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Henry-Senachwine High school

THE QUACKING QUARTERLY

THE TOP STORY

HOOPS FOR HOMES HELPS HOUSE FAMILIES

HSHS Gives Back donates over $7,000 to the Ronald McDonald House

By Taylor Rowe



Choosing Joy: *Carter Williams and Sam Nauman pose for a picture while wearing purple and Choose Joy. They participated in a dress up day to support Dravet Syndrome during HOPE Week. They both love to show their support for local charities. Carter said, “I love to support local causes like Choose Joy!”*

Henry-Senachwine High School ran its annual HOPE week fundraiser from December 8-12th. Students and staff raised $7,568.16 throughout the week for the Ronald McDonald House of Central Illinois. Hoops for Homes always raises money for this charity because it gives families a place to stay when they have a loved one in the hospital. HSHS Gives Back planned many different activities throughout the week to help raise this money. They organized a pop tab war, delay the class game, pie-in-the-face competitions, a bake sale, a t-shirt sale, and raffle baskets. The pop tab war is always an exciting event at HSHS. Sam explained the competition, saying, “the pop tabs are worth more than cans when recycling, so the Ronald McDonald House collects the pop tabs and turns them in for money.” HOPE Week is very important to many students at HSHS. Both Carter Williams, a senior in HSHS Gives Back, and Sam Nauman, a junior in HSHS Gives Back, agreed that it is a great cause to donate to. HSHS has been doing this fundraiser since 2019. Since then, they have donated over $40,000 to the Ronald McDonald House of Central Illinois. HSHS Gives Back was very happy with the outcome of this year’s HOPE week and Hoops for Homes game. They would like to extend a huge thank you to all who donated; it is great appreciated!

Santa Claus is Coming to Town

Red Stocking fills stockings for Henry children this Christmas

By Jordan Welch

HSHS's Student Council put on a Red Stocking fundraiser this November and December. Students competed in a paper chain war and a winter weather accessories and gift wrapping collection. The paper chain fundraiser was a week-long race where students could buy paper chains for 25 cents each. The class with the longest chain won the competition. All money raised went towards Red Stocking. In total, HSHS raised $2,181.70 and collected 134 hats, 66 pairs of gloves, 8 scarves, 87 bows, 40 rolls of wrapping paper, and 3 gift bags. Red Stocking is a charity that ensures all children in Henry wake up on Christmas morning with gifts under the tree. Families can apply for Red Stocking at any of the churches here in town. Lots of businesses have cards you can pick up that have a list of what each child wants/needs. Here at HSHS, the leader of the Student Council and head of the Red Stocking fundraiser is Mrs. Ewen. Student Council is all about helping the school and the community. "Red Stocking is only for the Henry community, so I am really grateful to be able to do something for them," said Mrs. Ewen. HSHS hopes that everyone stays safe and warm this winter. Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!



It's Tiiiiime: *Donated gifts are put together and packaged to drop off for Red Stocking. Red Stocking is a charity that helps make Christmas magical for all Henry children. Ms. Schoepke has been donating gifts to Red Stocking for the past four years. "It's one of my favorite traditions," she says.*

Mallards Take on the Night

HSHS hosts annual Meet the Mallards night

By Addi Holocker

Henry-Senachwine High School hosts a Meet the Mallards night where both girls' and boys' basketball teams scrimmage and the cheer team, dance team, mallard ensemble, and pep band perform in the gymnasium. This year, it was held on Friday, November 14th. The point of Meet the Mallards is to introduce all the winter sports and show school spirit and pride. Mr. Westerdahl is the head coach of the boys' varsity basketball team (assisted by Ashton Gray, Will Meachum, and Pierce Westerdahl) and has coached for 32 years. He always enjoys Meet the Mallards night because it gives him "a chance to see how the athletes perform in a game-like setting." It helps the coaching staff see who is prepared for the regular season



Poms, Baskets, and Fun: *Winter sports at HSHS are introduced at an annual Meet the Mallards night.*

