Sensory Socialization

FCCLA Students partake in a special education project.

By Samantha Fehrer

West Point-Beemer students of the Child Development class, Bella Gross, Kaydence Voyles, and Katherine Aleman, recently put together a project regarding interactions between special education students and regular students. On November 19th, these individuals, alongside the rest of their class, traveled to the Elementary classrooms to conduct an activity with select students.

The planning of this project first started on September 28th. The first step was to decide what activity to do with the students. After much consideration, the girls decided on creating sensory bottles.

“We chose to do this project because we felt like students didn't really understand how special needs students interacted with each other and how to interact with special needs students,” Bella Gross stated.

In order to complete the project, they needed to collect a few items to execute this project. The items included bottles, food dye, sparkles, and glue. In total they spent $52.

“We created instructional slides to show step-by-step directions for the students to improve their understanding,” Bella said.

In the process of their project, they encountered how difficult completing the project was. It was difficult to plan the day of the project. The members stated how they should’ve come an hour earlier, so they could have more time to plan and set up the activity.

“We wanted to try to observe them more, and pair up a special education student with a high school student,” Bella talked about.

On the contrary, there were a lot of things that they did well. One of those things were the interactions between the students. The girls believed that they did a good job on pairing the students up to gain that interaction.

“We chose to do this project because we felt like students didn't really understand how special needs students interacted with each other and how to interact with special needs students,” Bella mentioned.

For their follow-up, they conducted interviews with the teachers to gain insight on how they handle their students within their classroom. These interviews helped them gain more knowledge than they already had. It helped them plan to see if they would do a project like this again. The girls wanted to spread awareness about how special education students need sensory support and general education.

As they reflect back on their project, this successful opportunity has allowed them to not only learn, but grow as individuals. They will be able to take this project and compete in an FCCLA STAR (Students Taking Action with Recognition) event to see if they will make it to state!

Welcome to West Point!

New businesses come to West Point, NE

By: Samantha Fehrer

New businesses that came into West Point have had great success so far. Based on Simply Business Senior Insights Manager, Hunter Threadgill, Ph.D, “Small businesses are the lifeblood of the American economy.” New editions to towns are always exciting to the community. Scooter’s Coffee, Eikmeier Chiropractic, and West Point Dental are all additions to West Point. They have been welcomed graciously to the community and will thrive for future years.

Fifty percent of American adults drink coffee daily. Scooter’s Coffee is one of the recent editions to West Point. Owners, Rusty Smith and Shea Stokley have been priding themselves on excellence to keep the place running smoothly. Their goal is to bring the community together, starting with a cup of coffee for the day.

Scooter’s Corporation stated, “Scooter’s Coffee is one of the nation’s fastest growing drive-thru coffee franchise companies, nearly 30 spots ahead of any other coffee company.”

Bringing this incredible company to the small town of West Point, Nebraska, makes an impact on the local engagement in the community. Their tagline, "Amazing People, Amazing Drinks, Amazingly Fast,” represents how they aim to satisfy the customer.

Adding to the health needs in West Point, Eikmeier Chiropractic has joined to assist those in need.

Based on the National Institute of Health, “Around 50% of U.S. adults have visited a chiropractor at some point in their lives.”

Eikmeier Chiropractic is located alongside other businesses in the newly built plaza along the highway.

“Our mission is to help patients achieve healthier, more active lives by addressing the root cause of their pain,” Eikmeiers’ expressed on their website.

Coming into West Point, their goal and mission is to be a trusted choice for chiropractic care. Their tagline states, "Relief. Recovery. Renewal." As they are new to the community, they strive for long-lasting wellness for their patients.

Another edition to the health in West Point, the new dental office, West Point Dental has entered town. Their services range from a simple teeth cleaning to cosmetic dentistry. They pride themselves on making visits to the dentist comfortable, instead of an uncomfortable experience for the client.

“Our dental hygienists are trained to make sure that you receive top-notch dental care,” one staff member stated.

The staff working there have also expressed that they have developed new friendships with not only their co-workers, but also the clients that visit. Their involvement helps bring the community together while providing amazing dental care.

Overall, new businesses have brought many newcomers into West Point. Expanding services have opened opportunities for people all over the state. Inspiring many to open their own businesses. Their dedication to their mission and townspeople is what makes the West Point community continue to prosper.

Roaring crowds, roaring talent!

Senior Kenna Hughes discusses her experience participating in basketball

By: Samantha Fehrer

As the crowd cheers and the pressure rises, one particular basketball player rises to the occasion, Senior Kenna Hughes. From dribbling on the court to helping out her teammates, she has become a role model for all. As she enters her last year of basketball, Hughes is determined to leave her mark.

Kenna's origin in basketball started as early as elementary school. She talked about how the 4th grade science teacher, Mike Waak, reached out to her in 4th grade to join the sport.

"He knew my older brothers, and he figured I would have the same athletic ability and talent like they had," Hughes mentioned.

She also joined because all of her friends were joining. After she joined, she realized how much she enjoyed it and looked forward to every practice. Even as a kid, basketball was always an interesting sport for her, which is why she continued throughout all 4 years in high school.

What stands out about basketball for Kenna are the practices. The environment and energy makes these practices enjoyable for her. It turns the fast-paced sport into a space without stress.

"Everyday at practice is a fun, new drill. The energy in the gym is unreal, and it is just a great environment to be in," Hughes says.

She also discussed since Jordan Miller is the new coach, she never knows what to expect. Kenna looks forward to getting into the gym everyday and improving each day.

"My main goal going into my senior year is to have a winning record," Hughes stated.

Even though the girls basketball team lost 5 seniors last year, the team is willing to step up to the plate. Kenna talked about how this year will be a surprise to everyone and how she hopes to impress people. Kenna's last goal is to make it to state this year.

"My favorite part of being a role model upperclassmen is the fact that the underclassmen look up to me and ask me for advice," Hughes says.

She talks about how being involved in basketball is a huge change in high school, she tries her best to help in any way she can. Kenna makes sure that the underclassmen are comfortable and include them in drills, group hangouts, and even conversations.

"I love helping others and being put into this position most certainly fuels my passion," Hughes mentioned.

However, there are always worries for an athlete. Kenna's major worry is not having a winning record and losing a bunch of games. Kenna states how those losing games will haunt her mind a few days after.

"Other than that worry, I believe we will cause some unexpected havoc," Hughes said.

When Kenna looks towards the future, she does not want to pursue basketball or any sport in college. However, she would love to participate in intramural sports if her future college offers it.

As Kenna steps into her final season, she carries with her not only the skills she has sharpened over the years, but also the pride. Her dedication on the court makes her a standout athlete and a strong role model. When that final buzzer sounds, her legacy leaves a mark.