

# HLWW HS December Newsletter

## Important Dates

- 1/5/26- Return from break
- 1/16/26- Last Day of Semester 1
- 1/19/26- No School- Teacher Workshop
- 2/4/26- South Point Budget City Event- Juniors 9:30-11:30am
- 2/6/26- 2 Hour Late Start
- 2/16/26- No School- Presidents' Day
- 2/23/26- Parent Teacher Conferences 4-7pm
- 3/10/26- ACT Day 8-12pm
- 3/19/26- End of Quarter 3
- 3/20/26- No School- Teacher Workshop
- 3/23-27/26- Spring Break
- 4/3/26- Easter Break
- 4/10/26- 2 Hour Late Start
- 5/25/26- Memorial Day
- 5/31/26- Graduation



As we head into the upcoming holidays, I want to take a moment to thank you for a great year so far. The support from our families makes a real difference, and it shows every day in our classrooms and activities.

Winter activities are underway and off to a strong start. It has been great to see our students involved, committed, and enjoying the season.

I hope the holiday break gives you time to rest, relax, and enjoy time together. We look forward to welcoming students back refreshed and ready for the months ahead. Thank you for the continued support you give our school and our students.

## MHS Toy Drive- Julianna Peterson

The Minnesota Honor Society is hosting a toy drive to help support children and families in need within our community. This service project is an opportunity for students to come together and make a positive impact during the holiday season. The toy drive will be located in the HLWW High school commons from 9am to 11am. We have our toys set up in different sections. We also have stickers placed on each toy. We have pink stickers for smaller toys under \$10, we have orange stickers which are medium toys, and then we have green stickers for our big toys. Every item is completely free, but we use a sticker system to make sure there are enough toys for everyone. We have gotten so many donations this year and we are excited to help our community on Saturday morning. On Monday evening, the Howard Lake Fire Dept brought toys they have collected and we transferred them all into the high school. From there we went through, sorted, and stickered every toy. We are extremely thankful to everyone who chose to donate to this drive. We have been putting on the toy and food drive for our community for a long time, and we are grateful for our supporters. And by participating in the toy drive, students have the opportunity to support those in need while helping create a warm and welcoming holiday for families in our community. The Minnesota Honor Society hopes this project will inspire generosity and school-wide involvement.

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## Prom Fundraiser

This year's junior class worked hard to host a successful prom fundraiser. The Prom Bake Sale hosted at the HLWW Craft Fair is accomplished through the successful efforts of many, many volunteers. The 11th grade students and parents signed up to bake goods. Others donated funds or ingredients for the Intro to Foods classes to bake goods to be sold. Huge shout outs to Mr. Borrell and Mrs. Dierling for their help in making this system a success! A group of Running a Business class students and volunteers managed sales at the Craft Fair. Sports and Entertainment Marketing students created social media advertisements. And the HLWW community bought hundreds of dollars of baked goods.



We had a friendly inter-advisory competition with this fundraiser. Any 11th grade advisory whose donations were equal or greater than the number of students in that advisory were awarded either movie week during advisory OR leave for lunch with seniors week. The advisories that achieved this goal are **Ziemer, Keaveny, and Hendrickson**.

The advisory that donated the most product received both awards. This advisory is **Hendrickson**.

Thanks to everyone for an excellent fundraiser and a wonderful start to a new system for prom fundraising. Next year's juniors will have a high bar to hurdle!

Students: Corbyn, Cole, and Maisie

Volunteers: Maali and Jaxley

## 9th Grade Advisory- Neve Kuznia & Bryn Vogelpohl

9th Grade advisory is so fun! We have time to do our work and chat with each other. In Mrs. Freidrichs's room, we are even growing our own baby spider plants! Lately, we've been doing drawings for each day in December for a prize! Mrs. Freidrichs makes Advisory really fun!

