being an Eagle. When she was in high school, Saydel had Homecoming spirit week, parade, hill painting, powder puff football, pep assembly, football game, and Homecoming Dance. "It was awesome, it was amazing," Ashley said as she was describing the hallway decorating contests they had when she was in high school. Each grade would decorate a hallway with a theme. The senior hallway had furniture (brought in by seniors) for them to take naps between classes. Another Homecoming tradition was freshman initiation on the Monday of Homecoming Week. The seniors would wake up freshmen really early and dress them up crazy, making them come to school like that for the day. The seniors meant no harm, just to have fun and interact with the other grades.



Penney Smith, a para-educator here at the high school, has been in this building as long as Ashley Frantz. Penney said her favorite thing during Homecoming Week is always dressing up. You probably saw her dressed up and walking around the halls during Homecoming Week. Her favorite theme for Homecoming Week is Green and Gold Day. Penney hopes for more involvement with Homecoming from the students and when asked about her hopes for traditions at Saydel, she stated, "Oh! That they all come back," hoping that students can be respectful and responsible and maybe gain some of the traditions back that we used to have here at Saydel.



Thanks to those who submitted pictures to Instagram @TheSaydelphic

# Marching to Victory

by Nick Dolan



*Band members Chris Lyle, Mario Rodriguez, Michael Adams, Ryan McCracken, Alex Scott, and Rachel Bartleman line up at the close of a halftime performance of "Metallic."*

If Saydel band instructor Mr. Eric Layden had complete control over the band show, there would be fireworks. "My brother has a pyrotechnics license, so I would have an 'in'. I haven't talked to Mr. Schulte, but we've taken the tree line down, so I don't see what the problem would be," he said (sarcastically).

This year's marching band show isn't quite as explosive, but it's just as bright. "Metallic is the theme, as in 'shiny metal things,' not 'Metallica'. The three pieces are copper, silver, and gold. It's a simple theme, very in-your-face. The color guard flags are literally copper, silver, and gold, and so are the outfits."

The marching band has been performing the show at halftime during home games, and watching the performance is the biggest way you can support the Marching Eagles. "Come to the football games, pay attention to the halftime show, and most of our competitions are in the metro area, so ask when we perform, and come down and watch and cheer us on," Layden said.

Their first competition was on Saturday, September 27 at the North Central Marching Invitational at Fort Dodge, where they took home the Grand Champion award and one for Best Color Guard. The next three are one Saturday after another (October 4, 11, and 18) at Urbandale, Valleyfest, and Ankeny, respectively.

If you're in band, good luck for the rest of this year, and if you're not, go support your band members!

# *Beating the Heat!*

by Katie Coy

The Saydel High School cross-country team is not letting anything get in the way of a successful season, including the heat. Unfortunately one out of the two meets scheduled so far has been cancelled due to extreme heat. However, they can take the heat, literally.

Head coach, Steve Gebhart, is not taking it easy on his runners between meets. "We have been running a lot more mileage this year than we have in the past. It is not uncommon for our guys to run anywhere from 6-8 miles in a practice, and girls 4-6. They have all been responding very well to the increase in mileage from last year, seeing it as an opportunity to improve rather than a punishment."

Senior Casey Roberts is not letting the weather slow him down. Putting in extra miles after and outside of practice, Casey is doing everything in his power to better himself from previous seasons.

"I hope to place in state this year," says the senior, "I'm putting in a lot more miles than I have in previous years and hopefully it will push me to the next level."

Over the next few years Coach Gebhart intends to recruit as many runners as possible to continue moving the program in a positive direction. "I would like to have 15-20 boys and 15-20 girls out for cross country every season eventually. The more people that come out, the better the program. I truly believe you can breed greater success with the more runners that you have."



Above: senior Casey Roberts, sophomore David Parker, senior Emma Bowman, and sophomore Lyndsay Bianchi pose for a group photo.

# A New Beginning

by Courtney Hill

The 2014 football season is off to a great start. Although the impressive new stadium is still under construction, it was opened up for the first home game. The game was August 29 against Clarke. The boys came in ready to fight. They beat Clarke by a score of 26-15; not only a great way to kick off the season, but also a great way to break in the new stadium. Some highlights from the game include 3 interceptions- one by senior Clayton Sommers, one by senior Marshall Anderson, and one by junior Jake Philipsen– as well as a couple fumble recoveries; one by sophomore Devin Porter and another fumble forced by senior Justin Carr and recovered by junior Dylan Coffin. Head coach Jason Alons said, “We played well at times against Clarke, but we’ll need to be more consistent on both sides of the ball to be competitive once the district season starts. But overall, I was pleased with the way the kids handled some adversity and played hard throughout the contest.”

