



## Wolves' Tale Harris- Lake Park Community School

### Farewell to the Popkens

By Brianne Ihnen

Mrs. Rachel Popken has worked at H-LP for a total of 13 years. She worked as a teacher librarian



for 5 years and a third grade teacher for 8 years. Mrs. Popken's favorite memories from H-LP are all of the relationships built with students, their families, and also co-workers. The thing she will miss most is the

people.

Mr. Travis Popken has worked at the school for a total of 18 years. He worked as a first grade teacher for 14 years, a driver's education instructor for 8 years, the assistant volleyball coach for 5 years, the middle school/high school principal for 4 years, and the director of technology for 4 years.

Some of his many great memories from H-LP include first grade field trips, near death experiences in drivers ed, and seeing awesome students graduate. The thing he will miss most is the relationships with friends, staff, and students. When Mr. Popken was asked if he would like to add anything he said, "I am very thankful for my 18 years at H-LP. My family and I were able to experience so many wonderful things here. We are truly grateful to the school, students, community, and all of the great people who make up H-LP" Mr. Popken plans on looking for an elementary principal position.

The Popkens have played a huge role in the Harris- Lake Park elementary and middle school/ high school and in the community. We are all going to miss you, and we wish you the best on your next journey!



### Just Chipping Away

By Avery Heikens

The boys' and girls' golf teams have stayed busy with their golf schedule! On Thursday, April 26, the teams competed in Sanborn. The following day the teams stayed on the road and competed at Akron. On Tuesday, May 1, the teams competed in Primghar. The boys had their conference meet on May 7, and the girls competed on May 8. Both teams completed their 18 holes at The Ridge in Sioux Center, Iowa.

The boys' and girls' teams golfed against West Sioux and HMS while competing in Sanborn. The varsity boys shot a 172 as a team. They topped both West Sioux and HMS. The girls came in with a 218 as a team topping HMS, but lost to West Sioux by just 13 strokes. Lucas Gunderson won the triangular with a score of 40. Bret Sohn finished the night with a 42 placing 3rd individually. Isaac Ihnen came in with a 4th place finish with a score of 44. Adrian Martin shot a 46, Jaxson Heikens was right behind and finished with a 47, and to finish the boys' winning night, Bryce Perkins finished with a score of 48. Lexi Stahly was a medalist finishing the night out with a 50. Kenzie Heikens followed right behind with a score of 51. Skylar Forbes came in with a 57, Jazmin Voehl shot a 60, and Katelyn Loring shot a 62.

In Akron the boys played a tough match. Gunderson led both boys' teams and carded a 43. Perkins followed to place 3rd with a 46. Sohn shot a 48, Martin shot a 51, and both Heikens and Ihnen carded a 53. The boys' team fell 3 strokes short of beating Akron. Kenzie Heikens led the lady Wolves with a 47 and placed 2nd in the meet. Stahly was close behind and finished her round with a 50 placing 4th. Forbes shot a 61, and both Loring and Voehl carded a 68.

Sohn and Martin led the boys' team each shooting a 40, and Gunderson followed with a 41. Both Ihnen and Perkins shot a 42. Heikens finished with a 45. The boys finished with a team score of 163 in Primghar; they finished 38 strokes ahead of South O'Brien. Lexi Stahly placed 3rd in Primghar, and she carded a 53. Heikens shot a 60. Forbes was right behind with a 63 and Loring followed with a 64. The girls had a team score of 217.

The boys finished runner-up as a team in the War Eagle Conference meet. Lucas Gunderson finished runner-up individually with a score of 82 in his 18 holes. Bret Sohn finished in 6th place individually with an 18-hole round of 85. Adrian Martin carded an 85 with a 9th place finish. Jaxson Heikens finished in 16th place with an 88. Isaac Ihnen carded an 89 for an 18th place finish, and Bryce Perkins shot a 91 for a 24th place finish. Lucas, Bret, and Adrian received First Team All-Conference honors.

I asked Bret about their next meet, sectionals, and he said "We've all played there before and I'm hoping that experience will help us play well and get the job done, to move on to districts and have a chance at playing for state."

The girls went to Sioux Center for their conference tournament on May 8. Due to the bad weather, they were only able to golf nine holes instead of the usual 18. H-LP placed 8th with a team total of 223. Lexi Stahly placed 8th overall with a 46 and earned First Team All Conference. Kenzie Heikens shot a 54 and earned Second Team All Conference.

### Making memories

By Hannah Harmon

After 38 years we are losing our



elementary principal and K-12 curriculum director, Judy Brueggeman. Mrs. B. was originally a part-time teacher and part-time principal. In 1988 she took on the full time job as the elemen-

tary principal and curriculum director.

