

The Halftimes

Villa Marie 2017 End of Year/Christmas Newspaper



This is the 2nd edition of the Villa Marie “Halftimes” Newspaper.

Unfortunately the newspaper for the end of last year was canceled because of the flood. This Christmas newspaper will include things that were supposed to be from the last edition that was canceled. I apologize for the inconvenience. There are articles about the terrible flood (and the blessings we have received from it), the State Basketball Championship, an interview with 2017 graduate Creighton Millsap, and the results of our creative writing contest.



The Editors and Contest Winners

Interview with Villa Marie Graduate

Creighton Millsap

By Lillia Koenig

Lillia: How long have you been here?

Creighton: Five years.

L: What do you like best about Villa Marie?

C: That it feels like a home instead of just a school.

L: What are you planning to do after graduation?

C: I will be going to the Voice Program. It's to help people find a job.

L: How do you feel about graduation?

C: I feel excited but I'll miss being here.

L: Are your parents going to continue to help the school?

C: Yes, I think they will.

L: Is there anything you would like to add?

C: Yeah, fishing.





VILLA MARIE EAGLES WIN THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP IN FOUR OVERTIMES!

By Lillia Koenig

On April 1, 2017, the Villa Marie Eagles beat the Norris Titans in the Special Olympics State Basketball Championship. It took four overtimes to win the game. I didn't go to the game myself, but I've heard much about it.

The Titans entered the gym in full uniform; their cheerleaders and varsity basketball team close behind. It was pretty intimidating. The Eagles got the first two baskets. It was a great start. The lead changed hands over ten times.

In the end, the score was 34-32; the Eagles had won by two points! We hope that we will be just as successful with our team this year.

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The Flood That Blessed the School

(with chickens)

By Lillia Koenig

On April 24, 2017, Sr. Paula woke up to the sound of rushing water. She went downstairs and saw that the basement was flooded. The water was at least an inch deep. A pipe broke in the furnace room and water was gushing out of it. The carpets, some books and bookcases, and other things were ruined. They had to close school for two days. Later that was changed to the whole school week. After the students came back, the basement of the school was unusable. Every day for the rest of the school year all the students and teachers had to walk down to the retreat house to have their classes in the library and dining room. We were very lucky that there were only three weeks of school left! We had to walk down for reading and math, back up for lunch, jobs, and recess, and then back down for afternoon classes.

Over the summer people came to help clean up the mess. A new floor was put in, made of luxury vinyl tile rather than linoleum. It never needs waxing. All the walls in the basement got a new paint job. We also got steel shelves for all the classrooms, new computer carts, and lockers for the day students.

Earlier in the school year, the students were incubating eggs. Nine chicks hatched during the flood. We named 7 of them. They were Q-tip, Coal, Redneck, Wolf, Smoky, Chipmunk (who had a crooked beak), and Bark. The other two were crippled. One unfortunately died, but Scout Pierce took the other one home and named him Bilbo.

We ended up keeping Smoky, Redneck, and Chipmunk. Redneck turned out to be a really wild rooster, so we gave him away. We got two new hens to take his place. Their names are Ruby and Copper. Now Smoky is the King Rooster. Chipmunk is such a friendly hen! She loves to be

held, she even jumped on someone's lap! We were very egg-cited in September when Ruby laid her first egg. Soon Copper started laying eggs, too! By the time you are reading this, Chipmunk will probably be laying as well!

We feel very blessed by this flood. Thank you all who help us clean up!

A REVIEW OF THE VILLA MARIE 2017 DANCE

By Christian Waddell

Every January, Villa Marie has its annual dance. Last year we had giant potatoes for the dinner with toppings of pulled pork, nacho cheese, sour cream, and bacon bits. They were the best potatoes I've ever had. The students of Villa Marie get free drinks and limitless refills. I had my fair share of Shirley Temples and Mountain Dew's.

Every year the dance takes place at Pla Mor outside of town. Although this building has seen the world since the 40s, it has kept its beauty. The first time I saw Pla Mor I ended up walking around in awe for at least twenty minutes. Elvis Presley performed there once. During the dance there was a country band playing. They were alright, but I still like rock better!

The raffle and the silent auction were two of the biggest parts of the dance. It seems almost everyone that night got something new. Pla Mor is the perfect place for this tradition and it gets me excited for the next one.

CREATIVE WRITING STORIES

This year we have something extra special. I held a creative writing contest for the students. The students had three weeks to write their stories. I got a bunch of wonderful entries! But it all came down to two of the best. Here, I will show you the wonderful stories that our two top writers wrote! You will find out how Yoda became green and who won between the New England Patriots and the Atlanta Falcons. Hopefully you will enjoy reading them as much as I did. Congratulations to our winners!