Since last season, both sides of the ball have shown tremendous amounts of improvement. “The offense has gained over 300 yards in back-to-back games, and the defense is allowing less points than last season. The coaching staff is excited about the direction the program is headed right now, as we are starting to compete with teams in our class (3A) and not just playing against them,” says Coach Alons.

The Eagles also hosted Oskaloosa at home on September 19 for the Homecoming game. The offense and defense both came to play with an impressive start, but they weren't able to pull through with the win.

All in all, this season is off to a great start and the boys hope to keep the momentum going throughout the year. Don't hesitate to come out and support the eagles on Mondays (JV) and Fridays (9th/V). With the new facilities and a sense of excitement around the program, it is definitely a great time to be an Eagle!



# PASS, SET, HIT!

by Katie Coy

The season has just begun for the Saydel volleyball team, and slacking off is not something they intend to do. Twelve girls and three coaches have been putting in work since the beginning of summer break. New head coach, Ashley Frantz, held open gyms twice a week every week of summer until regular season practice started August 11. The girls will continue building their momentum from summer practices into the rest of the season.

“I feel very positive,” head coach Ashley Frantz said about the upcoming season. “In just two games the girls have improved immensely from last season.” As expected, Coach Frantz has faced a few challenges already during her first year as head coach. However, her problems are some that most coaches would dream of having: “It’s incredibly difficult to determine playing time due to the amount of talent between twelve girls.”

Unfortunately, ten out of the twelve girls on the varsity team are seniors. However, junior varsity head coach, Megan Anderson, has faith in the younger girls to step up and take on the varsity role next year. “I have seen a huge amount of improvement within the junior varsity team from last year. They have been working really hard and it definitely shows.”

Ten seniors also isn’t necessarily a negative thing. Some of the players feel that it’s one of the team’s biggest strengths. “We have been playing together since seventh or eighth grade. We all know how one another plays and how certain people may or may not play well together and I think that is a really big advantage,” senior Audrey Westphal comments.

Not only does Coach Frantz have a talented coaching staff supporting her every step of the way, she is already brainstorming ideas to improve the program for upcoming years. “Having a good turnout of girls for off-season workouts proves to be very difficult

sometimes due to their busy summer schedules. I hope to have the summer schedule out before the end of the school year so everyone is aware of exactly when the workouts are and can plan accordingly. We will also have the Youth Volleyball Program in full swing by next summer. The high school level girls will be attending 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade practices over the summer to help coach them. I think it’s very important that the younger girls have older, more experienced players to look up to and to help teach them the basics of volleyball.”

The varsity volleyball team’s current record is 3-12. Come out Monday, October 20, to support the Saydel High School volleyball team!



*Above: Junior Melanie Gustafson and senior Brooklyn Allgood prepare to receive the serve from their opponents.*



# Standardized Testing: The Musical

by Sam Bullock

Some Saydel students are busy at work getting ready for this year's musical *Standardized Testing*. Three nights a week, the cast gets together to work on sets, memorize lines and songs, learn dances, and much more. "There is a lot of work that goes into the musical, especially backstage work, such as making sets and putting them in the right place while performing," says senior Adam Sparks, who is playing Danny this year in the musical. Danny is one of the few students who is in the classroom taking the test. Throughout the test, the students will sing and dance about their concerns and aspirations.

A lot of people get concerned when tryouts come; auditioning is heart-wrenching and can be very scary. As junior Victoria Trulove says, "This was my first audition for a musical. When I first got to auditions, I was trembling, but as they went on, I got a lot more comfortable and it felt more like hanging out. If you mess up, it's okay, there are a lot of redeeming points. You can even re-sing your song. To me, emotion is key. The more emotion the better."

A lot of emotion is needed to play any role, especially a comedic role. "This musical has a lot of comedic roles, making it a lot more fun than last year's musical," claimed sophomore Megan Schmidt. "Our musical only takes place in one classroom, making it a little bit easier since we don't have to move sets around," senior Adam Sparks comments.

Overall, there is a lot of work put into a musical, but it all pays off in the end. *Standardized Testing*, will be performed on November 7 and 8 at 7pm in the auditorium. And as senior Adam Spark's says, "You should come to see the musical because I'm in it and I'm great."



Above, Mr. Puffett plays the piano during a musical practice.



On the left, students practice singing a song for the musical. From left to right: senior Casey Brown, sophomore Joe Peer, sophomore Shelby Weber, junior Caitie Fagen, sophomore Megan Schmidt and senior Max Kayser.

