

The Southridge Gazette

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Pictured above, the Southridge band performing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" on stage with the choir singing along from the audience.

Band and Choir Perform Christmas Concert

By Kaitelyn Baker & Jill Keusch

On Sunday, December 13th, the Southridge band and choir performed a few selections for their Christmas concert. First, the audience was warmed up by the elementary school choir directed

by Kim Wirthwein. Next, the high school choir took the stage and gave a spectacular performance, directed by Mr. Kendall. The choirs had practiced for weeks to get to the point where they were ready to perform, and at the performance the choir gave it their all and sang to their hearts' content.

They were followed by the band—the final act. The band made

their entrance by first playing chaotic music, which was then stifled when the drummers on stage began to play their military-like rhythm. The rest of the band began to march onto stage, moving in a toy-soldier-like fashion. After the drum introduction, the band played their first selection from their successful marching band show, The Toymaker's Curse.

Featured articles

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The first half of the band performance included marching band selections to highlight the previous marching career that took the band to state finals. Meanwhile, the band's color guard danced in the long aisle in the middle of the auditorium, waving their silk flags to the music. Since the performance was indoors, the audience was surprised when Colorguard tossed their flags during their repertoire.

Following the marching section, the band played more traditional Christmas songs, including "Jingle Bells", for the second half of their performance. Between each selection, Southridge Band director Mr. Butler told the audience about each piece before the band played.

To conclude the Christmas concert, the choir came out once more, lining the halls of the auditorium to sing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" along with the band. It took a lot of hard work, dedication, and weeks of practice for the band and choir to prepare for their Christmas performance. However, for everyone involved, including both students and audience members, it was a fun and worthwhile experience.

Nikolas Cummins on 91.7 the Curve

By Jill Keusch, Sophomore



Nik Cummins, pictured above at the broadcasting studio for 91.7 the Curve

There are plenty of opportunities for students to job shadow career paths at Southridge. For one of these programs, students are taken to Jasper to participate in running and broadcasting 91.7 the Curve. Nikolas Cummins, Junior, is a part of this program, and every day he goes to Jasper High

School for the first few periods of the day to learn by working at a radio station. For years Nik had an interest in the career pathway of radio and broadcasting. From learning of the opportunity of an off-campus program to work on 91.7 the Curve, he took the class to follow his passion. Through the program Nik gets to learn the ropes of the program, such as visuals, audio, and interviews for the radio station. He is able to learn to stay on top of the tasks and difficulties for the program.

"It gives me a connection to the community— it gives

me a voice," Nik said, describing the benefits of the program. He says that he now has a connection and a voice in his community that he never had before, which is an added bonus on top of the valuable skills he has gained from working at the radio station. He also suggests if someone is interested in radio and broadcasting, or even in film, this program is a good stepping stone to get where they would like to be.

If a student has interest in any off-campus programs they should talk to their counselor for more information.

SWDCS Administrators Move into New Central Office

By Brayden Reimann, Editor



Pictured above, the conference room in the new central office.

Located centrally in town and just down the road from League Stadium, Maple Park Elementary School opened in Huntingburg, IN in 1954. Over the course of its operation until its eventual closure in 1999, the school educated thousands of children in grades 3-5 and contributed to the growth of the community and the prosperity of the city of Huntingburg. In the fall of '99, students began classes in the newly constructed Huntingburg Elementary School on Sunset Drive, which was a consolidation of both Maple Park and Crestview Elementary School.

In the following year, the Maple Park building found a new purpose; on February 18th, the administration moved into the school. What had previously been the entrance and front office became the new central office, the gym later became Maple Park Gym, and the rest of the building was used for storage.

However, as time passed, the building aged. In 2015, due to structural deterioration and lack of necessity, a significant portion of the building was

Featured articles

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demolished, leaving only the central office and gym remaining.

The deterioration continued, and by late 2017 and early 2018, the maintenance list was long: the building needed roof repairs, foundation work, and a new HVAC system, among other issues.

