A Special Thank You

By: Madeline Begnoche

On November 11, the Gehlen Catholic family came together to celebrate Veteran’s Day. Every year we celebrate the sacrifices that countless men and women have made for us. Every person at Gehlen Catholic has somehow been affected by these people. The ceremony started out with a short video and the presentation of our nation’s colors by members of the American Legion Wasmer Post 241. The Chamber Choir sang “Tribute to Armed Services,” while each branch of the military’s flags were presented. Everyone in attendance then recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Throughout the service there were several ways in which the veterans were honored. Halle Walgenbach read the paper she wrote about what the flag stands for and means to her. Emerson Schmidt, the winner of the poppy poster contest, was awarded by the American Legion. Sydney Logan, Anthony Vera, and Madeline Begnoche performed a monologue about thanking all veterans. Every year we honor and thank the Veterans for their sacrifices and dedication. Always remember that you are lucky to be in such a wonderful and free country because of them! God Bless the U.S.A!
No Leaf Left Behind

By: Valeria Uribe

On November 1 the students participated in the annual Fall Service Day. This day is dedicated to rake leaves for the community. The students went to different houses and the CLT took 101 loads to the leaf site. With losing phones, dented hydro flasks, and lost rings it overall ended up being a successful day. According to Mrs. Schipper, this year went smoothly and everyone felt good about the work that they accomplished and the people that they helped. Thanks to all the teachers and students that worked hard to finish the job.

Advent

By: Dylan Lehmann

The season of Advent is a special time here at Gehlen Catholic. We prepare for the birth of Jesus in many different ways. Every Monday morning during the season of Advent, the elementary gathers in the library for a prayer service. The prayer service involves singing Advent songs and lighting a candle, signifying another week has passed in the advent season. In the High School students partake in a prayer service every Monday during Jays time. These services are a perfect way to get the students prepared for Christ’s coming. Another way the school helps during the Advent season is making Advent gift bags. The bags have simple supplies and snacks for those who are in a nursing home or are less fortunate. These are just some simple things our school does during the season of Advent.

Advent Gift Bags

By: Dylan Lehmann

One way the Gehlen Catholic students, faculty, and staff are getting prepared for the birth of Jesus is by assembling over 350 Advent gift bags. On December 11, the PK-12 family got together to brighten the spirits of nursing home residents and shut-ins. This amazing day is a great way for the whole school to work together to help those that are less fortunate. The Advent gift bags contained; eye glass cleaner, chapstick, lotion, socks, a Gehlen Catholic pen, a prayer card, and a sweet piece of chocolate. The bags were delivered on the same day by students and faculty. It was a very rewarding experience for us all.
Believe and Achieve

By: Dylan Lehmann

This year’s boys cross country team was more than successful in many ways. The boys won a total of 5 out of 11 meets this year including the War Eagle conference meet and the district meet. There were some new faces on the cross country team this year and those new faces made quite the impact.

One of those new faces was Isaac Vaske. Isaac had an outstanding track season making it to state in many different events. That pushed him to take his talents to cross country where he was joined by two other amazing runners, Will Roder and Carson Tesch. Will and Carson both had great track seasons as well making it to state. Will even won the 3,200 meter race at state in memorable fashion.

Another surprising fact about this team was Jeff Augustine played football and ran cross country! He ran in the morning and then practiced football at night.

The team’s first round opponent was an evenly matched North Tama. On Wednesday, November 13, the teams faced each other. The Lady Jays always fell behind in the first two matches. The third match was the Jays best opportunity to win. They were ahead most of the set, but fell short 24-26. Although the season may have not ended how they planned, the Jays had a great season to be proud of. With many new faces this year, not many people knew how well they could do.

First place medals

The Legacy Continues...

By: Chloe Bunkers

The Lady Jays did it again! The volleyball team made it to state again for the third year in a row, 10 out of the last 11 years. The girls had to beat Kingsley Pierson, George Little Rock, and Newell Fonda on the road to the state tournament. Newell Fonda was definitely the toughest game. The girls went into a 5 set match. They came back from a 2-1 deficit to win the substate game. The girls were headed to Cedar Rapids to play at the state tournament!

The team graduates five seniors: Allison Ruden, Josie Kolbeck, Kate Hill, Sydney Livermore, and Chloe Bunkers. Thank you, seniors, for all your hard work over the past four years and for being a good role models for underclassmen!