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## Senior Trip- Maddie Rios and Kaden Khoun

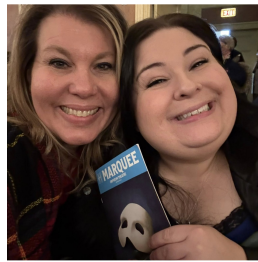
Being given the opportunity to visit the Orpheum and see *The Phantom of the Opera* was an incredible experience. It was our first time going and seeing a live show, it was absolutely life changing and simply beautiful!

Not only was the scenery pretty, but the acting and singing was top notch and you could tell everyone involved in the play worked hard on it. Trips like this one should be a thing all around the world as it captures the significance of us all coming together and bonding over shared interests. It definitely contributed to our senior year and made it the best year of high school we've had.

Whether flying to the most famous locations in the world, to road trips across many states, these trips give every kid the opportunity to learn about themselves, different cultures, history and so much more. A senior trip could completely benefit and alter a student's life, as they allow students to be motivated towards their future careers and goals, or simply allow someone to relieve stress. These kinds of field trips allow students to have a glimpse into what the adult world could be for them, letting them grow and have new perspectives on not only the world, but life itself. This trip gave so much insight of how beautiful and unique the world truly is even through all of the chaos and pain happening today.

We appreciate our staff and community for giving us this opportunity to come together and experience new things as it opened our eyes to the beauty of music, theater, myths, and storytelling. *The Phantom of the Opera* was the perfect choice for HLWW's seniors due to the majority of us who are fond of music, as well as the students who have never seen something so unique and well orchestrated. We also would like to thank the parents and staff who helped out those who couldn't afford the full price and give the less fortunate students a chance to see the world.





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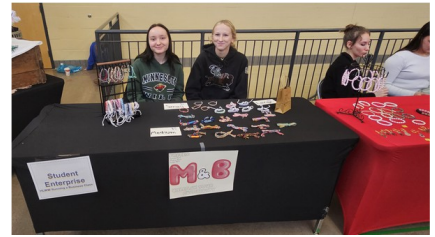
## Run a Business? Yes we can and yes we did!

In Running a Business class, we don't just talk about how to run a business, we create a business concept, decide what products to make, create inventory, price products, advertise for customers, build out our selling locations, and then open the business, sell products, interact with customers, manage inventory, comply with licensing and regulations, and at the end of all that, hopefully earn a profit.

This year at the HLWW Craft Fair, we had 55 students working together or independently in 20 student enterprises. Products ranged from firewood to candles, jewelry, caramels, campfire sticks, cards, honey, and much more. Some students were very successful in choosing high demand products and others learned what it takes to get a business up and running and what to maybe try differently next time. Everyone who participated interacted with customers, answered questions, sold products, and participated in the marketplace as either a producer, consumer, or in most cases, both.

And a particularly nice shout out to our favorite substitute teacher Bonnie Nelson. She came to the craft fair as a customer and ended up staying and talking with the students and taking photos of them all and in the end feeding them all cinnamon rolls she purchased from the Prom Bake Sale! She is an amazing asset to our school and our community!

I can't tell you how pleased I am that so many community members stopped me to say how impressed they were with our students and their efforts. Many students received accolades about this project as well. It was an excellent way to showcase our students to community members, many of whom don't normally have the opportunity to interact and engage in a meaningful way with students on what they are learning and doing in school.



