

Sainty students became 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.

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

Motocross

Tyler Lee, Grade 8

Have you ever ridden a dirt bike or wanted to ride one? How hard could it be? I mean it's just a bike with an engine in it, right? That's what I thought until I was proven wrong.

The person that got me interested in dirt bikes and motocross was my friend Mason. He told me they were fun to ride and that it would be useful for rounding up cows as well. That idea sold my grandfather really fast.

I was really interested in how the pro motocross racers could do all those tricks and still land on both tires. My grandfather bought me one and let me use the family ranch to make a track to race on. When I did the first lap, I was trying to do an easy trick when my tires hit. I apparently didn't have the helmet on tight because it flew off. On the next run, I just jumped and made it. So I decided to make it harder. I tried the trick on a bigger jump with someone timing me on how long I was in the air. It came out that I only had five seconds. So I made the ramp bigger and got five more seconds.

Motocross has been a big part of my life. Do you enjoy motocross racing?

The Championship Game

Wyatt Landenberger, Grade 8

My hands were sweaty; I couldn't think straight. I was confident, yet nervous at the same time.

I am on the Saint Francis basketball team and we were playing Quinter. Tip-off was starting; the referee threw the ball up. We did not get it, but we got back so fast they had to work to get some points. Our 3-2 defense was designed to have the same players on offense cover the same spots on defense like a zone to them.

Only about two minutes had passed by. We finally went into fast break by stealing the ball. The score at halftime was 23 to 20 with us in the lead. I had already made two of the three shots I had shot so far. In the

second half, they took the lead by giving the ball to the tallest player to prevent the ball being stolen. The score by the end of the third quarter was 38 to 34 and we were losing.

During the fourth quarter, we started picking up the pace with scoring and defense. Time was running out and they were leading. Next thing I know, the ball was passed to me and I sent the game into overtime with a three pointer.

In overtime, I drove and the defense reacted quickly. I passed the ball to the post player for points. He scored! The final score was 46 to 48 with us in the lead. WE WON!!!

Growing up?

Zach Gienger, Grade 9

"These are the best days of your life, so don't waste them." I know that most teenagers have heard those words in their quest to growing older. Almost always after that well-known phrase is uttered, teenagers do something regrettable that cancels out that first statement. Those actions bring on another phrase that I am 100 positive EVERY teenager has heard, "You really need to grow up." So which do teens carry out?

Are teenagers supposed to grow up as quickly as possible and forget the first advice given? Are teenagers supposed to cling to their childhood with no intentions of leaving "the best years of their life?" Is it possible that this is some kind of evil pitfall or catch 22 that parents have set up to plague teenagers forever?

We all know that growing up is inevitable and there is nothing to do about that, but what's the rush? What are we, as teens, supposed to think about this? Well, I think that you're only a kid once, so go out there and try everything, but there is a fine line between how teens should behave and how they act in reality. A kind of equilibrium can be reached between child and adult. Let me tell you; it's tough to balance the two!

Remember not to get in too much of a rush to grow up, but it's eventually going to happen.



SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING was held for the Good Samaritan Village employees on Thursday. Good Samaritan Society employees, headed by Mariann Roeman, raised money to help the employees and furnished a dinner. Dorothy Hankins and her daughter, Angie Hankins were served by Mrs. Roeman, right.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Program teaches about beef industry

Cow/Calf Symposium Held in St. Francis on Jan. 12

Succeeding in a Challenging Beef Industry will be the focus for the 2011 Tri-State Cow/Calf Symposium and Trade Show to be held on Wednesday, Jan. 12. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. with the program starting at 10 and run thru 3 p.m. at the Riverside County Club in St. Francis. The symposium is held in conjunction with a trade show. Attendees will have time to visit the booths and displays throughout the day.

The annual symposium rotates between Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado and is a joint ef-

fort between Kansas State University Research and Extension, University of Nebraska Extension and Colorado State University Extension. The goal of the symposium is to bring a quality educational program and excellent guest speakers to visit with beef cattle producers about current issues in the beef industry.

The program will begin with a "Systems approach to Lowering Winter Feed Costs," presented by Aaron Stalker, University of Nebraska ruminant nutritionist. Kansas State Research and Extension Northwest Livestock Specialist, Sandy Johnson, will discuss the importance of and

factors affecting body condition scoring. The morning will end with a program discussing current issues in beef cattle genetics.

Dr. Dan Thompson, DVM; Kansas State College of Veterinary Medicine professor, will talk about animal welfare: more than checking a box. To end the symposium, an industry panel will be held to discuss beef production in a high input environment.

There will be a registration cost with a reduction for the second person from the same operation if made before Jan. 5. Registration will also be avail-

able at the door. Included in the registration fee will be trade show activities, coffee and rolls, meal and handouts from the presenters. Brochures with registration forms will be coming in the mail soon.

For further details contact Marty Fear, Sunflower Extension District Livestock Agent at 785-332-3171 or Dr. Sandy Johnson, Northwest Area Livestock Specialist at 785-462-6281.

The program is sponsored by K-State Research and Extension, Y-Text Corporation, Farm Credit of Western Kansas and Western State Bank.

Merry Christmas

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