In the end, the Jays finished their season in the Cellular Center which is a great accomplishment.

Now that the season is over, the girls are going to miss some of their favorite memories. When talking to Allison Ruden she said, “My favorite memory from state this year is definitely when we put the beds together in the hotel room and watched a movie. It was nice to be able to spend time together for the last time this season.”

Also when talking to the team everyone agreed they would miss the team talks and hype up sessions before the games.

The team poses for their annual ticket punched picture
Roundball

By: Bergen Vacura

This year’s boys basketball season hasn’t gone the way the team had planned. Injuries are a part of our troubles. Dylan Lehmann had to sit out the first 4 games with a pre-existing back injury, Zach Kraft re-injured his shoulder, which needed surgery, going up for a rebound against HMS in the second game of the year, and Ethan Peters had one of the scariest accidents a lot people in that gym that night has ever seen. Ethan, to a lot of people’s surprise, only had a concussion with whiplash. It could’ve been a lot worse. The first game of the year, only 7 people took the floor for the Jays.

Keaten Bonderson leads the scoring attack with 19 points per game. Carter Derocher not far behind with 14.5 PPG. Isaac Vaske leads the team with 5.8 boards a game. The team goes pretty deep into the bench, usually play 8-9 guys a night. That is a lot of players going in compared to the previous year, where we only play six guys. This year’s roster includes 6 Seniors, 2 Juniors, 4 Sophomores, and 2 Freshman. The Seniors this year are: Peyton Rochford, Isaac Ellensohn, Ethan Peters, Bergen Vacura, Jacob Nemmers, and Isaac Vaske. A lot of Senior leadership but also some young and upcoming talent.

‘Season did not start as any of us hoped it would, but there is a lot of season to be played,’ were Peyton Rochford’s words on how the season is going. In another statement from Dylan Lehmann ‘I hope not to trip over anymore lines this season.’ This happened at the Woodbury Central game, one in which the Jays pulled out the 73-57 over the Wildcats. This Gehlen team is overlooked by most but they are ready to make a run at the post season tournament and shock the Northwest Iowa.

Dance Team Kicks off the Season

By: Sydney Logan

This year’s dance team has been busy since August, but their season is still not over. The Gehlen dance team members this year are: Sydney Logan, Ella Kreber, Emily Klein, Karoline Kroll, Lillian Kessenich, Emma Bogen, Kailey Sitzmann, Lydia Vaske, Madi Mousel, Olivia Bunkers, Trinity Goebel, Kaylee Linden, and Leah Langel. The team kicked off the season by performing at the State Dance Competition in Des Moines on December 5th. The girls learned the routines in August, and had early morning practices leading up to state. The team competed in Class 1 Kick and Class 1 Contemporary, receiving division 1 ratings in both and placing 3rd in Contemporary.

Dance team practice comes bright and early every day, starting at 6 am. This is a lot of work, especially for the girls who have to drive thirty or more minutes into town. Trinity Goebel is the first one to wake up, starting her day at 4:45 am. Some get the luxury of waking up later, with the latest being 5:45 am.

The dance team is excited to continue their season and perform at basketball games. Other than the state routines, the girls also perform a Christmas routine, Pom, Kick out Cancer, and a Co Ed routine. If you want to see all routines performed, make sure to attend the dance team showcase on February 22nd!
By: Chloe Bunkers

With only graduating three seniors after the 2018-2019 season, the Lady Jays basketball team entered the season with high hopes. The girls expected that with their experience and depth on the bench, they would thrive on the basketball court. The basketball team has picked up a couple good wins throughout the season so far including Westwood and West Sioux. The Westwood game was a close one throughout the whole match. With only a few seconds left on the scoreboard, Addison Weber dribbled down the court and drove to the lane to finish with a floater to put the Jays up by two. The Rebels were unable to score as the clock quickly counted down. Another key win, many would say the best win of the season, was against West Sioux. West Sioux is a team that is big and competitive. The past couple of seasons the girls had been close to beating West Sioux but have not been able to pull through and this was true again during the first game vs West Sioux. The second game was where the Lady Jays would shine. Again, throughout the whole game it was close. Jays were up 55-54 with 20 seconds left on the clock. They got the ball in and soon after West Sioux fouled putting Rachel Langel to the free throw line. Langel knocked down both free throws which would secure the lead. West Sioux went down the court trying to get a three up but couldn’t knock it down. The Jays had won against a talented 2A team.

