

Students become published authors

Instructor, Lisa Gibson's 2009-2010 eighth graders and freshmen were recently notified they were to become published authors for their poetry and essay writing.

Mrs. Gibson submitted their writing last spring to the Creative Communication Writing Contest. Over half of both classes had their work published.

With this accomplishment, the school will be receiving a "Poetic Achievement Award" and a "Writing Achievement Award." These honors are given to the top 10 percent of the schools who entered the contest.

The schools are chosen based on the number and quality of the entries accepted. With this honor of having their work published, they have the opportunity to buy the essay or poetry anthology book.

Following are some of the essays. In the future, all the essays will be printed in *The Saint Francis Herald*.

Losing Someone Close

Hannah Rider, Grade 8

"Walk softly, an angel sleeps here." Those are the words on my brother's gravestone. It all happened on November 6, 2002, two months after he was born. At 11:32 p.m., Anthony was pronounced dead. When I was told, I was shocked and mortified. I asked myself, why did this have to happen?

The night he died we were at my grandma's. No one could get Anthony to calm down or sleep, let alone eat. Little did we know that at this time, his brain was shutting down and he was fighting to take even the smallest breath.

When my mom raced through the hospital emergency room door with him bundled in her arms, there were no doctors in sight. She was searching for a doctor when my mom's face crumbled and she said the dreaded words, "He's not breathing." The doctors had tried to resuscitate him, but they just couldn't.

When they told me that morning, I wouldn't believe it until we started planning the funeral. Picking out the casket was the hardest part; it broke my heart. I remember picking him up and feeling that he was cold, and really light. I knew then that he was gone for good.

The death of someone so close can really affect you. You have to find escapes; mine was writing poetry and drawing. Sometimes for others, it's harder to figure out an escape from the grieving. It's possible; never doubt that you won't heal.

Being a Champion

Jacob Butler, Grade 8

What does it mean to be a champion? Does it mean getting a huge trophy or being the best so you can brag about it? Being a champion is not easy, and everyone has to do their part well. Here are some of my opinions



on how to become a champion.

First, I think people need to have a great attitude. When I have a great attitude in a game, I play a lot better. When I have a horrible attitude, I play an awful game and then I play even worse. I have seen so many athletes have a horrible attitude and play awful games. When I see people that have great attitudes in a game, they play spectacular.

Second, I think people need to respect other teams and say great job to them. I know people want to brag about what they have done to the other team, but then athletes get into fights. I hate to see when the other team gets a penalty and then we brag about their mistakes.

Third, I think you should support all of your teammates, even the mean ones. You should never bully other teammates. How are you going to win games when teammates don't get along? You should always say good job. The last thing you should do is pat them on the back and support everyone on that field. These are my opinions on how to become a champion. What are your opinions?

Haiti

Jordan Easter, Grade 9

Have you been in an earthquake? I haven't, and I am glad. Although, the people living in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, have had that dreadful experience.

On January 12, 2010, at 2:53:10 P.M. (MCT) an earthquake hit there. The first-respond team of Humanity First was from the United States of America. They arrived on Saturday, January 16, 2010. When they arrived, they immediately started taking care of the people in Haiti. They didn't just do what they usually did at home, but they also worked late at night. Because they did that, the medical staff cared for more than 5,000 patients. The HF Disaster Response team volunteered 100 percent.

After they cleaned Haiti's capital up a bit, they found out that the death toll was estimated between 250,000 and 300,000. Also, they figured that there are over three million people displaced, or in other words, can't be found.

So, this country has gone through a rough time. I think

that we need to keep them in our prayers and thoughts.

Freshman year

Kaleb Zwick, Grade 9

Being a freshman is difficult because a new student has new teachers and new classes. This year as a freshman for me wasn't nearly as bad as I thought it would be.

Most people think that your first year of high school will be horrible. Ty and Brock, my stepbrothers, told me that it wasn't nearly as bad as I thought, but I still had doubts. Also, it isn't bad having older brothers to watch out for me either.

I know from living in Goodland that upperclassmen aren't the best people to be around. In Goodland, most of them are mean and hateful if you aren't in the same group as them. Being in one of their groups isn't always the best either, they make you betray your friends. If you don't, they will hate you.

But here in Sainty, I don't think there is nearly the problem which there is in Goodland. Here you don't have to worry about what people will do to you. The sports programs here, for an example, are more supportive than in Goodland. Sports programs here let everyone get better, but in Goodland it was only the ones that were athletic that benefited from sports.

All in all, I think that going to school in Sainty is definitely better than Goodland. St. Francis people are more active in the community and you get to know them. People do actually care about you and don't use you to benefit themselves only.

Family

Krissy Harris, Grade 9

Why is your family important to you? Has someone in your family changed your life in some way? Maybe there is someone that you look up to, or they might even be your hero? Does your family get together every holiday, play games, or just hang out?

Friends will come and go, but family will always be there. Families teach us almost everything we need to know in life. They are the ones we turn to if we need help in life. They listen if we have a problem or if we are going through tough times. Family brings out the best and worst in each of us. They are the

ones that understand what we are going through. You might not agree with everything that they do or say, but they know what is best for you.

Family reunions or family get-togethers are great for you and the family. Reunions are the time where you can catch up on some old news and find out things you might have never known about. Families are wonderful when it comes to encouragement. They inspire you to try different things and show how you can have fun doing it.

Your family is like a puzzle; you are your own single piece, but once you are together, you have a complete picture or puzzle. How does your family impact your life?

Wrestling

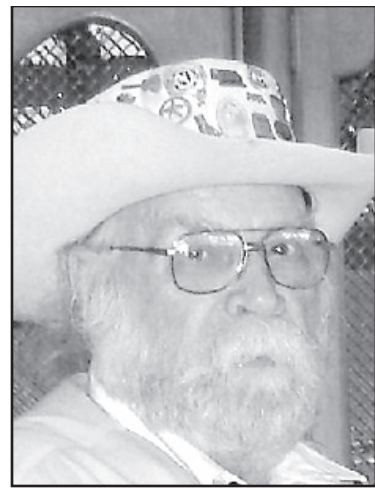
Lane Hoffman, Grade 8

There is a sport that takes both physical and mental toughness. It is one of the many sports that you are competing not as a team, but by yourself. It is called wrestling; it is one of the most physical sports right after football.

The move I use the most in wrestling is called the twister. It was created by a man called Ken Chertow. It is highly used by the wrestlers at the University of Nebraska Kearney (UNK); there are two students in particular. One is from St. Francis, Kansas. He pinned nine kids with this move. In college it is hard to come out with a win by a pin. The other person is Adam Keiswetter. He is also from UNK and is incredible at the twister.

Last year I went to a wrestling camp in Kearney where I was taught the twister. The first thing you need to do is get the kid in a front head lock. This is when you put your opponent's head and arm in between your two arms. After you get the head lock very tight, you roll. The thing to remember is that you need to roll fast or you will get caught on your back and get pinned.

This year at Little Kids State Wrestling I was down by four and got into the position. Then I did the twister and stuck the kid. So if you are a coach that coaches wrestling, I highly encourage you to teach your wrestlers to do the twister. How about giving it a shot?



Crawford



Kayla

Singer presents girl with guitar

Phil Crawford, also known as "Tumbleweed," was able to fulfill a girl's dream while also keeping a 60-year-old promise.

Mr. Crawford travels, performing music and poetry in a number of states including Wyoming. In August, he stopped to entertain diners at Early's Wild Side Cafe in Moorcroft, Wyo. He had been there several times in the past and every time he stopped in Moorcroft, he said there is someone who helped him in some way. For instance, at the cafe, the owner always gives him a meal and he plays for customers during the day.

One time while he was at the cafe, he heard a young girl ask her mother about getting a guitar.

"It was like being hit by a load of bricks," he said.

He was about 9 when he, too, wanted a guitar and a lady gave him his first good guitar and made him promise that someday he should "pass the torch."

Mr. Crawford asked the cafe owner what the chances were of

the girl getting a guitar. "Her blunt answer was 'about like a snowball in hell.'"

Again, the memories flowed back. He said his family didn't have the money for a guitar and he would have never gotten one if it hadn't been for this special lady.

He went over to the table where the girl and her mother were sitting. After visiting with her for a little bit, he told her she would have a guitar before Christmas.

Well, Mr. Crawford came back home. He made a trip to Benkelman where Erdman's Music store was going out of business.

"Almost everything had been sold but there was one guitar hanging on the wall," he said. "It was like it was met to be."

So he bought the guitar and, in less than two short months, while on another poetry-song journey, he was able to make good on his promise and delivered the guitar to the girl in Wyoming.

The reward, he said, was a big hug and a few tears.



| Cheyenne County 2009 Delinquent Personal Property | | | | | | |
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| Harkness, Warren | 211 E 5th St | Scott City | KS | 67871 | 104.26 | |
| K&M Pipe and Supply Co Inc % McAtee, Farrell | 320 E First | St Francis | KS | 67756 | 880.47 | |
| One Source Investment Ptnrs | PO Box 40181 | S Padre Island | TX | 78597 | 8,532.62 | |
| One Source Investment Ptnrs | PO Box 40181 | S Padre Island | Tx | 78597 | 5,272.42 | |
| Pacheco, Nestor M | 423 E Webster | St Francis | KS | 67756 | 57.62 | |
| Truett, Mary | 14905 NE 51St | VanCouver | WA | 98682 | 98.32 | |
| Zweygardt, Kelly | PO Box 342 | St Francis | KS | 67756 | 268.49 | |
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