She attended Dordt College in Sioux Center, where she graduated with a BA in elementary education with minors in music and physical education. In 1979 she achieved her Master's Degree in school administration from UNI.

Before coming to H-LP, she started teaching at Lake Worth Christian School in Florida in 1972. There she taught 5th grade, MS & HS math, and K-10th grade music and P.E. She also coached softball and basketball. She next taught at Oskaloosa Christian School in Iowa. When there, she taught 6-8th grade math, K-8th grade music, and P.E. from 1975-1980 and coached junior high softball, basketball, and track.

Before leaving H-LP on May 31, Mrs. B hopes to accomplish all the end of the year activities, reports, plans for next year, and organizing all the files. She feels her biggest accomplishments were the elementary school receiving considerable recognition in various areas, including a FINE award for reading with technology and Redbook magazine's America's Best Elementary Schools Award. H-LP elementary was also honored to be selected as a Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Dept. of Education for their high student achievement results. She states that the elementary's biggest accomplishment has been maintaining high student achievement, being in the top 10% of the state over the past 25 years.

"I have been blessed to spend my administrative career at H-LP. I have had supportive Boards of Education, Administrative Teams, and teachers who want to provide the best possible education for our students. It has been a truly enjoyable career," says Mrs. B.

She says her favorite memory at H-LP was that every day she got to enjoy her job. She also loved watching the students learn, interact, and play together and working with the teachers to provide a quality education.

After she retires, Mrs. B plans to spend time with her family. However, she will definitely miss the daily interaction with the students and working together with the teachers.

She leaves us with this quote by John Lasseter: "If you love what you do, you never work a day in your life."

### Thank you, Steve Eggers

By Mady Brevik

Steve Eggers has been taking care of the Harris-Lake Park schools and other properties for 40 years. His last day here at H-LP will be June 30th.

Mr. Eggers is the head custodian of the buildings and grounds and the transportation supervisor. In his 40 years at H-LP, his duties were maintenance, repair, upkeep the grounds and sports fields, boilers, custodial, bus driver, and bus and other vehicle maintenance. Steve's one goal before his last day is to help the existing employees and new personnel transition into their roles so the cleanliness and safety of the buildings and vehicles can be maintained.

His plan after his retirement is to relax and continue working on projects like his cars and antiques. His favorite memory of H-LP is being a part of the improvement and upgrades of the district throughout the years.



He will miss visiting with the students and staff. He said, "I have worked with many wonderful people throughout my career." His biggest accomplishments while here were to serve as the longest non-certified employee at H-LP; the state inspectors

rated the district #7 in the state for safe buses; and helping with the building projects for what is now the existing middle school/high school.

He and his wife, Lori, have raised one daughter and have lived in Lake Park all their lives.

Thank you, Mr. Eggers, for everything you have done for this school district! We hope you have a great retirement!

### Visiting Haiti

By Zoe Melby

Eighteen people in total are going on a trip to Haiti from June 12- June 21. The five people from H-LP that are going are Mrs. Prevot, Mrs. Krummen, Brooke Nicks, Allison Wallace, and Emma Niswander. The trip has been planned for a year and half.

They are going to be working with the New Life Primary School to do a fun carnival day, painting, construction, and decorating classrooms at the school. They will be delivering backpacks for 180 students and portraits from a portrait project. They will also be working with an agriculture group in the community to help with planting. Some people will work to share health information, some people will work with technology to teach basic computer skills, and others will host a leadership training to share leadership skills with local Haitian leaders.

Mrs. Prevot decided to go on the trip because she was asked questions about Haiti and the work she has done there. Someone else was going to lead the team, but that person decided not to and it was up to Mrs. Prevot and her husband to be the new leaders of the trip. They decided to help with the trip because a lot of people were interested in going to Haiti. She looks forward to experiencing Haiti with all of the people that have never been there before. "I'm looking forward to working with the team and getting to know everyone better as we live and serve together in a completely different place," said Mrs. Prevot.

Mrs. Krummen decided to go because she enjoys learning about new cultures, and she expects to learn and grow from this experience. "Removing yourself from everyday life and moving outside of your comfort zone can help one view things from a different perspective," said Mrs. Krummen. She is excited to share some public health education with the children at the New Life Primary School.

Brooke Nicks decided to go because she did a project on Haiti last year and raised money for the school. She is most looking forward to working with the kids.

Allison Wallace decided to go because she likes helping people, and she is most looking forward to helping with bible school.

Emma Niswander decided to go because she wants to learn more about their culture, and she looks forward to being able to help others.

### Last page

This is our last issue until next school year. Have a great summer!