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Mallards Take on the Night (continued)

schedule and if they need to tweak any plays or defense before the season starts. To prepare for Meet the Mallards, the coaches had to decide who was scrimmaging, split the teams evenly, and decide on team captains. All three seniors on the girls' basketball team were named Captain and Carson Rowe was named Captain of the boys' basketball team. Taylor Rowe captains the dance team and Alison Mitchell and Brooklynn Thompson Co-Captain cheer. Meet the Mallards was originally called Meet the Birds when the grade school also participated in the event , but the name was changed this year because it was just for the high school teams. Overall, the Mallards had a very fun night full of school spirit!

Let's Go Mallards

HSHS hosts a fall pep rally to pump up students

By Carly Hentchel

Henry-Senachwine High School held a fall school spirit pep rally on November 14th. HSHS planned this pep rally because a few students attended a Jostens Renaissance event and got a lot of fun ideas there that they wanted to bring back to Henry. They picked out the games from a list that the Jostens Renaissance group gave them. Some of the student favorites were guess the mallard, tug of war, a fruit by the foot eating contest, blindfolded dodgeball and dance battle, the pizza box battle, and guess the inflatable. Some students' parents even made a guest appearance as the inflatable animals! Originally, the pep rally was supposed to be a MAC assembly like last year, but Ms. Self wanted to have a day to recognize all students–not just athletes. Addison Holocker, a junior student that attended the pep rally, said, "it was really fun and there were cool games like the pizza box one or blind dodgeball." Overall, the Mallard Madness pep rally helped a lot to raise school spirit and get students pumped up for the rest of the school year. HSHS hopes to start a new tradition and have this pep rally every year!



School Spirit Stars: *Taylor Rowe and Carter Williams helped plan the Mallard Madness pep rally on November 14th. A group of students attended the Jostens Renaissance conference where they got lots of ideas from other schools that they wanted to bring back to HSHS. Carter said, "It was a super fun experience and I hope HSHS can do it again."*

Honorable Mentions

HSHS celebrates Veteran's Day with an annual assembly at HSGS

By Adam Stanmar

On November 11th, a district-wide Veteran's Day assembly was held at Henry-Senachwine Grade/Junior High School to honor veterans in the community. All grade school and high school teachers and students, as well as the veterans themselves, attended. The Intro to Family and Consumer Sciences class served breakfast to the veterans before the assembly started. All attendees were then welcomed into the assembly room by boy scouts and girl scouts. Brooklynn Thompson led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance and the district choir proceeded to sing "Blades of Grass and Pure White Stones." In addition, the mallard ensemble performed the national anthem and the district choir sang "God Bless the U.S.A." Afterwards, students in each grade showed their appreciation to the veterans through various songs, poems, and letters. Each veteran was then individually recognized while the district band played the anthem of the military branch in which they served. The assembly was concluded with a rendition of "America." Although the school district has held many Veteran's Day assemblies over the years, its importance continues to persist. There are many people who contributed to the event that have a veteran in their family. Even attendees who don't know any veterans personally view the day with respect.

"They have done so much and left their families to help people in our country. They are very brave and their bravery should be celebrated," said Taylor Rowe, a member of the district choir who sang at the assembly. The veterans have truly shaped the lives of many. May their service be remembered!



You May be Seated: *Community veterans were led to their seats by boy scouts and girl scouts at the beginning of the assembly as an act of respect.*

SMART START TO THE SEASON

Scholastic bowl is looking forward to the future

By Lennon Crawley

The Henry-Senachwine scholastic bowl team is looking forward to their season! They plan on continuing their success from the Blue Ridge Tournament, where they won 1st place with a 6-1 win-loss ratio. This was a great start to the season and a great start for the team's new coach, Ms. Damerell. “The season is starting very well! I am incredibly impressed by the team’s ability. We placed 1st in our first varsity tournament of the season and I am beyond excited to see what the rest of the season will bring,” said Ms. Damerell. Waylon Lindstrom, Captain of the varsity team, said that he is motivated by the idea of beating his personal record. The scholastic bowl team plans to keep their momentum rolling into their next tournament at Roanoke-Benson High School on December 13th. In fact, it seems like a lot of the team is looking forward to facing Roanoke-Benson, as they stated that it’s their favorite team to play against due to the rivalry between our schools. Let’s give the best wishes to the scholastic bowl team for their 25-26 season!