The team’s best scorer is Addison Weber who averages 12.3 points a game. Weber most recently reached her 1,000 career points. She is a great team player who leads the team with 26 assists. On defense, Weber helps the team by stealing the ball which usually turns into a fast break. Weber leads the team with 36 steals. Close behind Weber in points per game is Lauren Heying with 12.1. With Rachel Langel being the tallest girl on the team, she leads the team in rebounds with 90 and blocks with 14. The team wants to continue to improve their stats and record. The girls’ season is not yet over as they are looking for success as they finish out the rest of their schedule.

By: Peyton Rochford

One of the most fun games to play in P.E. for the high school is pickleball! The high school started playing pickleball towards the beginning of January. Everyone loves pickleball because it is so competitive and fun. In pickleball there is a net and two teams with two people on each team. We use a wiffle ball and a wooden racket to hit the ball over the net to the other team. Both teams will each play until one team reaches 11 points, whichever team reaches 11 points first wins! Towards the end of pickleball every P.E. class will have a big tournament to see which pair is the best. It usually gets intense and brings out everybody’s competitive spirit. This year our P.E. teacher, Mr. Westhoff is starting the tournament a little different from the previous years. He is doing a tournament of just one-on-one play instead of two-on-two for some of the classes. Talking with a lot of the students at Gehlen, they said that pickleball is one of the most fun games to play out of the whole year of P.E!

We hold all these games in the bottom gym on six different courts around the gym. The tournament is double elimination so if a player loses, he or she gets another chance to make it back into the winners bracket! Mr. Westhoff, who is our P.E. teacher, refs the games to make sure everything is going smoothly and make sure everyone is playing fair and he right way. Pickleball usually ends at the end of January or a little bit into February. When the championship game is over and someone is the winner of the P.E. class, we will go on to another lesson or activity to do in P.E. Overall, pickleball is a fun game for everyone in the school and we really enjoy playing!
Knowledge and Power

By: Valeria Uribe

“Mr. Meyer has reclaimed the throne!” The Quiz Bowl team is back with their original coach! The 2020 team includes students such as Evan Steeg, Alexander Buman, Christopher Holzman, Abraham Galvan, Domonic Doremus, Sam McCallen, Cadence Goebel, Sera Chung, Sarah Stegge, and Anthony Vera. Their practices consists of food and practicing many trivia questions on the topics of history, general science, math, fine arts, literature, etc. As a team, their strongest topic is general science.

All State Opus

By: Madeline Begnoche

This year the choir had the privilege of four highschool students make All-State and two make Opus. Ty Linden, Zach Kraft, Trevor Oloff, and Kaylee Linden made All-State and Josie Scheitler and Aspen Mosher made Opus. The All-State performance was on November 22nd and the Opus performance was on November 21st. Getting into these choirs is a huge accomplishment. Only 180 out of the 600 people who audition make Opus and (amount that make ALL State) Aspen Mosher said,” I was confident going into the audition but very nervous.” This was her first year making Opus and enjoyed, “just being able to sing with everyone, make new friends and hear the final solution of all of our work.” The All-Staters all enjoyed being a big part of a large choir and meeting and making new friends.

A Trip to Drake University

By: Allison Ruden

On December 5, the members selected for Drake Honor Band headed down to Drake University to prepare for their weekend. Members had to audition and be selected to play in this honor band. Our school had five people selected to participate. They were Wyatt Tesch, Anthony Vera, Christopher Holzman, McKenzie Larson, and Patricia Sitzmann. After relaxing on Thursday night, the students plunged head on into practice on Friday. After meeting their guest conductor, the students conversed with the students sitting around them. Despite not knowing many of the other students in the band, friends were quickly made. The concert band consisted of over 200 students from Iowa and Nebraska. Auditions were available to students in any grade level, 9-12, and of any abilities. After having chair auditions, placements were given and students sat in their respective order. First chair helps to correctly execute their part of the music and help fellow section members with anything they may have a question on. After first chair comes second chair, and so on. At Drake Honor Band there were multiple people in each “chair.” On both Friday and Saturday, the band attended clinic sessions. This is when each instrument worked with a specialist of their section. In each clinic session, topics included dynamics, articulation, and other details about the music, along with technical components like pitch, fingering, and intonation. Once the band had finished practicing, everyone left to get fancied up in their concert best to prepare for the performance. The Drake Honor Band had a successful concert, creating beautiful music for those who came to listen.
**Ugly Christmas Sweaters**