# New to Saydel

by Hannah Van Houten

## Students From Around the World Now Attending Saydel

### Neen Limthanasran

Neen Limthanasran is a foreign exchange student from Thailand who is currently a junior here at Saydel. "Saydel is really good. Everyone is friendly to me," Neen said of Saydel. When discussing differences about Saydel and school in Thailand, Neen replied with, "It's very different in high school here and high school in Thailand. In Thailand, if the students are not in the same grade, we cannot learn in the same class," and, "(In Thailand) the school will set the class. We cannot choose by ourselves." Neen enjoys staying here and likes the people. "I like the USA. It's a new experience, new culture, and a lot of new things here for me. But this is the first time that I have [been] far away from my family so I always miss them," she said.



**Language?** Thai. English is her second language. "Thai people think that English is very important."

**Favorite musician?** Austin Mahone.

**Favorite foods?** "Spicy. Thai people love spicy."

**Hobbies back home?** Shopping with her mom and sister, playing outside if there's free time.

### Li Xichang



**Language?** Chinese is primary language, English is secondary.

**Favorite musician?** Taylor Swift

**Favorite foods?** Macaroni, potatoes.

**Favorite TV show?** *The Vampire Diaries*.

**Hobbies back home?** Swimming, running, and reading novels.

Li Xichang is currently a junior at Saydel. She is a foreign exchange student from China. You may also know her as Xichang Li (English version) because in China they put their family name first. When asked what she thought of Saydel she answered with, "All of it, I think, is [a] different lifestyle. Food, school, the knowledge," and, "I think it's great and has many activities." Compared to back home, she likes how at Saydel there isn't much homework, and students are (for the most part) allowed to pick what classes they take. When asked about similarities between Saydel and her school in China, she explained that her parents drive her to school, and the food is really tasty. Xichang likes how students are allowed to wear their own clothes, but was used to wearing a uniform so she didn't bring a lot of clothes with her. "In China, everyday we wear the same uniform. [We] aren't allowed to wear our own clothes, nails, jewelry, and bangs [can't be] below the eyebrows." She likes her host family and enjoys all the nice people at Saydel.

# What Would You Do With 7.98 Million Dollars?

by Grant Soddors

Over the summer, Saydel facilities were reborn. The football field was rebuilt, new security put in place, new rooms in the high school, and a new bus depot at Woodside. Additionally, there are new landscaping measures being taken to improve parts of our school grounds.

The referendum that reshaped Saydel's athletics, parking lots, and landscape consisted of approximately \$7,980,000. This money has shaped the future of how Saydel will be presented academically and athletically.

The remodeling the school began during the last quarter of last school year, and most of this summer, resulted in new and moved rooms. The office was moved closer to the front of the school. New electronic locks were installed so that any visitors had to detour

through the office to gain access to the rest of the school. Within the office is a new work room for staff to get supplies and cut paper. Also, the newly-expanded nurse's office is in a new location near the main office. At the corner of the language arts hallway and the front concourse is the new weight room, containing equipment that was also purchased with part of the 7.98 million dollars. Diagonally across from the weight room is the new teacher's lounge containing the printer and mailboxes.

The improvements made to Saydel's exterior foundation is a combination of the school's efforts and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). As for the school's role, they have removed the bus barn from the far end of the parking lot at the high school. Saydel is currently building a new one at Woodside, which will allow the buses parked in the north lot of Saydel to be parked at Woodside. However, this parking lot will still be off limits to students and staff, as it will be used as the loading zone for students after school. With the bus barn removed from the high school, the parking lot has been extended to cover the former foundation of the barn. The front entrance is now outfitted with short steps, and a ramp to bypass those steps, both under Saydel and TAP "School of Promise" banners. Further away from the school, down the hill towards NE 54th Street, it's evident that there is a lot of dirt and grass, and that some trees are missing. This is part of an effort aided by FEMA to slow the water flow from the top of the hill, down the hill, and into the lower parts of neighborhoods on the south side of the street. FEMA and contractors are currently coordinating to construct reservoir ponds to slow down the flow of storm water. In other parts of the high school grounds, foliage and grass will be laid down to help the worn areas from construction vehicles come back to life again.

Finally, the most publicized results of the referendum: The "old" gym is now the new gym, with a two-level cardio facility overlooking a large gymnasium. Another benefit of the referendum is the new football field, where new turf was laid, new stands were built, and Saydel fans finally don't have to look into the sun.

Enjoy the new facilities, and please care for them like you would 7.98 million dollars.