PATRIOTS VS. FALCONS

By Christian Waddell

1st QTR: Both teams played astonishingly well for the first quarter defensively and offensively, passes from quarterbacks Tom Brady and Matt Ryan were mostly caught although several 4th downs resulted in punts. No score for 1st quarter.

2nd QTR: The Atlanta Falcons did a little better this quarter, Julio Jones made two touchdowns while the Patriots made a field goal. The first half ended with a 3 to 14 score.

3rd QTR: After halftime, the New England Patriots started to turn things around. Deion Jones scored one more touchdown for the Falcons but the Patriot's offense got more aggressive. Two of Tom Brady's passes resulted in touchdowns, first by Brandin Cooks then by Rob Gronkowski. 3rd quarter ended with a score of 17 to 21.

4th QTR: This time around, New England's defense became tougher than ever and their offense stayed strong. The Falcons only achieved a field goal, the Patriots made two more touchdowns by Deion Lewis and Rob Gronkowski plus an interception in the end zone and ran for their third touchdown. The Patriots ended with a score of 38 to 24 dominating the Falcons by 14 points!



VS



WHY YODA IS GREEN

By Noah James

My favorite birthday happened on Tatooine. It was my 14th birthday. My friends, Boba Fett, Jeff the moose, and Jar-Jar Binks went to Mos Eisley Cantina and saw something startling. We saw an old guy with a light saber cut off an alien's arm. There was no blood because the plasma cauterized the blood vessels. The old guy had anger issue problems! I ordered some more squid because it's my favorite. After I was done, we hijacked the Millennium falcon and went into space and then we went in to hyperspace. We went to Dagobah to visit Yoda. I gave him some mint chip ice cream and that's why he's green.

The End

The Solar Eclipse 2017

By Ty Lynch and Lillia Koenig

The Students and most of the staff of Villa Marie Home and School went to Saint Gregory the Great Seminary in Seward, Nebraska to witness the 2017 solar eclipse. There we were able to see the totality of it. First we had mass there in the beautiful chapel. Then Sister Karen Marie gave us a presentation about the solar eclipse, and then given a tour by a seminarian named Liam, who used to work at the school. After that, we went outside to the soccer field to witness the solar eclipse. Students from other schools were there too. Aquinas Catholic School, Neumann High School, and Saint John's Catholic School in Seward were there with us as we witnessed the totality. Ty Lynch described it as "long and tiring, but worth it".

The moon covered the sun slowly. By the time it completely covered the sun, we had exactly *one* minute to take off our special glasses and look directly at the eclipse. Many of the students from all four schools cheered. There was an effect called the diamond ring, in which the sun was peeking out a little so that the eclipse looked like a diamond ring. It was truly an amazing experience.



The Villa Marie Christmas Play

By Lillia Koenig

Last year, our Christmas play was called "Angel News" and it was about all the guardian angels and the Archangels and their roles in the Christmas story. First, God (played by Creighton Millsap) announced that he was going to send his son to earth to be the redeemer of the world, and Saint Michael the Archangel (played by Mike Egr) fought off Satan from the gates of Heaven. Then, Saint Gabriel the Archangel (played by Christian Waddell, later replaced by Lillia Koenig due to illness) came down from Heaven to tell Mary (played by Scout Pierce) the good news. Then the Archangel Angelo (Noah James) told the doubtful Joseph (Ty Lynch) that he should be married to Mary. Skip forward a few months afterwards, the town was busy. A

woman (Lexus Parker-Griffin) was buying apples, when the shopkeeper (Emma Storonskij) overcharged her. The two women's guardian angels (Lillia Koenig and Moira Bivens) waved their fingers at the shopkeeper and she changed to the correct price. As the two women were chatting, a young girl (Joseline Ramirez) tries to steal some fruit, but her guardian angel (Rosaliah Gayton) stops her. Then she runs off to play, and she almost falls off the stage! Luckily, her guardian angel saves her just in time!

In act two, Mary and Joseph are just arriving in Bethlehem. They go to an inn to look for shelter, but the innkeeper (Matt Merwick) tells them that there is no more room. But then he tells them that there is a stable. They go to the stable and get ready for Jesus to be born. Meanwhile, three of the guardian angels appear to some shepherds and tell them the good news. They go and kneel before Jesus. Then a star rises above the stable and the three kings come to bring gifts to Jesus. The first king (Sam Schmeiding) brought gold, because Jesus is a king. The next king (Trenten Holeka) brought him frankincense, because Jesus is God. And the last king (John Sullivan) brought myrrh, for his burial. Then everyone bowed down and sang to Jesus.

This year's Christmas Play is called "Journey to Bethlehem", and by the time you're reading this, you probably just saw it, because I will pass out this newspaper after the play.



Pictures From Our Year So Far



