

#### **Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Area School District**

# FOGUS

#### A COMMUNITY PUBLICATION FROM YOUR SCHOOL

Trimester 2

Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Area School District P.O. Box 6, Chetek, WI 54728 715-924-2226 www.cwasd.k12.wi.u: Board Members: Carri Traczyk, president; Janene Haselhuhn, vice president; Barb Reisner, treasurer; Korie Lentz, clerk; Mindy Hamilton, Kelly Olson, and John Banks, members.

## IMPORTANT DATES

#### March

March 11-15 - Spring Break

March 18 - Begin Trimester 3

March 22 - CW Variety Show

March 26 - Band Concert

March 29 - No School

#### **April**

April 01- No School

April 05 - 4K Screening

April 22 - K/2/4 Roselawn Spring Concert

#### May

May 03 - No School

May 13 - Spring Choir Concert

May 17 - Spring Band Concert

May 25 - Graduation

May 27 - Memorial Day (No School)

#### June

June 5 - Last Day of School

Check out our school website for all upcoming events:

www.cwasd.k12.wi.us

# **CWHS Junior Brings Germany to WI**

It's not every day that students from Northwestern Wisconsin get to experience culture and life in another country. For the past several years, foreign exchange programs have essentially halted their exchanges due in large part to the COVID pandemic. As such, it is a real treat when the oceans open back up and students can experience new things from across the ponds. Chetek-Weyerhaeuser High School was able to do just that this school year with the addition of junior Laura von Tronchin.

Von Tronchin comes from Germany and has spent the 2023-2024 school year in Wisconsin—not through a formal exchange program, but rather connections. Laura actually holds a dual United States/ German citizenship. Her parents, both German citizens, actually lived in the United States for more than five years; her father worked for Airbus and was sent to work all over the world. It just so happened that while her parents were living in Virginia near Washington D.C., both she and her sister were born



in the United States. Eventually, the family relocated to France, and when she was around 12 years old, they moved back to Germany to be near their family.

After spending four years in a German public school, Laura says she started seeing and hearing about others who would travel overseas and experience the United States as a student. That was when the wheels started turning.

"I talked to my mom, and started saying, 'Wouldn't it be fun to do that?" said von Tronchin. "So I personally started doing some research and looked at the difference between the school systems. I watched videos of other students' experiences and I got to know a few who had completed exchange programs."

It just so happened that Laura's family had connections with a Chetek family; her grandmother taught at a German school in which Gesa Tschumperlin was also a staff member, so the two families knew each other. Tschumperlin, originally from Germany as well, is currently the director of the Link2Learn Virtual Charter School at CW. Gesa's husband, Tim, is a CWHS Social Studies teacher. Von Tronchin's mother asked Gesa if there was anyone she knew who might be willing to host a foreign student. It wasn't long before Gesa and Laura started having conversations about her expectations and where she'd like to live. Gesa mentioned it to Kelly Esterby, who along with Kelly's husband Mike Nelson and their children Noah and Zoe, live in the Sand Creek area. The Esterby-Nelsons agreed that it would be an invaluable experience. After Zoe, a CWHS senior, visited Germany this

Continued on page 6

"Big enough for opportunities, small enough to care"

## **CWHS Announces Top Students for Class of 2023**

Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Area School District is proud to announce the valedictorians and salutatorian of the CWHS Graduating Class of 2024. The valedictorians are Cooper Antczak, Joseph Kutrieb, Brennan Lentz, and Jennie Skoug. The salutatorian is Kaylee Haas.

Antczak is the son of Scott and Janet Antczak, of Weyerhaeuser. He is currently employed with Blain's Farm & Fleet in Rice Lake. Over his high school career, Antczak has been involved in many activities, including Student Council (vice-president), National Honor Society, Forensics/Speech, Drama Club, and Future Business Leaders of America. Antczak is also an assistant drum major with the CWHS Band and sings with the CWHS Choir. This fall, Antczak plans to attend Columbia University in New York; he is currently undecided on a major, but is considering Biology.

Haas is the daughter of Jediah and Kristin Haas, of Chetek. Throughout high school, Haas has been a member of the CWHS Track and Field Team, the Cross Country Team, CW Powerlifting, Student Council (secretary), 4-H (president), Yearbook, National Honor Society (president) and Freshmen Mentors. In the fall Haas looks to attend UW-LaCrosse to major in Radiology Tech and possibly receive certifications for coaching track and field.