Renovations for the old building were quoted between \$1-1.5 million dollars. Even with the renovations, however, the building would still remain in its outdated state. With this consideration in mind, constructing a new building became more likely. "We had to make a decision: do we put money into a sixty-year-old building at Maple Park, or do we look at other options?" says LaGrange. When Streicher Construction returned to them with a quote of \$1.4 million for construction of a new building, the decision was not difficult to make, he says.

"It was sixty years old, and it had so many issues. After we got the report from the engineer, [we asked] okay, do we want to put \$1 million into this building and have exactly what we have right now, or do we want to spend \$400-500 thousand more to have a brand new building?" With that logic, the school board voted to construct.

To acquire the land for the new central office, which had belonged to the city, the corporation engaged in a land swap, in which the city received the Maple park property and the corporation received a plot of land adjoining the main campus. The city then paid the corporation the difference in appraisal value. Now, the school corporation only has one remaining task; to demolish the Maple Park building, which goes out for bid next month.

After working at Maple Park for over twenty years, on November 30th, 2022, the administrators moved into their new central office, now located at the northeast corner of the Southridge campus. As I was touring the building with Tim LaGrange this past Friday, the advantages of the new office became immediately apparent. The building, which is constructed of brick, is modern, spacious, and has a location far better than the prior.

The first thing that one notices when walking through the building is how the many windows frame the Southridge campus. From both the conference room and LaGrange's office, an outline of the Middle and High school buildings are clearly visible.

To LaGrange, this makes a powerful statement. "It's a constant reminder of why we do what we do." He also noted the practical benefits of having the central

office directly on campus, saying, "I feel more connected to the Southridge campus and Huntingburg Elementary. I feel like people can get to us easier... the admin team likes to be connected to us and likes the proximity."

On the newfound proximity to the administration, Mr. Gogel, who commutes to the office one to two times a week, appreciates having the ability to walk to the office rather than driving.

However, not only is the location of the building more convenient, but it's also a much nicer space. The conference room is spacious and comfortable, with a kitchenette in the corner, modern tables and chairs provided by OFS, and a massive projector screen in the front for displaying presentations. Mr. LaGrange's office was both functional and comfortable. The walls were decorated with large dry-erase whiteboard calendars, and a smartboard; natural light floods into the room from the many windows, and the long, wooden conference table with stylish fabric office chairs makes the room a perfect place for discussion and collaboration.

The completion of the new central office marks another big project off of the corporation's list. Now that the central office, access road and new soccer fields have been completed, the new athletic facility nears completion, and the auditorium is about to undergo renovation, it is clear that a lot has been accomplished in recent years. Although they have a lot to be proud of, LaGrange notes that the administration still has some work. "The middle school is the next renovation project, right?" he told me. "It needs some love soon. And not only do we need to renovate the middle school, but we are running out of space at Huntingburg Elementary. We have some big decisions to make, and we're gathering all of our data so we can make the best decisions."

While other local school districts have had to downsize and consolidate in recent years, it's encouraging to see our community growing and facilities expanding to meet that demand. Just like with the opening of Maple Park Elementary in 1954, the opening of Southridge High School in 1972, the renovation of the high school years later, and the various other projects that our corporation has completed over the years, the construction of the new central office building makes one thing clear: SWDCS is still growing and shows no signs of stopping.

Featured Articles

Southridge Business Professionals of America

By Ella Thompson, Junior



SHS BPA members at their recent event.

Each year in December, the Southridge High School BPA club travels to Ivy Tech Community College in Evansville to compete at the Regional Leadership Conference (RLC). Members of the club compete in a variety of events, and they have the chance to advance to State (SLC) in Indianapolis and Nationals (NLC) in Anaheim, California. Southridge's BPA club has doubled in size this year. The club had success at RLC with the following members advancing to state:

