

SPRING SPORTS BEGIN

By Billy Christiansen '20

On Monday, Spring sports teams officially started their seasons even though most teams have been doing winter workouts to get ready.

Some examples are: the softball and baseball teams have had lifting, batting and throwing practices. Track and Field coaches offered voluntary workouts throughout the winter for athletes and lacrosse, which is not an OSAA sport, has been holding practices since the beginning of January.

BASKETBALL UPDATE

By Nick Stice '20

The girls basketball season came to an end with a play-in loss at No. 16 Banks last Friday, 41-52. The young team finished the season 13-10 and 8-2 in league play, capturing third place in the Sky-Em.

"The season went really well and the team was proud of all the work we put in, as well as what we accomplished. We can build off of the experiences that we had and furthering team chemistry with one another," said sophomore guard Madison Fuller.

The boys host an OSAA 4A first round playoff game this Friday at 7. They will play the La Grande Tigers for a chance to be in the final 8 teams that will compete in Forest Grove, next Thursday through Saturday.

BUSTIN' A MOVE FOR THE BABIES



Members of the 2020 Mr. Spartan team lead the crowd in a choreographed dance to "Hoedown Showdown" by Miley Cyrus. Photo by Teri Cooper

Mr. and Ms. Spartan team throws a dance and trivia bowl to raise money

By Ella Coulombe

The Spartan Pageant fundraising has begun. Last Friday in the cafeteria, DJ Old Man, aka assistant principal Andy Oldham, and the Spartan Pageant contestants put together a Patriotic for the Preemies dance for the babies. "It was really fun how people can come together to save babies," junior Ava Eklund said. The dance raised over \$1,000.

Tuesday night the Spartan team Trivia Night. Around 65 people from elementary students, to past graduates, to grandparents all joined together in teams of four in the ARC to test their trivial knowledge.

Questions ranged from past generation to present day. "I was surprised that the parents knew lots of the questions," senior Brandon Boresek said.

As the night went on, 'confused' teams could buy the answers with real money to stay in the competition. Over the seven rounds and the final bonus round, one team rose to the top but were eventually disqualified. The team of Denise Fitzpatrick, Sandy Murray, Kevin and Amy McCarthy ended up winning tickets to the pageant that will take place on April 4 at 7pm.

To break up the trivia fun, the team competed in a relay race and a baby food-eating contest.

Seniors Gabby Angelastro and Brock Williams competed in a relay race to test their infant parenting skills. Angelastro won. James Cross and Liv Carlin competed against Anthony Green and McKenna Priske in a contest to see which team could finish a container

of baby food first. Green and Priske were the baby food-eating winners.

Over \$600 was raised making the weeks total over \$1,600 for the babies.



2020 Mr. Spartan members, McKenna Priske, James Cross and Anthony Green compete to finish a jar of baby food. Photo by Dempsey O'Leary '20

CHECKMATE!

Marist Chess goes to state



The chess team competes last weekend at the OHSCTA tournament. Photo by Jon Nuxoll

By Talon Larson '21

The Marist Chess Team finished their season last weekend at the Oregon High School Chess Team Association 2020 state tournament at Harrison Elementary School in Cottage Grove. They finished 14th out of 16 teams. The team coached by history teacher Jon Nuxoll started the tournament with five losses due to a player being sick.

The chess team was pleased to have the opportunity to go to state. "I feel like I did very well considering it's my last year," said senior Ethan Avila who characterizes chess as mentally fatiguing. "I would definitely continue if it wasn't my last year."

Junior Justin May, the 2019-2020 Midwestern League MVP, was disappointed in his performance last weekend. "It's not the fact that I lost, but it's the way I lost," said May about losing the first of his five matches due to one bad move.

May who has played since middle school said "It's an easy game to learn but a hard game to master." The Chess Team has been playing weekly matches, each one lasting up to 120 minutes, at Willamette High School since late fall.

"Chess is definitely a sport as you feel fatigued after a match," Avila said.

LEAPING INTO MARCH

2020 gets an extra day

By Ben Morehouse '20

With the celebration of a leap year last Saturday, it is important to remember and be thankful for everything for which we got an extra day.

In the Willamette Valley, we got an extra day of great weather to prepare for Spring. Many took the on-and-off rain showers as a great opportunity to do yard work.

We also got a day to prepare for the COVID-19 Coronavirus' entrance to Oregon. Many families hit the grocery stores to stock up on the essentials. Chips, dip and hand sanitizer were flying off the shelves.

Some local businesses took the extra day to offer fantastic deals. The legendary chain, 7-ELEVEN sold a large pepperoni pizza for only \$2.29. I ate it, and it was delicious.

And John Mulaney became the first person to ever host Saturday Night Live on Feb. 29 of any year.

Leap years are necessary to sync our calendar with the Earth's orbit around the sun. Earth's orbit taking 365.25 days is ultimately to blame.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BART POLLARD



Blood Drive Recap

117 potential lives were saved from last week's NHS sponsored Blood Drive through Bloodworks Northwest. In total, there were **63** registered donors, **39** units of blood collected and **55** first time donors!