By: Derek Nilles

This year Gehlen let the students wear ugly Christmas sweaters one day before Christmas. When asked where they got their sweaters the main responses were either Walmart or their grandparents closet. Landon Nilles, for example, wore his grandpas old Christmas blazer. Kids went above and beyond trying to win the competition, but Evan Steeg took it to another level when he taped a mirror to his sweater. When you went to look at his sweater all you saw was yourself. It’s safe to say that he won the competition for his creativity.

**Favorite Family Traditions**

By: Derek Nilles

There are various family traditions at Gehlen. After finding out many traditions from all ages I had to pick and choose some of the best ones. Mr. Schindler and his family sing Happy Birthday to the baby Jesus. Tiffany Woerdehoff and her family go to the theater and see a Christmas movie every year. Karoline Kroll and her family go and eat at the hospital that her grandma works at. Every Christmas Eve, Michael Kirby’s parents give all the kids matching pajamas to wear that night. Traegen Kramer and his family play board games Christmas night. Finally Mrs. Prichard and her family go and get McDonalds chicken nuggets and drive around looking at Christmas lights. Whatever they do for traditions all reported that they had a merry Christmas!

**Happy Holidays**

By: Peyton Rochford

The holiday season is gone and it feels like it went by in a flash! Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year and everyone is very happy and joyful. One of the most exciting things about Christmas is the presents that we get to open! Talking with a lot of the students at Gehlen, they got mostly clothes in most of their presents. I also asked some of the students at Gehlen if they bought any Christmas presents for anyone. But, most of them said they didn’t buy much or any presents for anyone at Christmas. Some of the people who did said they mainly just bought clothes for their family members or some of their friends as well. Also, some people said they bought candy and other accessories that you would use in your everyday life for family and friends as well.

Besides clothes, it seemed that Iphones and Apple watches were another big thing that some of the students received. If not Apple products, then another electronic device that people got, whether it was headphones, airpods, or a fitbit. It seemed that everyone had a good time celebrating with their family and friends during the most wonderful and joyful time of the year!
Semester Stress

By: Chloe Bunkers

With the New Year, comes semester tests. However, this year things have changed. Semesters were on a Monday and Tuesday rather than a Thursday and Friday. Mondays are awful to begin with, let alone having tests on top of it. The majority (53%) of our high school agrees with this. A lot of the students like the weekend to relax after semester tests. For some, Monday tests don’t affect them. Specifically, 33% said they like that semester tests are on a Monday and Tuesday because they have the weekend to study. The rest of the students, 14%, either don’t care or don’t want tests at all.

Out of all the grades in highschool, Junior year is definitely the toughest. Juniors have to balance difficult courses and extracurriculars. When asking the Juniors what test would be most difficult, 16 out of 23 juniors said Modern U.S. History.

To prepare for tests, everyone has their own study habits. Lauren Harpenau thinks the best way to study is “sleeping with her books.” The best way for Kenzi Alesh to prepare for semester tests is to “look at herself in the mirror and give herself a pep talk.”

March For Life

By: Chloe Bunkers

The March for Life is a march that protests abortion. It is always held around the anniversary of Roe v. Wade. Roe v. Wade is the decision of the Supreme Court to allow abortions for the full 9 months of pregnancy. This year Chloe Bunkers, Sydney Logan, Madeline Begnoche, Allison Ruden, Josie Kolbeck, Sydney Livermore, Isabelle Ellensohn, Harley Foreman, and the chaperones Mrs. Schipper and Tina Begnoche, all were able to make a trip to the March for Life in Washington D.C. With the incoming weather, the girls had to leave on Wednesday, January 22 for Sioux Falls. The next morning they boarded the bus at 6:30 A.M. They traveled on the bus, stopping in various places to pick more people up along the way, but they drove through the night. They didn’t reach D.C. until 10 on Friday morning.

On Friday, they got to the March for Life rally and listened to a band while waiting for Donald Trump to speak. Many people say that Donald Trump is the most pro-life president because he was the first President to speak at the March For Life. At the march, the women walked with signs and chanted for an end to abortion. Many were amazed at the amount of people there. When talking with Sydney Logan she said, “When scrolling through social media, I see many people are pro-choice but when I was there I saw so many people who were pro-life who were many different ages. The media really tries to silence the march by not reporting on it, but being there I was able to see that there is going to be a change.”