# STEMMING INTO SAYDEL

by Nick Dolan

If you've ever thought about a career related to science or technology, you might be excited to know that Saydel has begun a new program called STEM. Joshua Heyer, STEM Master Teacher, explains: "STEM is an acronym for science, technology, engineering, and math. However, Saydel's approach to STEM is more than an acronym. We're hoping to create an interdisciplinary approach where students are using problem solving and critical thinking to come up with real-world solutions throughout their school day."

STEM is meant to improve education by creating more opportunities and by helping students see the inner connections between subjects. There are two huge changes for high school students, the first being the creation of a full-fledged Tech Club. This includes participation in competitions like robotics, cyber defense (defending a server from hackers), app development, and multimedia. Mr. Heyer says, "there's been some but not a lot of participation so far," and new members are always welcome.

The other major change at the high school is in a new class ran by Project Lead the Way (PLTW), taught by Ms. Annie Gallaher. PLTW describes itself as "the nation's leading provider of K-12 STEM programs." The class Ms. Gallaher teaches is called Introduction to Engineering Design: "In our class, they're applying math, science, and technology to solve engineering problems." Technology used in this class includes the school's 3D printer and 3D scanner, which students can use to create their own designs out of plastic. Intro to Engineering Design is open to all grades and is a two-semester course for tech credit. It will also be available next year, and "we're trying to get it approved for college credit," Ms. Gallaher said, adding, "we also want to add a second class in the series, Principles of Engineering," which would be taken after students had finished Introduction to Engineering Design.

Field trips to STEM-related companies in Des Moines and guest speakers are other possibilities.

The heart of all this, though, is the "interdisciplinary approach": adding more math to science, more science to math, and doing the same for other classes. Ideally for Mr. Heyer, this approach would extend beyond STEM classes: "you need know about persuasive and informational texts. In addition to *1984*, and *To Kill a Mockingbird*, we should also be reading what's going on in the Des Moines Register and what our thoughts and ideas are about it. How rewarding would it be for a student to write a paper in English class that supports concepts they are doing in science class?"

The emphasis on science and technology begs the question: Why should these areas be emphasized? "Really, the STEM initiative is driven by economy, and the future economy will be



Joshua Heyer and two freshmen members, Peter Walkwitz and Gabe Condon, of the robotics team work during a Hyperstream meeting.

in STEM-related positions. STEM jobs are growing at a 2:1 ratio compared to non-STEM positions. As a district we're trying to prepare students for being well-rounded citizens, and a portion of that is having a satisfying career."

There's another element, too: "When I see some STEM positions, they are dynamic and it's not a day-to-day routine. Who wouldn't want to try to solve the issues of tomorrow? That's what we're talking about, becoming innovators. That would be awesome."

Research on the STEM economy is diverse and sometimes contradictory. One Census Bureau report claims that 74% of all STEM Bachelor's Degree holders don't work in a STEM-related field. This would suggest low demand for STEM workers, yet we know this is not the case; Burning Glass Technologies released a report showing 5.7 million STEM-related openings in 2013 alone. One possible cause of this is foreign guest workers being used by corporations in place of American workers, and at a lower cost.

The STEM program is being paid for by several grants, the largest of which comes from the TAP program. TAP evaluates teachers on a rubric with the goal of improving teacher quality, and in turn student success. While the TAP rubric has little to do with the STEM program, STEM does involve adding new curriculum, which has the potential to concern teachers and students. Mr. Heyer responds: "Any time you talk about change there's a heightened sense of concern. The biggest thing I've been trying to do is get out in front and say, yes, while things are going to change, we're going to make sure it's for the better."

"Overall it's an exciting time for Saydel. Some of the things that are going on with TAP, some of the new bond referendum changes, a new facelift—it's exciting to be a part of what's going on here, and I'm really optimistic about what the future holds for this district."

# Lemon Bread Recipe

by Sam Bullock

## INGREDIENTS:

- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 eggs, room temperature
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons butter, softened
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 teaspoon lemon extract
- 1/3 cup lemon juice
- 1/2 cup oil
- Blueberries, optional



## GLAZE:

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 2 tablespoons whole milk
- 1/2 teaspoon lemon extract

## DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease a 9 x 5 loaf pan.
2. In a large bowl, sift together flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt.
3. In a medium bowl, combine eggs, sugar, butter, vanilla extract, lemon extract and lemon juice with a mixer until blended. Add oil and mix well.
4. Pour wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and stir until smooth. If adding blueberries, add now.
5. Pour into loaf pan and bake for 45 to 60 minutes until toothpick comes out clean. Remove from oven, let it cool on a rack.