



THE EAGLE'S WING



Issue No. 2

Keota Jr./Sr. High School Student Newspaper

BRILLIANT BRIES



BY WYNONNA MORRIS

Ms. Bries has been an English teacher for six years, but has only taught at Keota for two years. She teaches many classes, such as English 10, junior high reading, Language Arts 7 and 8, American Literature, World Literature, and Practical English. Although we know her as an English teacher, there is much more information about Ms. Bries.

While in high school, Ms. Bries said that teachers were always changing, so there were some that she liked and some that she didn't like the most. She said that her high school was four times the size of ours, but it also had a lot of similarities to Keota. Ms. Bries said that she chose to be an English teacher because she had an influential teacher who inspired her. The hardest part about

her job is remembering things, because there is always so much going on with all the different classes she teaches. Her strength is being able to know the content knowledge well while teaching. Also she is very reliable. In fact, Bries said that she has only missed three and a half days while working at Keota High School. Her biggest weakness is that she gets easily distracted. It is clear from her classroom that Ms. Bries is a very well organized person.

If Ms. Bries were to be put on the TV show, Survivor, and had to choose five items to bring with her, she would choose a hatchet, a pot, a knife, a striker, and a tarp. Ms. Bries' scariest moment was when she was in a five car pile-up while she was in college. She is most scared of heights. Her favorite activity is reading, and she also likes to watch volleyball because it has the least amount of running in it. She also enjoys making crafts. Ms. Bries prefers the temperature to be cold, because she already sweats too much. When asked what motivates her, Ms. Bries laughed and said, "Food." When asked what she would do if a student fell asleep in her class, Bries said that she would try to wake them up. She also enjoys laughter in her classroom.

It's easy to see that Ms. Bries is a great teacher. I enjoyed getting to know her, and I hope you did, too!

GET TO KNOW MR. JACOBSEN



BY ADDISON SPROUSE

The high school social studies teacher, Mr. Jacobsen, is in his second year teaching at Keota High School, and although he has only been teaching for three years, he knows teaching is what he was meant to do. He is also in charge of advising the Student Council, as well as Model UN.

When asked why he chose the teaching profession, he explained he was always motivated to become a teacher. Since he originally did not go to school to for teaching, he feels being a teacher is a great way to be a positive influence in the lives of students. His most positive teaching experiences are seeing students engaged, enjoying the lessons, and seeing them excited to learn. He helps motivate his students by making them curious about the subject, which helps them become more involved.

Mr. Jacobsen feels that Social Studies is a very important subject to be studied, since it connects to all other subjects and brings the world together. When asked if he could

pick any job, he said, "It would be cool to be president, but I would still be a teacher so I could be a positive influence in students' lives."

If Mr. Jacobsen had a million dollars, he would definitely pay off student loans and debt. He also said he would travel around the world and would love to take his students to see the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, DC. Most people do not know this, but Mr. Jacobsen actually has a twin brother and they look exactly alike. He always tells his students that if you see him in public and wave but he does not wave back, it is probably his twin brother, so do not be offended.

One of Mr. Jacobsen's favorite courses in college was Educational Psychology, because it is a very interesting topic and he had a very good professor. When you do not see Mr. Jacobsen standing at his podium teaching a class, he can be found enjoying the outdoors, fishing, golfing, reading, and of course, cheering at Iowa Hawkeye sporting events.

JENNY HOBBS: INFLUENCING KIDS ON AND OFF THE COURT



BY OLIVIA SIEREN

Ms. Hobbs has been teaching at Keota for six years now. She started teaching science for most of the same classes she teaches now, with the exception of Earth Science. Two years after she started at Keota, she gained Earth Science as well. She has made many friends while at Keota; however, she thinks Mrs. Swanson probably knows her best at the school. Ms. Hobbs thinks her colleagues describe her as "liking consistency." She likes to keep her same parking spot and the same goes for her seat at lunch.

Ms. Hobbs has worked under four different principals during

her time here. Ms. Hobbs believes the toughest aspect of discipline is how to discipline so the student learns what is right and wrong. Ms. Hobbs chose the teaching profession because she wanted to have a positive impact on a students' lives.

Ms. Hobbs has enjoyed many things in her years of teaching; however, she has enjoyed going to the International Science Fair and science fairs in general the most. Ms. Hobbs uses summative assessments and tests for evaluating student work. She believes if you put in effort, you deserve points. This ties into Ms. Hobbs' philosophy on teaching. Her philosophy is "You will get out what you put in."

Ms. Hobbs has had to deal some behavioral problems in her classroom before. She likes to handle a student with a behavioral problem by finding a drive in them that will make them want to learn. She also believes you have to make the student know you care. Ms. Hobbs would use easy-going, rational, fair, funny, and loud as five words to de-

scribe herself.

In her first few years at Keota, Ms. Hobbs was a coach of many different sports. She now spends much of her free time watching college sports and playing with her son, Toby. Ms. Hobbs has always enjoyed having laughter in her classroom. She wants learning to be a fun experience. She would like to say she is organized, but she admitted to me that she is not. However, she is a very organized coach. Her classroom stays organized for only a slight amount of time.

She has had to deal with controversial subjects in science before. In dealing with these subjects, she tries to teach both sides of the topic, and then allow the student to decide what they believe in. I decided to then ask a question over a controversial topic. I asked what she would do if a student had told her they were experimenting with marijuana. She stated, "I am not a fan. I would let them know the long-term effects of the drug."

If Ms. Hobbs could change

anything about public school, she would change four things. The first thing is to start later; second, shorten the day; third, teach the student more work skills; and finally, teach students basic life skills they'll use. Ms. Hobbs loves impacting student's lives most about being a teacher. The thing she likes least about being a teacher is having to repeatedly discipline kids. I asked Ms. Hobbs how she motivates her students so they want to learn. I received the answer, "You have to make them interested in wanting to learn."

At the end of the interview I asked if there was anything she wished I would have asked. She responded, "Yes. Can the way you were raised influence the way you teach? I believe the way you were raised can definitely influence your teaching methods; you learn so many morals growing up that affect the way you want students to learn."

It was a joy getting to interview Ms. Hobbs and learn more about her.

MS. KAPLAN: THE MATH WIZ



BY KYLIE BEINHART

Ms. Kaplan has been teaching at Keota High School for three years, playing the same role all three years. She teaches Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, FST, and she

is also the seventh grade Eagle Advisor. Before making her way to Keota, she taught at Mid-Prairie.

In her classroom she has many things on display, such as how to be successful, three dimensional objects made by students, crayons with students' names, and many other positive things. When I asked Ms. Kaplan what the title was of the last three books she had read, she said, "I don't read for fun." If she were to describe her last work day it would be students took quizzes, then did corrections, and they were also able to work together.

She chose her teaching profession because in fifth grade she wanted to be a teacher. She decided on a math teacher because of her high school math

teacher. In her free time, Ms. Kaplan enjoys going to school activities and getting to spend time with family.

Ms. Kaplan's favorite course in college was statistics, because unlike other courses it wasn't focused on content, it was focused on how to teach it. She believes her field is important for students to study because math is about learning how to problem solve, and in most professions you will need to know how to problem solve. Ms. Kaplan thinks that schools should teach students how to be young, responsible adults. Three words she uses to describe herself are organized, punctual, and a good listener. If one of her colleagues were to describe her in one word, it would be professional. Ms.

Kaplan feels as if Mrs. Swanson knows her best in the school.

Students would describe her as helpful and nice. Even though Ms. Kaplan is very nice, she does not tolerate sleeping in her class. She copes with stress by talking to her friends and colleagues. One of her strong points is working one-on-one with students. The aspect of teaching she dislikes the most is teacher meetings. Her favorite thing about being a teacher is being able to work with kids. Her goal in five years is to still be the Keota High School math teacher.

I really enjoyed getting to spend some of my high school years with Ms. Kaplan. She is a great math teacher.

MEET MRS. CONRAD



BY RILEY CONRAD

Mrs. Conrad has been teaching at Keota High School for five years now and has been in the same position all five years. She teaches freshman English, Journalism, College Prep, and ELP. She told me that even if she could choose any other career, she would still be a teacher. Mrs. Conrad has wanted to be a teacher since she was young, but did not get around to becoming one until later in her life. Although, she did say that she would also enjoy being a stay at home mom, so she could always keep her house clean.

She tries to keep her class-

room looking bright, positive, and neat at all times so that her students do not feel the need to take a mid-day nap in her class. Mrs. Conrad also told me that she tries to have a fun classroom with lots of laughter, so that her students stay entertained and enjoy her class. Mrs. Conrad likes to use positive reinforcement to motivate her students to do their best work and get things done on time. She also believes that explaining the reasons behind her assignments helps her students as well. When I asked her what the worst assignment she had ever given out was, she told me that her seniors used to have to write a 15 page research paper at the end of the year. When asked if she could eliminate one part of her job what it would be, she told me that she would get rid of professional development meetings, because she would rather be teaching her classes. I also asked her which teacher knew

her the best in the high school, and she said that it would probably be Mrs. Edwards because they have spent a lot of time together on EagleRock trips.

Now that we know about Mrs. Conrad's school life, let's find out some more about her earlier life. When she was in school, her favorite teacher was Mrs. Rushing, her 5th grade teacher. She also said that she was a major "band geek" at her school. Later in her life she became Miss Iowa 1995, which she says many of her students might not know about her. Mrs. Conrad has many hobbies, which include boating, camping, and her favorite, walking her dog, Tia. One of her most embarrassing moments was when she was going down a water slide and when she came out at the bottom, she realized that her top had fallen down, but she quickly pulled it up before anyone could see. She is deathly afraid of heights and she said that when she had to ride the

Tower of Terror at Disney World she feared for her life.

Now for some random facts about Mrs. Conrad. If Mrs. Conrad won a million dollars, she said that she would travel the world and go all of the places on her bucket list. Her favorite radio station is 104.5 because it is a mix of everything. If she was cast on Survivor, the five things she would bring are duct tape, fire starter, a tarp, a knife, and of course, chapstick. Her strangest encounter with an animal was when she was younger and a dog jumped over four fences, chasing after her and her brother. Her most memorable experience with an automobile was when she was 23 and she got into a bad wreck where a car t-boned her. She had two friends in the car, but luckily nobody got hurt.

I really enjoyed getting to know Mrs. Conrad through this interview and had fun while doing it. I hope that you all learned something new while reading this.

MRS. EDWARDS: DEDICATED TO THE ARTS AND HER KIDS



BY GRACE MCHUGH

Jane Fort Edwards has been an active music teacher for 43 years, but has been at KHS for 22 of those years. She is very active in

the Keota School District, running the 5-12 band, 7-12 chorus, leading the Show Choir, and overseeing the annual musical and play. She's also a devoted senior class sponsor, and is on the Building Leadership Team as well as the District Leadership Team. She says if she could choose any other career, she would still choose a teacher every time. She loves to see the 'aha' moments of students when they figure something out.

Edwards claims her biggest fear in life is letting people down. She also says she is an open book when it comes to secrets with her students; what you see is what you get. She is an avid Snoopy lover, and says he's her favorite because

he's always so positive. As a child, music surrounded her. Her mother was an avid organ player and was also a music teacher. She loves playing the baritone for its sheer sound, but also loves playing the piano because it's so versatile. Her favorite song she would sing as a child was with her father. He would often sing to her a song titled, "Has Anybody Seen My Gal." She grew up with boys, which she enjoyed doing, and she chose Tim as her "favorite" brother, stating "He thinks I'm wonderful." She loved her childhood home in Illinois, that she now owns. After retirement, she'd love to live there permanently.

The scariest moment of Mrs. Edward's life was senior year, when

during a cheerleading stunt she was dropped and the whole gym went silent and everyone thought she was severely injured. Thankfully, she slapped the ground to soften her fall, a common tumbling technique. She said she has loved her whole life, but she particularly enjoyed the 80s. I asked if she regrets not having biological children of her own. She said no, because she would have been a high expectation mother. When asking questions regarding Tom, her husband, she said she remembers watching him play basketball in high school and thought he was cute. When she went to college, she said she loved the experience and sorority life. She was the president of not only

her sorority, but the organization on her campus that oversaw all the sororities.

I ended the session with some miscellaneous questions. Mrs. Edwards said she loves the small school environment, because she enjoys knowing her students on a personal level. Her favorite fashion trend she lived through was the 80s in general, but especially shoulder pads and big hair. She claims her least favorite was plaids, and she hates paisley prints. And finally, in a battle of rock paper scissors, her go to move? Rock. Edwards has committed herself to KHS for 43 years, and although she jokes about retirement, she is not looking forward for that day to come.

2017-18

EAGLE'S WING STAFF

KYLIE BEINHART • RILEY CONRAD • ANNA DUWA • FRANKIE JOHNSON • GRACE MCHUGH • WYNONNA MORRIS • BEN SHEMANSKI • OLIVIA SIEREN • ADDISON SPROUSE • JOLEE WALKER • KENDALL WILSON
ADVISER: MRS. CONRAD

This page was composed and designed by Keota High School students. The Keota Eagle is not responsible for the makeup or editorial content expressed.