On Saturday, the ladies had the opportunity to go to the Pro-Life Summit. The Summit is an event for people of all ages to listen to pro-life speakers. The girls’ eyes were opened from the many talks. Madeline Begnoche said she learned how to defend her views on abortion and she liked seeing the activism from the other pro-lifers. After the Summit, the ladies were motivated to keep spreading the pro-life message. After this they left for home at 7pm and arrived in Omaha at 3:30 pm.

The March for Life trip was definitely one to remember. Everyone on the trip agreed that it was worth sleeping on a bus, eating gas station food, and getting ready for the day in a Walmart bathroom. This trip allowed the women to stand up for what they believe in & challenge you to do the same!
Starting the Week off Right

By: Allison Ruden

On February 27, Bishop Walker Nickless came to St. Joe’s Church to celebrate mass with Gehlen Catholic School. The Bishop concelebrated mass with Father Paul Eisle and Father Bruce Lawler, with Deacon Dan Goebel and Deacon Paul Gengler assisting. The readings were for the memorial of Saint Angela Merici, who is the patron saint of the sick. During his homily, Bishop Nickless asked some freshman a few questions about their upcoming confirmation next fall. Some questions asked included, “Who did you choose your saint?”, “Why did you choose that saint?”, and “Why is your confirmation important?” After quizzing the freshmen, he asked the eight senior girls who went on the March For Life trip to come up and talk about their experience. When asked about what the most impressive part of the trip, most answers were the amount of people there to support the cause. Towards the end of mass, Bishop Walker gave a blessing to all of the teachers and staff at Gehlen. He asked the teachers to stand up in 10 year increments, starting with 40 years! After the celebration, students were able to shake the Bishop’s hand as they were leaving church. What a great way to start the week!

Family Picnic

By: Brady Alesch

All families have their own “traditions” for the picnic. Some families get food from the same place every year and sit in the same place every year. Some families get something different and sit somewhere different every year, it all depends on the family. The Ellensohns, for example, get sub sandwiches from Subway every year and sit near the basketball hoop by the student section annually.

Dodge, Duck, Dip, Dive, and Dodge

By: Derek Nilles

This year our student appreciation day started with a blessing from the teachers. After all of that, the students split up to watch the movie they chose. Once the movies ended all the highschoolers waited impatiently for the pizza that was brought. This year’s dodgeball tournament was definitely a good one. Blue team went undefeated to win it all. The final teams were blue and gray. There were less people playing this year due to the fact that the basketball boys weren’t allowed to play because they had a game versus South O’Brian later that night. When asked about not being able to participate, Dylan Lehmann said “It sucked, but my team still won so it’s okay.”
Valentine Date Plans

“Work”

“Hang out with my other single friends”

“Nothing”

“Spend time with my girlfriend”

“Eating a bunch of chocolate”

“I am going to watch movies with my friends and eat candy”

“Play fortnite”

“Going on a date hopefully”

“Weightroom”

“Sleep”

“Don’t worry about it”

“Stay home and watch a movie”

Superbowl

Are you happy the Chiefs won?

Favorite Superbowl snacks?

Chloe’s Guac

Chips & Salsa

Chicken wings

Monster bars

Pizza

Pinwheels

Hamburger cheese dip

Dots Pretzels

Ice Cream

Buffalo Chicken Dip
Valentine's Activities

Color the heart!

Happy Valentine's Day Love!

Across
3. I'll be by your side____
4. Will you be my____?
8. I love you to the ______ and back
9. I can't wait to _____ for you
10. We can't wait to go to_______
17. We are each other's biggest_____
18. We have all the_______ in the world in each other
19. You are my Best_____
20. You have my_____
21. You are my_____
23. The longer the wait, the sweeter the_____.
25. One of our favorite bands

Down
2. You can always count on______
4. Your____ are my home
5. You make me the_______ girl alive
6. I can't wait to______ home to you
7. We love to_____
10. I_______you a bunch
11. We are_______addicts
12. Can't read_______still
14. You are my whole_____
15. We_______the loudest together
16. I'll be your_______ in shining armor
22. We love making____-
24. How did we meet each other?