Kutrieb is the son of Kathy and Toby Kutrieb, of Chetek. During his high school career he was involved in the Stock Market Club (president), band and provided backstage help during the annual Variety Show. He also is a member of the National Honor Society where he assisted with Red Cross blood drives and Meals on Wheels. This fall, Kutrieb plans to attend UW-Madison where he intends on majoring in History. His hope is to attend UW-Madison law school following his undergraduate studies.

Lentz is the son of Dave and Korie Lentz, of Chetek. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Freshmen Mentors, Junior Achievement and Future Business Leaders of America. Over his high school career he also participated in baseball (captain) and basketball (captain). This fall, Lentz plans to attend UW-LaCrosse to major in Business Management, with the hope of working for a collegiate or professional sports team.

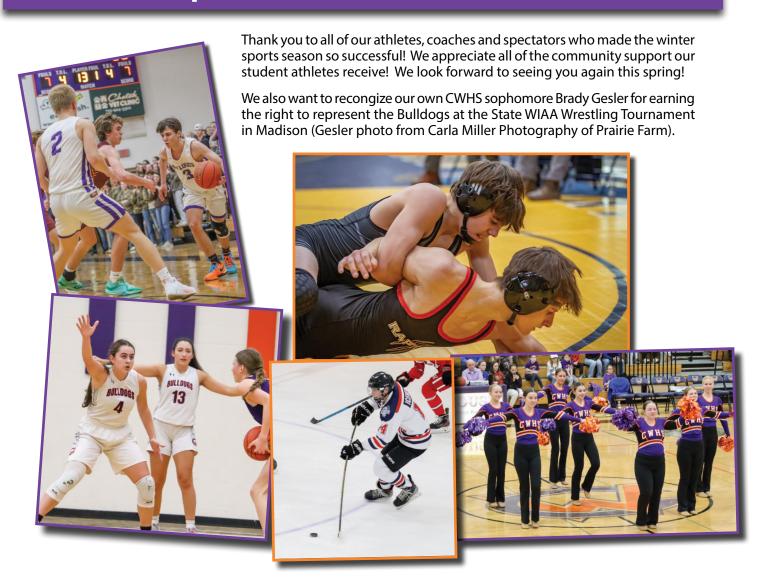
Skoug is the daughter of Eric and Kristen Skoug, of Chetek. She currently works at Hope & Anchor Coffeehouse. While in high school, Skoug has been involved with the National Honor Society (community service director), Student Council, Junior Achievement, Freshmen Mentors, Yearbook, Softball and Volleyball. Her plan is to attend a four-year university this fall to major in Biomedical Sciences, with the intent of pursuing a career in pediatrics while in graduate school.

Commencement ceremonies for the CWHS Class of 2023 will take place Saturday, May 25 at 1 p.m.



Cooper Antczak Jennie Skoug Joseph Kutrieb Brennan Lentz Kaylee Haas

## **Winter Sports Season Showcases Athletes**



## **CWHS CC Team Awarded Adacemic Honors**

Here's a shout-out to our CWHS Cross Country Team!! Not only did they run in the WIAA State Meet last fall, but they were also recently awarded the "Academic All-State" Award for having a team GPA of 3.92. What an accomplishment!!





# **CWHS Awards Owen Knutson Heart of the Bulldog**

We want to recognize the best of the best in our Bulldog athletes as we announce the Winter 2024 recipients of the Owen Knutson Heart of the Bulldog Award.

This honor recognizes those athletes who exemplify what it means to have the heart, character and work ethic of a Bulldog. It was awarded in front of the home crowd Friday during the Girl's Basketball Game with help from the Knutson Family.

Congratulations to this season's recipients: Zoe Nelson (Girls Basketball), Benson Paulson (Boys Basketball), Layden Ludwigson (Wrestling), and Jorja Bradley (Dance).

Well done, all. Thank you for modeling what it means to have the Heart of the Bulldog!! Congratulations





# **CWHS FBLA Members Headed to State**

Congrats to the CWHS FBLA Chapter! Thirteen CW students recently competed in the FBLA Regional Conference in Chippewa Falls; of those students, 12 received first place. The students who placed first are: Emma Haselhuhn, Jorja Bradley, Marisa Howes, Brennan Lentz, Christian Jorstad, Wylee Huset, Peter Wise, Anders Olson, Cooper Antczak, Conner Hanson, Bryce Killoren, and Nathan Skoug. They will compete at the state level in Green Bay April 8th and 9th.



# **SkillsUSA Students Compete at Stout**



Here's a shout-out to the CWHS SkillsUSA members who competed at the UW-Stout Regional Competition in February. Students who received medals included: Silver in Medical Terminology to Haddie Miley; Silver to Sage Roose in Photography; Silver to Kyler LaRue in Power Equipment Technology; and Bronze to Cedar Langer in Welding. Congratulations to all competitors

# Winter Carnival - A Look Back



#### **CWHS Selects Newest NHS Members**

Congratulations to the newest members of the CWHS Chapter of the National Honor Society. Twenty new students were inducted March 1 during a special ceremony for family and friends. The new inductees join the current members who will work throughout the year on modeling the NHS virtues of character, scholarship leadership and service. Well done, all! These students represent the best of the best at CWHS, and we are proud of all the work you have done and continue to do!



New members are: Alexandra Amys, Jorja Bradley, Alana Fedie, Ocean Grinder, Gabbriella Guthman, Jerica Haas, Owen Hamholm, Brock Hamilton, Conner Hanson, Maria Hanson, Marisa Howes, Ali Jenson, Bryce Killoren, Brielle Kowalski, Brady Lentz, Emma Marek, Haddie Miley, Nathan Skoug, Taya Whittenberger and Peter Wise.

Senior NHS members include: Cooper Antczak, Elliana Bayer, Wren Candler, Alexis Clark, Emily Collins, Ethan Engel, Jayce Fiore, Kaylee Haas, Emma Haselhuhn, Lauren Hayes, Sawyer Henry, Christian Jorstad, Joseph Kutrieb, Brennan Lentz, Madelyn Martin, Zoe Mikl-Young, Jacob Moen, Anastasia Mujwid, Zoe Nelson, Reese Ridout, Sage Roose, Thor Sather, Jennie Skoug and Hannah Solie.

Well done, all. Congratulations!!

#### **CW Hosting German Exchange Student** (from front)

past summer, she returned with Laura as a new member of their family.

Laura acclimated to her new surroundings fairly quickly. There is a pretty significant difference, however, between the two education systems. With that in mind, she did have one major goal while in the United States: have the stereotypical, cliché American high school experience.

"That was important to me," admits von Tronchin. "I wanted to go to prom. I wanted to have a locker. We don't have those things in Germany. No football. No homecoming, electives or sports. We literally just have classes."

So Laura dove right into that high school experience. She joined the cross country team with her host sister Zoe. She also joined the drama club, working backstage during their fall production of "Little Women." This winter she performed with the CWHS Dance Team and is considering joining track in the spring. What is she most looking forward to, however?

"Obviously prom," von Tronchin says with a smile. "I've been excited about that since December. I can't wait to go prom dress shopping!" Personally, Laura has even started the process of getting her driver's license—a right of passage for every American teenager—but a process which she says is a bit more complicated in Germany. She hopes to have her formal license in April.

It's not as if the Wisconsin Heritage and German Heritage aren't linked. There are definitely historical and cultural connections between the two regions. However, when asked what surprised her the most about her time so far in the United States, Laura noted a couple of differences:

"When grocery shopping, the shelves are stacked super high," she explains. "In Germany they are not. You can see people in the other aisles. And the flavor variety, especially Oreos, is shocking!"

Von Tronchin noted that she was also surprised by the displays of patriotism in the United States—things like saying the Pledge of Allegiance each day before school, Old Glory on regular display, the singing of the National Anthem before sporting events. This was something she hadn't seen in other countries.

Although she misses her family in Germany, Laura has enjoyed having the Nelson-Esterby family by her side.

"They are super nice, open and very supportive," said von Tronchin. "They've encouraged me to do a variety of things. We've even gone and watched some musicals together. I love that they include me in everything they do."

Laura will spend the remainder of the school year in Wisconsin, returning home in July. She is looking forward to rounding out her time in the United States by experiencing the Fourth of July and Independence Day (and of course Liberty Fest), noting that Germany really doesn't have an equivalent celebration. When she returns to Germany, Laura will have three more years of schooling. Her year abroad won't technically count towards her graduation credits and Germany has 13 grade levels instead of 12. While she admits she is a little sad that, academically, the school year may be a wash, she relishes the time she has spent here and has no regrets about studying in the United States.

"I want to go home, but I don't want to go home," says Laura. "I want to see my family and I do miss a more familiar environment, but it's very cool here. I'd love to graduate here, but I can't. I've built more confidence, I guess. It's not like I didn't have help, but I've met new people, learned to navigate classes on my own. Now I have friends here, a second family and a second home."

#### **Dance Team Has Busy Winter**

As part of the Lady Dawg's basketball game versus Cameron in January, the CWHS Dance Team raised money for the Light the Way Fundraiser - a travel expense fundraiser for the family of local fallen officers Emily Breidenbach and Hunter Scheel.

Members of the Chetek and Cameron Police Departments and the officers' families joined us to accept the donation. Between the dance

team's donation, the bean bag toss and the donation box at the game, the evening raised more than \$600 for the cause!

In February, it was exciting to see some CWMS dancers on the court with the CWHS Dance Team!! Over the past week, the high school group taught their middle school friends a dance routine which culminated with a performance at halftime last night during the girls' game against Hayward.

Great job!!!



#### **CWMS Musicians Perform at Solo Ensemble**

Dozens of CWMS student musicians participated in the WSMA Solo and Ensemble Festival in January in Cumberland. These young singers and instrumentalists supported each other and listened to feedback from judges in the hopes of improving their musicality. It was a day of music, friends, and reflection. A special congrats to Madysen Fraser, Steven Kangas, and Jordan Reynolds who received honors as "Best in Site" for their vocal solos amongst nine schools and hundreds of performances.

**Kudos all, and BRAVO!!** 





## **HS/MS Band Members Combine for Pep Music**

CWMS band students joined their CWHS counterparts in February as both "banded" together for some pep music to rev up the crowd before the Lady Dawgs varsity basketball game versus Hayward. It's awesome to see HS and MS students working together for some great music! Their efforts always bring a fun atmosphere to the games! Kudos!!





## **Gingerbread House Ads in MS English**

If you could write and design an ad for a gingerbread house, what do you think you'd say? CWMS seventh-graders in Mrs. Lindberg's English class did just that in January, designing their own make-shift gingerbread houses, ads, and write-ups outlining their house. To end the project, they each put together their own gingerbread house kits today, full of frosting, cookies and candy!

Do you think they ate them when all was said and done?



#### **CWMS Students Bring Warmth to Meadowbrook**



CWMS students were able to help bring a little joy to residents of Meadowbrook recently as they created some mini yarn hats as a little gift/decoration. Calhoun Memorial Library Director Emily Resendiz was looking to organize a gift for Meadowbrook residents and recalled that her daughter had brought home these adorable mini yarn hats while working with Mrs. Sara Lorenz in art at CWMS last year. Emily contacted Mrs. Lorenz, who then enlisted any and all middle school students she could to help create them. Several students even took yarn home, much of it donated by CW's own Megan Nelson, to make even more.

Thank you to all involved for the love and work put into these hats. We're very excited to bring a little extra joy to Meadowbrook residents. What a sweet gesture!

## **4K Screening For Newest Bulldogs Set**

Calling all future Bulldogs!!! The Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Area School District will screen and register 4-year-old kindergarten students for the 2024-25 school year one day only, Friday, April 5, at Roselawn Elementary School. This program is open to all children who will be four years old on or before September 1, 2024. Kindergarten (K5) screening will be conducted on that date as well, for children who have not attended a K4 program.

The registration and screening will require approximately one hour for parent and child. The screening includes vision, communication, and social development. Parents will also have a chance to meet with Scott Kowalski, Elementary School Principal. Chelsi Jenness, School Counselor, will be on hand to assist families with any registration or enrollment questions.