Evan McClain (7th in Fundamental Word, 2nd in Video Production), Maggie Rasche (3rd in Prepared Speech, Website Design not yet scored), Millie Hunter (4th in Fundamental Word), Mick Uebelhor (5th in Fundamental Spreadsheet), Elizabeth Mehinger (2nd in Fundamental Word), Kelsey Wibbeler (2nd in Intermediate Word, 2nd in Video Production), Payton Nichter (1st in Broadcast, 2nd in Banking and Finance), Marie Tempel (3rd in Advanced Word), Reece Tretter (2nd in Advanced Word, 1st in Basic Office Systems and Procedures), Ashlie Harter (2nd in Video Production, Cisco), Kameron Speed (8th in Fundamental of Spreadsheet, 5th in Fundamental Word), Ella Thompson (4th in Payroll Accounting, Podcast not scored yet), Connie Owens (3rd in Intermediate Word, Podcast not yet scored), Maddux Marshall (Podcast not yet scored), Colton Obermeier (Device Configuration, Website Design not yet scored), Gabe Boeglin (1st in Fundamental Word), Ava Rasche (1st in Broadcast), Emma Ferguson (1st Broadcast, Cisco), Noah Humbert (Python Programming not yet scored), Mackenzie Tobin (1st in Broadcast, 3rd in Digital Media Production), Carson Bromm (4th in Advanced Word, 4th in Fundamental Spreadsheet), Gage Werner (3rd in Fundamental Word, Website

Design not yet scored), Anna Hochgesang (Podcast not yet scored), Brice King (4th in Intermediate Word, Website Design not yet scored), Crew Gerber (7th in Fundamental Accounting), Clair Leathers (2nd in Video Production), and Emersyn Petry (7th in Intermediate Word).

The BPA club is excited about the upcoming events and very proud of their members that have advanced.

Emergent Bilinguals Program

By Brayden Reimann, Editor



Pictured above, Claudia Tacscon-Pena instructing students in the program.

This past week, I had the opportunity to attend the Emergent Bilinguals program, which is designed to help students in the middle and high school learn English skills while developing their home language. The program was started last year and is organized by Rossina Sandoval, who is the director of community engagement for SWDCS, and bilingual social counselor Claudia Tascon-Pena.

From 3:15 pm to 5:00 pm every Thursday, roughly ten to twelve students attend the sessions and practice a wide range of English skills using a variety of fun activities. These include analyzing short stories and comic strips, talking about geography, and writing new stories. Activities like these, which are also used to teach Spanish in the high school, are used to help students engage with the target language in a comfortable and supportive environment.

The session that I observed, which was taught by Claudia, began with verb conjugation practice in the past and present tense. Many of the students, most of whom were recommended for the program after receiving low scores on English proficiency testing, experienced difficulty in forming simple sentences. Initially, Claudia had to press students to respond to her questions.

Featured articles

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However, as the lesson continued, the students began to warm up and started having fun as Claudia encouraged them to come up with their own, unique sentences. She then stepped away from her laptop and allowed the students to take over the lesson and fill out the conjugation chart. The change in tone was immediate, and the students were suddenly eager to conjugate the verbs and come up with funny sentences.

Next, Claudia led the class in creating a story. They began with a simple sentence and gradually made it more complex, adding details piece by piece. The story, which was about traveling in a car, taking a photo, and seeing a dead body, could only be described by Claudia as “¡terrible pero bueno!” as she gave a small chuckle and shook her head in disagreement.

“I like the fact they get excited,” says Claudia. Creating that story, although morbid, was a fantastic exercise for the students because everyone was engaged, including myself. Multiple students were eager to come up with the next sentence, a few of them followed with laughter. And throughout the exercise, Claudia made sure to take time to correct and explain the grammar in their sentences.

Claudia emphasized that it is important for these students to learn English to become integrated in society, the community, and everyday life, saying “No one is forced to be here, but it is necessary because they’re going to be able to learn and see that other people are going through the same issues that they’re going through.”

She continued, “For example, some of them have been able to come to us if they have any other issues or they have family issues... it’s good to be able to earn that trust with the kids.”

Learning English as a second language is a difficult process, and can be discouraging for students who struggle to grasp the language. This can have a ripple effect and can inhibit the students’ ability to learn other subjects because they can’t understand what is being taught in English. As a result, these students can fall behind and become discouraged.

