By Sydney Nolfe & Kaylan Johnson

The Spartan Sound had the 2nd highest score out of 33 bands at the Alabama Marching Festival in Gordo on November 2nd.

The band earned all superior ratings and Best in Class and also earned superior ratings at The Deep South competition.

On October 19, they marched in the White Sands Contest in Foley where they placed second in Class AAAA to E.D. White out of Louisiana. The Spartan Sound also won best overall Majorette, Woodwinds, and Overall Superior Rating. Wow!

The band’s majorette is eighth grader Brooklyn Lundy. She has worked really hard to become the top majorette. Brooklyn has won two awards for best Majorette this season.

“The feeling of winning those awards was great! It was a great feeling because I am an eighth grader, and I went up against great twirlers!” Brooklyn said. “I love being the top Majorette because I love it when (Continued on page 3)

By Garrett Poole & Trenton Brannan

FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) meets every other Friday in Mrs. Patterson’s room and provides students with an opportunity to talk about the Lord while also enjoying snacks.

FCA starts before school, and the doors remain open until the bell rings.

“FCA does events such as the Walk-A-Thon and the Senior Bowl Rally,” said Mr. Wright, the FCA sponsor. The Walk-A-Thon is December 4th and the Senior Bowl Rally is January 22nd.

FCA also has a brand new leadership team, which includes Jack West, Moriah Stewart, Hunter Tangle, Brianna Meeks, and Connor Nitteberg.

The leadership team represents not only FCA but SMS.

“They help people know more about the group,” said Brianna Meeks, a fellowship leader.

Amaya Mabien, Brooklyn Lundy, Destiny Stone, and Matthew Charrest show off the awards the band won at The Deep South Marching Band Competition at Theodore High School on October 26.
Girls’ Basketball Team Starts Season 4-1

By Lyndsey Scoper & Brinkley Goff

She shoots. She scores. The girls’ basketball team at Saraland has been successful so far. They won their first four games within the first few weeks!

This year they have a brand new coach, Coach Allen, who teaches kindergarten at Saraland Elementary School.

The girls’ team has fought to the end in every game. Their first game against Chickasaw, they won by 6 points.

“It’s very exciting being on the court with four other starters because most of them played last year,” said seventh grade point guard, Camryn McLemore, number 55. Also the girls won their first home game 11-10 against UMS Wright on November 14.

“The Lady Spartans all have the will to win. They give their best effort on and off the court,” said their coach.

McLemore, number 55. Also the girls won their first home game 11-10 against UMS Wright on November 14. The girls have been practicing since October and giving it their all and are continuing to do so. Coach Allen said that she hopes to help each girl become the best ball player she can be.

Kristen Black, number 33, said, “After I block a shot, I feel a tremendous relief and just a little taller.”

The girls have been running up and down the court since day one and continue to push themselves. Jasmine Garrett, an eighth grader, said “I do get nervous while shooting; other times I don’t because I have to believe.”

Good luck on the rest of the season, girls!

Boys’ Basketball Beats Faith Academy 32-26

By Caleb Richardson & Andrew Landrum

The Saraland Spartan basketball beat Faith Academy on November 19 with a score of 32-26.

“Torre Howell, our point guard, has played well,” said Coach Harmening, “and so has Jay Williams and Deaayron Beckham. In our win against Faith, everyone contributed. It was a team effort.”

“We worked harder in practice and that affected us in the game,” Torre Howell said. The extra effort helped Torre score 10 points. He also had one block, one steal, and an assist in the game against Faith.

The Spartans have improved over the season after losing their first four games. They have fought through the losses and are continuously working hard.

Coach Harmening said, “I am grateful to have so many young players on the team.” The experience they are gaining this year will help make the team stronger next year.

While the season started off rough, the players have continued to stay healthy and play with energy. Even though they play teams larger than them, they have managed to keep the games close while also showing loyalty and determination.

The team has fought through every game and tried their hardest. Also they practice very hard during the week.

Before the season comes to a close, be sure to show your support and Spartan pride by attending one or more of the following home games:
November 25 vs. St. Pauls
December 5 vs. Chickasaw
December 9 vs. UMS Wright
December 12 vs. Faith Academy
I enjoy being the band director very much. It’s something I love to do on a daily basis because I love music,” said Mr. Sasser.

“I have a very strong band this year. It’s the first year that we have more high schoolers than middle schoolers,” Mr. Sasser said.

The band is a very strong group and works really hard. We wish the Saraland band the best of luck in all their upcoming events.

Be sure to cheer them on as they march by in the Saraland Christmas parade on December 14.

The outdoor classroom will be big enough to hold a whole classroom and more outside of it. To sign up for the outdoor classroom, teachers will need to visit Mrs. Miller in the front office for more information.