Registration and screening is by appointment only. Parents can call Kathy Kutrieb at 715-924-2244 ext. 2180 to schedule their child's appointment.



## 100 Days of School, or 100 Days of Cool!?

On Feb. 6, Roselawn students celebrated 100 days of school!!! Kindergarteners, in particular, were having fun with numbers to mark the occasion. There were 100 dots being colored, 100 stickers being stuck, and 100 snacks being eaten. Other classrooms celebrated, too...maybe even counting down with 100 jumping jacks!!

Can you believe we're 100 days into the school year!?







# **Roselawn Students Celebrate Valentine's Lunch**

Roses set in vases, candles, staff checking for reservations, Italian food--sounds like the perfect Valentine's Day! Roselawn students had the full fine-dining experience at lunch on Feb. 14 in celebration of the grand holiday! Many students even put on their best dresses and ties to formalize the occasion! What fun!!



#### Roselawn Celebrates Writing with Author's Day!

Local published author Stephenie Poeschel visited Roselawn on Feb. 23 to read from her series of books and answer questions from students. She discussed what it is like to be an author and talked about the character in her books, Tilly. Stephanie even revealed some secrets about where Tilly's adventures might be taking her next!!!



### **Read Across America Day at Roselawn**

It was Read Across America Day March 5--or as it's also known, Dr. Seuss' Birthday! Some Roselawn students spent part of the morning celebrating by listening to community and staff members read some of their favorite stories! It's never to early to inspire a love of reading!!

Did you have a favorite Dr. Seuss story or just a favorite book growing up?



# **Chetek Businesses Donate Funds for Books**

Thank you to the retailers of the Chetek business organization "Chetek Us Out." Several of the businesses banded together to collect donations that will help fund individual books for each Roselawn student. These funds were collected and donated in memory of the late Chetek Police Officer Emily Breidenbach, and a sticker in her memory will be placed in each book the students receive.

What a great way to honor Officer Breidenbach's memory!! Thank you!!



#### **Obstacle Course Week at Roselawn**

March 4 began Obstacle Course Week at Roselawn Elementary! Phy. Ed. students got to bob, weave, pull, jump, tumble, crawl, swing, swivel and bounce their way through the gym as they tackled a makeshift obstacle course set up in they gym! Here are a few pictures of the fourth-grade class enjoying their turn!





## **Annual Variety Show Brings Scholarships to Students**

Mark your calendars! Set a Reminder! Sound the Alarm!! The 28th Annual Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Variety Show is back! The highly-anticipated show will be presented Friday, March 22, on the stage of the CW Middle School gym at 7 p.m. This year's show will feature CW student and staff performers with an age range of 55 years between the youngest and oldest performer! The stage will host a diverse selection of acts including classic and original music, storytelling and comedy along with upbeat numbers of singing and dancing. Every year offers the audience new highlights!

Off-stage there will be a silent auction to bid on items over the course of the show. Items will be sold to the highest bidders at the end of the night. There will also be a table of "baskets" or items that appeal to kids or young families. Raffle tickets will be purchased for these items, and kids can put tickets into buckets for the items they most hope to win.

This show begins at 7 p.m., with doors opening at 6 p.m., so all patrons may have a chance to browse the auction items, grab a snack from the concessions area and select a seat for the entertainment. Admission prices are \$5 for adults, \$2 students and \$15 for a household family ticket.



Proceeds from admission, silent auction, and concessions will all become part of a scholarship fund that benefits students of the Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Area School District.

#### Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Area School District

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#### **KEEP IN MIND**

• Our Facebook page is a great way to stay informed throughout the school year!

Check it out—https://www.facebook.com/chetek.weyerhaeuser.bulldogs/

• Student lunch menus and other district information can be found on our website: www.cwasd.k12.wi.us



#### **Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Area School District**





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March 8	End of Trimester 2
March 11-15	Spring Break - No School
March 18	Begin Trimester 3
March 29	No School for Students or Staff
April 1	No School for Students or Staff
May 3	No School for Students or Staff
May 27	Memorial Day - No School
June 5	End of Trimester 3/Last Day of School
June 6	Staff Professional Development

\*HS/MS Parent Teacher Conferences: April 15

\*CWHS 2024 Graduation: Saturday, May 25 at 1 p.m.

June 2024							
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