Bookworms: *Part of the 2025-2026 scholastic bowl team poses for a photo in their jerseys. Scholastic Bowl has a new coach this year, Ms. Damerell. The varsity team is “looking forward to the conference!”*

New season, new team:

Learn all about the Lady Mallard basketball team

By Preston Hovis

The 2025-2026 Henry-Senachwine High School girls’ basketball team will be one to remember! The season started on November 3, 2025. Since then, they have worked on dribbling under pressure, offensive spacing, and timing defensive schemes during practices and in games. The rest of the season, they will continue to work on basketball IQ and fundamentals. Mr. Schlosser is the head coach and he is assisted by Griffin Self, Ashley Fallon, and Nikki Wealer. The captains for the team are Brooklynn Thompson, Harper Schrock, and Rachel Eckert. This year’s season is different than last year’s because there are a lot of new JV players. Mr. Schlosser said the reason he coaches basketball is because he always enjoyed basketball when he played here at HSHS. “My old coach helped me get into coaching after graduation. I enjoy watching the players develop,” he added. Students and staff can support the team is by going to home games or watching them on HUDL. Go Lady Mallards!



Dressing Drippy: *Pictured is an HSHS basketball jersey. It is the home jersey the Lady Mallards wear during games at The Nest.*

5, 6, 7, 8

The HSHS dance team is excited to perform this winter

By Taylor Frawley

The 2025-2026 Henry-Senachwine High School dance team performs at the boys' home basketball games during the winter sports season. They perform at half time between the JV and varsity games. The team is looking forward to performing many new dances and styles this year. They are bringing back a few dances from last year including "Womanizer" by Britney Spears and "It's All Coming Back To Me" by Celine Dion. They are already working on new dances and practicing hard to perfect them and make them fun to watch. The team is coached by Math teacher, Ms. Crook, who has been coaching dance for 10 years. Ms. Crook gave a little hint about their upcoming performances, mentioning, "a little *K-Pop Demon Hunters* will never hurt anyone." The Co-Captains this year are senior Taylor Rowe and junior Danika Maddex. When asked how she is going to make this season memorable, Taylor Rowe answered, "I want to have as much fun as possible, not stress out, and have a good time with my teammates." The dance team is excited to perform great dances and have fun this season. Come out to a basketball game and watch them perform!



Dancing Divas: *Taylor Rowe and Ms. Crook pose to represent the HSHS dance team. The dance team performed during the most recent home boys' basketball game. They work hard to perform great dances for everyone during halftimes. Taylor said, "I'm excited to bond with my teammates this year."*

DUNKING DUCKS

HSHS boys' basketball team starts their season

By Noel Tobar

The HSHS boys' basketball team has started their season. There are three teams this year: freshmen, JV, and varsity. The varsity team is coached by Mr. Westerdahl and the JV and freshmen teams are coached by Will Meachum. The players have been working on game planning for LaMoille and practicing basketball fundamentals. Since last year, they have gained some experience and understand how to win. Coach Westerdahl has a lot of expectations for the team this year. He looked for players who have a good shooting form, good dribbling, and lots of perseverance. Mr. Westerdahl has coached basketball for 32 years across many teams. He loves "the competitiveness and working with high schoolers to help them become a better basketball player and a better person," he said. Students and staff can support the boys' basketball team by coming to their home games and filling up the bleachers. Go mallards!