Being in the outdoor classroom can be a great learning experience by providing students with a change of scenery while also allowing them to enjoy fresh air and sunlight on their faces as they learn.

Classes could have a daily lesson out there also and take notes. It will also be available for classes to enjoy lunch out there.

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__ outsEid Classroom Under Construction

By Kristen Black & Callie Allen

The outside classroom will be a new and useful addition to Saraland Middle School. The idea of this was created by the PTO.

Mrs. Miller, the head of the PTO, said, “I think the outdoor classroom will help students learn because it will be more fun than just sitting inside all day.” When the building is completed it will be a helpful resource to teachers and students.

The outdoor classroom will be used for many different things in our school. Science teachers, especially, could benefit from this by using it for messy experiments.

__ Band Earns Superior Scores (part 2)

Continued from page 1

people come up to me and tell me ‘Great job!’ and I love having the feeling of victory!”

Cedric Burrell is a 7th grader and has loved being in the band for the past two years.

“When I play the trumpet, it feels like I’m having a solo at a concert and I feel like I’m on top of the world,” Cedric said.

Cedric enjoys performing with the band. “I like comparing other bands to how good we are at competitions,” he said. “When I go to parades, I love seeing the beautiful faces of little kids watching me and thinking of me as a role model.”

Mr. Sasser is in his fourth year as the Saraland Band Director and still loves working with his students.

What kid wants to be stuck inside four walls for seven periods?

“I think that the outdoor classroom will not only be fun, but it is creative,” said sixth grader Kayla Waite.

The outdoor classroom will be big enough to hold a whole classroom and more outside of it. To sign up for the outdoor classroom, teachers will need to visit Mrs. Miller in the front office for more information.

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Pictured to the right at the top is Mitchell Robinson as he plays the xylophone.

Below are Jacob Kelly and Brendon Minchew on the bass drums.
Important Dates

- Nov. 22 -- Mid quarter progress reports distributed
- Nov. 27-29 -- Thanksgiving holiday
- Dec. 6 @ 6:30 -- Band concert
- Dec. 13-- Boxtop out-of-uniform day
- Dec. 14 -- Saraland Christmas Parade
- Dec. 14 @ 7 PM -- Chorus silent auction and concert
- Dec. 17-20 -- Quarter Exams
- Dec. 23-Jan. 2 -- Christmas Holidays
- Jan. 3 -- Teacher work day
- Jan. 6 -- Third quarter begins
- Jan. 10 -- Report cards distributed

Red Ribbon Week Celebration

By Maddison Booth, Katie Beth Garrison, & Grace Dunn

Red Ribbon Week is enjoyed by students everywhere, especially Saraland Middle School! During this week, the students at Saraland got the opportunity to pledge to be drug free. They got to celebrate this special week by having a blast wearing red shirts/ribbons, team jerseys, nerd costumes, tie-dye tops, and Spartan spirit wear.

Fifth grader Brody Presnall said, “My favorite part of Red Ribbon Week was getting dressed up as an Alabama player, obviously.” You can clearly see that this fifth grader loved the team-jersey day!

On Wednesday, October 9, Jack West attended the Superintendents’ Red Ribbon Leadership Celebration at the Mobile Convention Center. He was chosen to be the SMS 2013 Red Ribbon Winner. He led SMS in their Red Ribbon Week activities and is now organizing a football camp for kids to encourage them to be drug free.

Jack has high hopes for the students who are not doing drugs and alcohol. “Those kids are leaders. They show us to take the right path, not the wrong,” said Jack. He believes that if you do drugs, it can affect your future.

Kids had a great time and learned why it is important not to do drugs. For Jack and many others, Red Ribbon Week at SMS was a great success!

Nerd Day for Red Ribbon Week

Gracie Litteral, Will Langley, and Makayla Parker are dressed as nerds and ready to fill their brains with even more knowledge.

Pictured to the far left are Kiarra Johnson and Jay Spencer being “nerdy.”

Dressed in their nerd attire, Trinity McAdams, Hayley Petrey, and Jashaviea Brown pose beside Mrs. Sweet’s door.

Best decorated doors for Red Ribbon Week were
- 5th grade — Mrs. Everett
- 6th grade — Mrs. Tangle
- 7th grade — Mrs. Rice
- 8th grade — Mr. Moorer

By Mary Kate Edwards, Emma Hall, Brooke Nicholson, & Camryn McLemore

SMS students were polled to find out what are our top ten favorite Thanksgiving dishes. Here are the results:

1) Turkey
2) Dressing
3) Ham
4) Macaroni and Cheese
5) Pumpkin Pie
6) Sweet Potatoes
7) