



THE EAGLE'S WING



Issue No. 1

Keota Jr./Sr. High School Student Newspaper

JACOBSEN JOINS KHS



BY DYLAN BURGDORF

While interviewing Michael John Jacobsen, I learned many new things about this teacher that has just begun his many years at Keota High School. He previously worked at West Branch as a long term substitute for Economics. He lives in Williamsburg and grew up in Sac City. He received his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Iowa and he has his teaching certification in Social Studies. When asked what his dream job would be, he was quick to say, "teaching, for the kids and to be a positive influence."

With his two cats (Marius and Tibey) by his side, he and his wife Erin also have a bun in the oven. So expect another baby from the Social Studies teacher in the near future. Mr. Jacobsen enjoys anything outdoors, such as golfing and fishing. He also follows politics closely. He is a big fan of the Hawkeyes and hopes for a good year for them.

I asked him a few random questions, such as his greatest fear, his most embarrassing moment, the scariest moment in his life, favorite animal, favorite color, and favorite music. He says his greatest fear is failure, but his students suspect it's letting people know his age. When asked what his most embarrassing moment was, he said when he threw up his egg salad on his crush's shoes in second grade. I also asked him about his scariest moment and he recalled when his father was in a really bad car accident. His favorite color is green, but we all know he's a big fan of the gold and black. He says a dog is the best animal because they are loyal and will always cheer you up. He enjoys classical music, alternative rock, and country music. When asked what his favorite vacation was, he told me about his trip to the Lake of the Ozarks. He enjoyed the adventures he had there. If he were to describe his high school self in one word, he said it would be "involved."

And now for the question we have all been asking, but can never seem to get the answer to. What is his age? When was he born? When I asked him what his birthday was, he said February 2, 1983. We will let you do the math.

When asked what he thinks of KHS so far, Mr. Jacobsen said, "I've enjoyed my time in Keota so far. You're a really hard working group and I look forward to the rest of the year." We are looking forward to getting to know Mr. Jacobsen this year, and we wish him the best here at KHS.

NEW FACES OF KEOTA

DIGGER'S DIGG'N KEOTA



BY COLE STOUT

Keota has a new superintendent this year, Mr. Dennis Phelps. Mr. Phelps, also known by many as "Digger," used to work at Pekin and was shared with Tri-County and Harmony three years before Pekin. He was also the administrator for Tri-County and Belle Plaine and he was a long time teacher, coach, and Activities Director at HLV. Mr. Phelps also farms full time and has

had teaching and coaching positions at Montezuma and Grinnell. He got his career started at St. John's and St. Mary's in Waterloo.

What Mr. Phelps likes most about Keota so far is that he had the most warm and welcoming introductions from people that he has experienced in a number of years. He also likes the school in town, the commitment and support from board, staff, and parents/community members who create a positive and caring school district, and the students who took the time to introduce themselves to him.

Mr. Phelps has three sons who are all married and graduated from HLV. He also has three grandchildren. His favorite hobbies are going to professional baseball games, doing things with his kids and grandkids, going to the Civic Center in Des Moines to watch Broadway shows, and volunteering for different church activities. Mr. Phelps' favorite sport is basketball. Mr. Phelps used to play football, basketball, track, baseball, and coached football, basketball,

track, baseball, and girls swimming. He has a pet Saint Bernard named Chunk who is ten years old. He says, "At times he is my best friend and may be my only friend." In one word, Mr. Phelps describes himself in high school as "talkative." If he had a million dollars, Mr. Phelps said he would pay off bills, invest in land, and donate to church and school initiatives and school needs. What Mr. Phelps is most afraid of are loud noises, snakes, and the misuse of technology.

One fact about Mr. Phelps that he thinks students would never believe is that he was Girls District Swim Coach of the Year. If he could eliminate one part of his job, he would eliminate all of the negative comments in his school district. If he could pick any job in the world, he says he would be the Superintendent of the Diocese. Mr. Phelps' favorite part about his job is that he has the opportunity to work with kids and people.

Mr. Phelps says his job requires him to be the "CEO of the district"

by being aware of the financial health of the district, hiring good people, allowing good people to do their job, and finding resources that are necessary for staff to do their duties and students to learn. He plans to be visible in the district by being at community and school events and attending as much as possible. When asked if he thinks he will enjoy working at two school districts, he said he has been successful working in two districts for several years and each district has their own unique climate, culture, and needs. He believes it's necessary to explore all options to reduce expenses, and it works because of good administrative team members and office staff.

Mr. Phelps is looking forward to getting to know the Keota staff, student body, and parent/community members, and letting people know "I'm the voice and face of the school and district."

We wish Mr. Phelps the best of luck for his first year at the Keota School.

MRS. SNAKENBERG RETURNS



BY JACOB WICKENKAMP

This week I had the privilege of interviewing Mrs. Snakenberg, who has made her return to Keota High School. Mrs. Snakenberg grew up in Waseca, Minnesota. She attended Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa. She is married to Schuyler Snakenberg (our former Social Studies teacher) and is the proud mother of Esther Snakenberg. She also has a cat named Theo. Her favorite song is "Here Comes the Sun" by the Beatles and her favorite foods are bread and pasta.

Mrs. Snakenberg came back to teaching because she missed it, plus she also wanted to give Esther the opportunity to meet more kids at day care. She used to teach business and computer classes. She now teaches Algebra 1 and Algebra 1B. She said, "Teaching math is quite different than her old classes." If Mrs. Snakenberg had to choose her favorite class to teach it would be accounting.

If she could choose any career, it would be to work in a business job for a short time to gain experience, but in the end she would come back to teaching. If you can't tell already, Mrs. Snakenberg loves teaching and is a great at it. Let's all wish Mrs. Snakenberg a warm welcome back to Keota High School!

MEETING MR. SMITH



BY BAYLEI MCCLELLAND

I recently had the privilege to sit down with the new elementary principal, Mr. Josh Smith. You may have seen him standing outside the school in the mornings, greeting and talking to his students. Mr. Smith said that his job entails a little bit of everything, like making sure the teachers and students are com-

fortable and have everything they need. Mr. Smith graduated from Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa and his previous job was at HLV where he taught Social Studies.

When asked why he came to Keota Community Schools, Mr. Smith said it was a great opportunity at the time and that he knew he'd be comfortable here. When asked if he thought he'd like it here at Keota, his immediate response was, "Absolutely!" Then he continued to say how impressed he was with the staff, students, and parents. Mr. Smith said that his favorite part about being new was meeting everybody. He said that he is a very social person and has always loved being around people.

We then talked about his years in school. I asked him how he felt about his teachers in high school. He laughed and proceeded to say that he had his favorites, but he appreciated all the effort and work that they put into making him and

the other students better adults. It took him a minute or so to answer how he'd describe himself in school, but after careful consideration he said he was "curiously intelligent." Mr. Smith said that his favorite school activities were band and "anything sports related," as he loved playing sports throughout school. When asked what grade he'd go back to, he said he enjoyed kindergarten and that he thought it'd be fun to go back there.

Finally, we got into some more random questions. Mr. Smith said that if he could pick any other job, that he would probably be in business of some sort. When asked what he would eliminate about his job, he said just some of the state required paperwork. When I asked him to name a fact about him that people wouldn't believe, he quickly said that he had the opportunity in high school to do the weather on KCRG.

When asked if he had any phobias,

he said that he hates snakes and doesn't like clowns. Mr. Smith said that with a million dollars he would pay off his debts and go on a trip to Europe. His hobbies are spending time with his wife and family. He also loves being outside, biking, running, golfing, and walking his dog. He enjoys watching any and all sporting events on T.V. When asked what his favorite life experience was, he said that getting married was at the top, followed by many memories with his friends and family.

At the end of the interview, I asked Mr. Smith if he had anything else to add. He said with pride that he was very thankful to be here at Keota Community Schools and that it's been great so far. He said that he has definitely appreciated the warm welcome that he has received.

Everyone wishes him the best of luck on his upcoming years at Keota Schools and we can't wait to see what he has in store for us..

DAVID DREAMS OF KEOTA



BY JACE UPHOLD

This week I had the opportunity to interview David Amos, a new student at KHS. David is in 10th grade and just moved here from Mount Pleasant. David is 15 years old and has two siblings, Laurie and Steven. His favorite childhood memory with them was going to Old Threshers.

David says he enjoys the new

teachers at KHS and is enjoying being a student here. His favorite class so far is Biology with Ms. Hobbs. When asked who knows him the best in the school, David said probably his sister since he is still pretty new. When asked what he enjoys most about his family, he said that his little brother is his favorite part about his family. At home, David also has many pets to play with.

This winter, David is planning on going out for Wrestling for Keota High School. After David graduates, he plans to get a Computer Science degree, but he says if he could have any job in the world he would be a professional YouTuber. If David had a million dollars, he said he would start a shop and buy tons of gaming equipment.

We all wish David the best of luck at Keota High School and are very happy to have him here.



BY AVERY CONRAD

Recently I had the opportunity to sit down with a new student at KHS, Jordan Clemens. Jordan was born on August 19, 2001 and is 17 years old. She is the daughter of Kelly Hoag. Jordan also has two siblings: Leah, 10, and Evan, 8. She moved to Keota from BGM High School in Brooklyn to live with her mom.

I asked Jordan what she likes the most about Keota so far and she said that she loves the people. She

and Jolee Walker soon became best friends over the summer once she moved into the small, but tight knit, Keota community.

Jordan's favorite class is English and her favorite activity is choir. She likes these because she can use her creative side in them, which she believes is her best quality. She also does a few extracurricular activities outside of school such as Drama, Large Group Speech, and EagleRock. Jordan is only a sophomore this year, but she says that when she graduates she wants to attend Iowa State University to become a dentist. A life goal of Jordan's is to go skydiving, but she says that her biggest goal in life is to grow up, get a good job, and find a good husband to start a family with.

We hope to see more of Jordan Clemens around the Keota community this year with the bright and positive attitude that she brings to everyday life.

2015-16 EAGLE'S WING STAFF

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

QUESTION OF THE WEEK
BY AVERY CONRAD
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT SCHOOL THIS YEAR AND WHY?

MRS. CONRAD
STAFF



"I LIKE MY NEW CLASSROOM BECAUSE IT HAS A GREAT VIEW!"

RAIGAN SPROUSE
12TH



"GETTING OUT AT 3:15 BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE TO BE AT SCHOOL AS LONG"

GRACE MCHUGH
11TH



"GETTING OUT AT 3:15 BECAUSE IT GIVES ME TIME TO GO EAT"

TREY CARLSON
10TH



"GETTING OUT AT 3:15 BECAUSE I GET TO GO LIFT"

NOLAN VERSTRAETE
9TH



"BEING ABLE TO DRIVE TO SCHOOL"

PATRICK CLARAHAN
8TH



"GETTING OUT AT 3:15 BECAUSE I CAN GO HOME SOONER"

COLTON CLARAHAN
7TH



"BEING ABLE TO SWITCH CLASSES"