Cool Coach: *Mr. Westerdahl is the varsity boys' basketball coach. He has been coaching for 32 years and has coached many teams and sports throughout his career. He especially loves basketball because of "the competitiveness of the sport."*

Cheers to the Season

See what the cheer team has been up to

By Naomi Lester

The HSHS 2025-2026 cheer team has started their season. They have been practicing their sideline, time out, free throw, and floor cheers as well as stunting most mornings before school. Cheerleading is an important part of spreading school spirit because it gets the crowd motivated to root for the basketball teams. During halftime, the cheerleaders also include the audience in little games like pompom basketball or call out cheers. They always perform the fight song before the varsity game as well. Alison Mitchell, Co-Captain, and Taylor Rowe, 3-year senior cheerleader, said they are really excited for upcoming games and the cheer clinic, where the cheerleaders teach younger kids a routine for the game on Saturday, January 3rd. Alison said the reason she joined cheer was because “my mom was really passionate about cheer when she was my age, so it made me really passionate about my own cheer career.” The HSHS cheer team definitely brings cheer to the holiday season.



Cheering up: *Alison Mitchell and Taylor Rowe, both senior members of the cheer team, pose with a ¨W¨ for the boys´ basketball team´s wins. Alison is a Co-Captain this year. She joined cheer because her “mom was really passionate about cheer.”*

CLUBS

The Art of Giving

Art Club has a new sponsor this year

By Raleigh Eakins

This year, HSHS has a new Art Club sponsor, Ms. Pointer. Art Club meets once a month during Advisory to make a fun themed craft. So far, they have made friendship bracelets for Thanksgiving and decorated ornaments for Christmas. Art Club also takes a field trip every year to Chicago to see a musical and go to an art museum. This year, Ms. Pointer plans to keep the trip the same unless any students think of something else they want to do. Rylee Cheney, a third year Art Club member, was interviewed about her experience in the club. Rylee’s favorite thing about Art Club is the projects that they do. She also enjoys that the meetings are small, calming, and not stressful at all. When asked about the new club leadership, she said, “it’s



Christmas Crafts: *Rylee Cheney paints a Christmas ornament in Art Club on December 11th in Ms. Pointer’s room. Rylee has been in Art Club for 3 years. She said, “I love how fun Art Club is.”*

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THE ART OF GIVING (continued)

definitely different, but it's a good different!" Ms. Pointer's favorite thing about Art Club is that it's relaxed. She likes hanging out and having fun with the students. Ms. Pointer has never been a sponsor of Art Club before, but she's excited about the opportunity. She decided to become an Art teacher in college because she has enjoyed creating things since she was young. If students are interested in joining Art Club, they can sign up on Google Classroom at the beginning of the year. The club requires dues to fund the supplies and snacks. They are twenty dollars and are usually due by October.

COOKING CLUB CREATIONS

What has Cooking Club been cooking up?

By Carter Williams

HSHS's Cooking Club meets once a month in the FCS room during Advisory to cook a fun holiday treat. Cooking Club is ran by Ms. Schoepke with help from President Carter Williams, Secretary McKenna Chamness, and Treasurer Mazie Koll. The officers and Ms. Schoepke come up with fun treats for the club members to create each month. This year, they have made Halloween dirt and worms, Christmas cookie mix jars for Red Stocking, and Grinch punch. A typical Cooking Club meeting starts with breaking into groups, then assigning every member with a task, making the treat, washing the dishes, and finally enjoying the treat! Cooking Club was previously called FCCLA, but they changed the name this year since they're not affiliated with the national FCCLA organization. When Mazie Koll was asked what she enjoys about the club, she said, "I love to eat." When asked why she sponsors Cooking Club, Ms. Schoepke said, "I love cooking and it's important to teach students how to cook. We also make fun memories." The club is very excited for the rest of this year and what goodies it will bring!



Cooking Club Charity: *Ms. Schoepke and Mazie Koll pose for a photo with the Red Stocking Christmas cookie mix jars made by the Cooking Club. The meeting was held in Ms. Schoepke's room during November. Ms. Schoepke and Mazie played a key role in planning the November meeting. Mazie Koll said, "I love being able to give back to the community within the Cooking Club!"*

CRAFTING CLAY COMPLEXITIES

What's been happening in Ceramics class?