## Choir Concert -Alexis Kamrowski, Senior soprano in Chamber Choir, Concert Choir, and Bel Canto

On Thursday, December 11th, the high school choir concert was held. It was held in conjunction with the middle school choir concert due to its cancellation on that Tuesday. The high school portion of the concert opened with a piece performed by all choirs, titled "Jambo." Jambo is an upbeat piece that welcomed all the audience members to the concert. The first individual choir to perform was the Chamber Choir. This is an auditioned extracurricular choir. They performed two pieces, entitled "Mary Did You Know" and "White Winter Hymnal," which also featured hand percussion from the choir. Following them was Nova Voce, a group of 9-12 tenors and basses. They performed "Do You Hear What I Hear" followed by "You're A Mean One Mr. Grinch," which had a spoken solo performance from Evan Scheuch. Bel Canto, a group of 9-12 sopranos and altos, then joined Nova Voce on stage for "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" and "A Festive Christmas Celebration." Then Bel Canto had their solo performance beginning with "Believe," then "All I Want for Christmas is You" with a solo from Talia Keskitalo. Finally, the concert choir was welcomed to the stage. They began with a piece in Swahili, "Wana Baraka," music that celebrates blessings of peace, joy, and life. The next piece performed was "What Child is This" with a special flute performance from band director Laura Boillat. Lastly, "Winter Wonderland" was sung. For the last performance of the night, all choirs joined each other in singing "Night of Silence." This is a tradition at HLWW, with a lot of meaning to all the students, especially the seniors. Students were placed all around the auditorium, with the seniors centered on stage. Overall, the Winter Choir Concert was a spectacular success. The students would like to thank our choir director, Peter

Neuman, for all the effort he put into our concert as well as everyone else who made it possible. So excited for the next concert in March!



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## Sheep in the Woodshop!

The Ag 9 classes were able to learn about raising sheep from Aaron Marquette of North Fork Farms. The students listened to his presentation on the care, shearing, and treatment of sheep as well as real life demonstration of movement, showing, and clipping hoofs. Thank you, Aaron for your time and talents!





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## Therapy Dogs- Izzy Borrell

The therapy dogs, Rosie and Yara, have been visiting us every Wednesday for the past five weeks. Rosie and Yara, led by Ms. Kathy, have brought excitement and joy to our morning classes, which follows us throughout our day, making us happier and more alert. We look forward to Wednesdays every week now, knowing that these golden rays of sunshine will be waiting for us.



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## HLWW Band Program Submitted by Jillian Fischbach

On December 1st, the HLWW High School Concert and Jazz Band performed their annual Holiday Concert under the direction of wonderful director, Laura Boillat. Everyone was in the holiday spirit, wrapping their instruments in shiny tinsel, bows, and anything else that would stick. Karlee Smith (Trumpet) and Abigail Dahl (Flute) both played amazing solos in the Concert Band pieces, then Zayden Moll (Trumpet), Owen Meuleners (Tenor Saxophone), and Emma Gorton (Alto Saxophone) played lovely solos in the Jazz Band. Overall, the community was swimming with compliments and all good things for the bands, and the band is now beginning preparations for Large Group Contest, alongside Solo and Ensemble.



The Winsted Winter Festival on December 6th, was joined with three eager band students from HLWW playing classic Christmas Carols. The students who played were Brycen Diers (Euphonium), Emma Gorton (Alto Saxophone), and Jillian Fischbach (Tuba). The Winsted Ambassadors and the community were overjoyed with the band's appearance, giving many compliments through the hour they played.

This December 18th, the HLWW High School Jazz Band will be performing at the Middle School's Cookies and Cocoa event. Cookies and Cocoa is a fundraising event for Food for Kidz Service Learning Fund, with one cup of cocoa and one cookie costing \$2. This event is being held in the Middle School Commons before school. Happy Holidays!

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## Foods Processing students learn all about grading and cooking beef

Students in the Foods Processing class spent the week learning how beef goes from selection to the plate. The lesson began with grading beef, where students examined marbling and learned how USDA grades affect tenderness, flavor, and cost. Students practiced identifying quality differences and discussed how grading helps consumers make informed choices.

After grading the beef, students moved into the kitchen to apply what they learned. The class prepared the same cut of beef using three cooking methods: broiling, a George Foreman grill, and pan frying. Each method highlighted how heat, time, and fat affect texture and flavor. Students followed proper food safety and cooking procedures throughout the lab.

The lesson ended with a taste test. Students compared the results of each cooking method and discussed which produced the best flavor, tenderness, and appearance. This hands-on experience helped students connect food science concepts to real-world cooking decisions and build confidence in selecting and preparing beef at home.