Which is why it is so important for students to have access to these programs and to community role models like Rossina and Claudia. “I want them to understand that there are other people like me, but we’ve been able to push through, learn the language, and become educated... I want them to do that, so when we have little ones coming through, they can say

DID YOU KNOW? TEACHER TRIVIA!



Mr. Gogel

- Took three acting classes in college
- Is married and has two kids, both boys
- Was a head basketball coach and a football coach at one point in his career

we did this... It’s a positive cycle—we want them to be role models for the little ones.”

In addition to the Emerging Bilinguals program, they also host a program for girls of color called Voices in Action (VEA). Furthermore, next month, they will start with after-tutoring, which will be offered in Spanish for the first time. This is important for many students, Claudia says, “They make bad grades because they don’t understand it. Then the tutoring is in English, so you keep running into the same wall.” The tutoring in Spanish will be available every Monday from 3:15 pm to 5:00 pm, with bus transportation provided to all students.

It is inspiring to see the passion that Claudia and Rossina bring to our schools and the resources that SWDCS is investing in to help support the latino community. After attending the Emergent Bilinguals program this past Thursday and watching the students learn, one thing is certain: these programs are helping.

SHS Homecoming 2023

From Mrs. Allen, Teacher



Featured Articles

The Gift of Music

By Izzy Leibering, Freshman

December is the month of giving. People buy gifts for loved ones during the holidays. Toys and trinkets are not the only gifts that can be given though. Every year, the choir gives a different type of gift—the gift of music. This contribution to the community comes in the form of caroling.

Every year, a group of students from the school's concert choir volunteer to carol for different clubs and organizations. The group sings the songs they sang for their Christmas concert as well as some classic Christmas carols such as "Deck the Halls" and "We Wish you a Merry Christmas".

This year, the carolers sang for the Women's Study Group and the Optimist's Club. In addition, the whole concert choir sang at an event for retired teachers and at OFS. The members of the small caroling group see many different reasons why they do this. Choir member Penelope Roy says, "We go out and sing for groups in the community to spread Christmas cheer." This seems to be the consensus. "It is also a way to teach us more about the tradition of caroling," Kaylyn Peters offered, as the activity that was once seen as common has all but died out.

Often, these organizations will offer monetary donations or other ways of support. Senior alto singer Ellie Bowman says "The community helps us by either donations and also just word of mouth. It helps promote our music programs like the multiple choirs, band, musicals, and plays we have here at Southridge. The music program gets no funding from the school so we heavily rely on donations."

"The music program gets no funding from the school so we heavily rely on donations"

—Ellie Bowman

Many of the carollers agree that support like this helps keep the music program alive, as funding will make it easier to accommodate students, as well as build bonds between them. "The Arts program creates an accepting community that teaches creativity among other things," says Ruthie Sherer.

Music can be incredibly unifying, and caroling is no exception. Music brings many of the students of Southridge High School together through both the band and the choir. The carolers share this togetherness with the rest of the community. According to Arrington Hartke, "Showing our community the love for music that is present around

our school is very important."

The gift of music is not one to be taken lightly in the school or the community. Singing a few songs can go a long way toward spreading holiday cheer. Next December, if you're lucky enough to find carolers, stop and listen. You may find that you enjoy the music more than you thought.

A Message from the Editor

From Brayden Reimann, Editor

To everyone that has been reading The Southridge Gazette, thank you. The team is incredibly grateful for the support from the student body, the administration, and the community for our paper.

I believe that our school newspaper is incredibly important; it helps bridge communication between the school and the community, gives a voice to the students, and provides quality local journalism in a world where our attention is shifting toward meaningless content on social media.

However, to continue into 2023 and beyond, our newspaper club needs more members. Not just to write, but to help contribute to all aspects of making the paper. Are you interested in graphic design? We can use someone to help design the paper. Like photography and socializing at football and basketball games (and getting your ticket paid for)? We can use a sports reporter.

In our club, we give our members the freedom to choose exactly what they want to do—nobody is forced to meet a writing requirement or to attend an event.

If you're interested, there are so many opportunities to help with our club. Not only is it fun, but working on The Southridge Gazette is an excellent credential to add to your resume or college application.

To join, or for more information, find me or Mrs. Rauscher in the school hallways or email us.

**What are you
waiting for?**

Join the newspaper club today.

Special Features & Highlights

December Birthdays

From Brayden Reimann, Editor, & Kaitelyn Baker, Freshman

Freshmen

Micah Coogle - 12/2	Xiomara Flores - 12/28
Jaslyn Soto - 12/3	Stephany Galdamez - 12/28
Maryurit Morales - 12/4	Adam Reisz - 12/28
Alexandra Hohler - 12/11	Chase Bowman - 12/28
Guadalupe Dubon - 12/2	Zackary Hillenbrand - 12/21
Zackery Russel - 12/13	
Angel Dubon - 12/15	
Eliza Street - 12/15	
Keaton Ellerbusch - 12/17	
Jackelin Dubon - 12/24	

Sophomores

James Bower - 12/1
Brandon Majia - 12/8
Colton Obermeier - 12/12
Mallory Tooley - 12/18
Jocelyn Marin Dubon - 12/19
Claudia Bruton - 12/21
Noah Humbert - 12/26
Jackson Bishop - 12/28
Tate Whitehead - 12/28
Cohen King - 12/30

Juniors

Jocelyn Hernandez - 12/16	Paige Kemp - 12/19
Isela Rosales Rivas - 12/3	Kelly Evans - 12/24
Kylie Merkel - 12/7	Kamren Neukam - 12/28
Hannah Phillips - 12/7	Blake Stetter - 12/20
Tyson Blackgrove - 12/10	Natalia Duron - 12/21
Alona Bureau - 12/11	Maci Songer - 12/26
Aeiona Anderson - 12/16	Alan Flores - 12/31
Lezlie Carter - 12/16	Ruthie Sherer - 12/31
Jared Voegerl - 12/17	
Jayden Williams - 12/17	

Seniors

Dakota Leckie - 12/3
Anthony Alders Alanis - 12/14
Ireneo Mendoza - 12/10
Brenna Brosmer - 12/28
Ashlee Wahl - 12/28
Emilio Flores - 12/29
Caitlyn Frick - 12/30

DID YOU KNOW? TEACHER TRIVIA!



Mrs. Rauscher

- Has ran 7 ragnar relay races in the US
- Has taught Social Studies, Science, and Language Arts
- Is married and has two sons
- Has a labrador retriever, Suuny, who is training to be therapy certified

Featured Survey: Holiday Traditions

By Jill Keusch, Sophomore

Even though the majority of the Southridge community takes part in the celebration of Christmas, there are plenty of differences in how it's celebrated. With responses taken from a Winter Holiday Survey, students have

94

Percentage of students that say they enjoy the holiday spirit.

different holiday traditions. One surveyor shared that their family goes to Long John Silver's on Christmas Eve, and another says they open two gifts before Christmas Eve. A couple commented that their family has a white elephant Christmas, which is when they give silly gifts.

One thing that we can all rely on around this time of year is of course the holiday cheer and spirit. According to the survey, 94.9% of the students say they enjoy the holiday spirit. From having a family gathering to hiding a pickle ornament around the Christmas tree, we all have a variety of ways to enjoy this holiday. Happy Holidays Southridge!

April's Top 10 Songs

By April Saileau, Senior

1. **Anti-hero** by Taylor Swift
2. **Someday**
3. **All Day**
4. **Trust**
5. **Rewrite the Stars**
6. **Dear Future Husband**
7. **All I Want For Christmas is You**
8. **Cruisin' For A Bruisin'**
9. **Call Me Maybe**
10. **I'm Good (Blue)**

Additional Credits

Did You Know? Teacher Trivia—Jeremy "JR" Linn

To view this edition online or to see our past editions, go to the Southridge High School website and click "See all News" or scan the following QR code.