By Rylee Cheney

Henry-Senachwine High School offered a Ceramics class this past semester. The class is taught by Ms. Pointer, the new Art teacher. In Ceramics class, students learned how to work with clay and how to sculpt. They have done a lot of projects, including bobble heads, food sculptures, abstract head sculpts, and decorative vases. They have also learned to throw vases, bowls, and mugs on a pottery wheel. Though they are done with sculpting, they still have to decorate their projects. Both the students and instructor have said that the class is very enjoyable and rewarding. Most of the projects they have made in class will be used as decoration in their homes. Some may even use their bowls and mugs as eating utensils. Sophomore Brian Schrock's favorite project in this class was his seal bobblehead. Although she was never taught how to throw pottery, Ms. Pointer said she loves it. "It's so fun; it's probably the most challenging, but definitely the most rewarding," she added. Though Ceramics is not offered next semester, Ms. Pointer encourages students to take other Art classes!



Glazed and Confused: *Ms. Pointer glazes her projects from earlier this semester so they can be fired and ready to go home before winter break. She says, "Ceramics is so fun and I can't wait to build the program!"*

OP/EDS

BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE

Tips on staying focused during an e-learning day

By Leaf Rackley



Cozy Little Snow Day: *Naomi Lester gets cozy in Ms. Schoepke's room while working on her Multimedia assignments to simulate an e-learning experience. "I like E-learning days because I can get more work done in a small amount of time."*

With the first snowfall, everyone has been wondering when HSHS will have the first snow/e-learning day of

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BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE (Continued)

By Leaf Rackley

the season. But what is the process for this? E-learning and snow days are determined by the superintendent, Dr. Miller. Then, Mr. Zinke sends out emails explaining the protocol that teachers and students should follow. E-learning is a good option because students are still expected to complete their work remotely, instead of canceling school completely with a snow day. But e-learning isn't always as productive as working in a real classroom. Students might be tempted to work from their bed or get distracted by their phones. Mr. Rich stated, "it can be good if you are reading or working on an essay to have some alone time, but rarely does e-learning pan out that way." One way to create a more productive environment for e-learning is to work in a room away from any distractions, for example, a study or dining room. Students can also put their phones away and get dressed for the day to increase their productivity. That said, everyone can probably agree that the best part of an e-learning day is that after the learning, you can go have fun in the snow or stay warm by the fire enjoying a hot cocoa!

SNOW DAY SHENANIGANS

What to do during winter break

By Ellie Barnes

Starting December 20th through January 6th, everyone at Henry-Senachwine High School will be on winter break. During winter break, people may start to wonder what they should do to optimize their time. If you have extra time on your hands or are bored this winter break, one thing to do is brave the cold outside. You can play in the snow, look at Christmas lights, volunteer, or go Christmas shopping. Senior Bri Ortiz's favorite thing to do over winter break is to go ice skating. Over 30 million people in the U.S. participate in winter activities like skiing, snowboarding and even just playing in the snow. Living in a state that experiences all 4 seasons has the advantage of being able to participate in all sorts of seasonal activities. There are also many things you can do to cure boredom if you're stuck at home, like baking cookies, having a movie marathon, reading a book, or even doing a puzzle. There are endless ways to spend your winter break, whether you stay inside or go out!

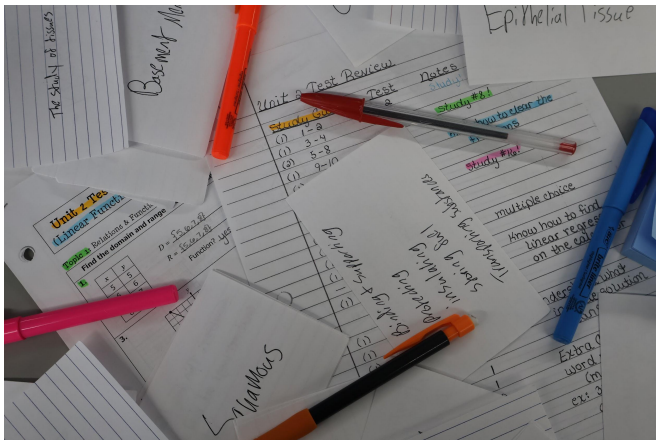


It's a Pink Christmas: *Decorating the tree is a great way to spend Christmas break!*

Fleeing to Finals:

HSHS finals are coming up and it's time to prepare

By Maddy Nighsonger



Time to Study: *Finals are coming up and you should start studying. You can get help studying at The Nest with people that have taken that class before or know a lot about the topic you are studying. Finals show the knowledge you have developed over time with that topic. Mr. Rich said, "for some, just reading over the study guide is good, others need notecards, and some benefit from the social aspect of a study group."*

HSHS students will be taking their final exams on Thursday, December 18th and Friday, December 19th before going on winter break. Students should study for finals so their brain will be refreshed before the exam. Students can get help with studying from study guides, reviewing homework assignments from the past, and attending Cookies and Cram. Mr. Rich gave some study tips, saying, "students should look at the study guide when they get it. That way, if they have questions, they can ask them next class period." According to Mr. Rich, another great way to get help is to ask students that have taken the class before. He mentioned that the biggest thing is "capitalizing on review items." He always makes sure to review things that he *thinks* students will struggle with, but if a student has at least looked over the study guide before review day, it helps a lot. He also said that it's never too early to start studying, but be careful not to overstudy because that can make students overwhelmed. Mr. Westerdahl was also interviewed about his finals. He says that they are important because they shows all the knowledge students have learned over time. There's only a few days before exams, so let's get to studying, mallards!

Dress to Impress this Winter

How to properly dress for cold weather



Cozy in the Cold: Taylor Frawley poses for a picture wearing her new winter coat. This demonstrates proper winter dressing for the cold. It's important to wear a thick winter coat to keep warm in the freezing midwest weather. Taylor said she's prepared to dress warm all winter in her "super cute coat."

The seasons are changing quickly as summer weather fades and winter arrives. Since it's getting cold, people are looking for someone to ask about what can keep them warm this winter. Ms. Schoepke is a Fashion teacher at Henry-Senachwine High School. She says, "fashion is something that I am passionate about." She

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Dress to Impress this Winter (Continued)

By Bri Ortiz

was interviewed about how to dress properly for winter. One thing she said is that wearing a proper coat is important because hoodies aren't warm enough on their own. Having a hat, gloves, and scarf are also important to keep hands and ears warm and also protect from frostbite or getting sick from the cold. You can buy good winter clothes from anywhere, because it's mostly based on personal style and budget, according to Ms. Schoepke. Walmart or Amazon are good places for basic winter clothes, though. Now that you know the basics for dressing in winter, make sure that you dress properly and stay warm!

The North "Poll"

HSHS students share their Christmas opinions

By McKayla Estes

Students at Henry Senachwine High School were surveyed on their favorite aspects of Christmas this December. The students were asked about their favorite Christmas songs, movies, and more. When asked what their favorite Christmas movie is, most students chose *The Grinch*. The students were also asked what their favorite Christmas food was. The most popular response was hot chocolate with 9 votes, though candy canes were a close second with 5 votes! Another question the students were asked was their favorite Christmas song. The winner was "All I Want for Christmas is You" by Mariah Carey. Out of all the Christmas decorations, trees were voted the best. 20 students total were surveyed, and 18 of them decorate for Christmas. Most of the people interviewed would rather receive gifts instead of give gifts. For the final question, the students were asked what their favorite Christmas icons are. Snowmen were voted the overall favorite. Students at Henry Senachwine High School are certainly looking forward to Christmas!



Alone in the snow: *Afternoon sun hits a snowy rooftop in late November.*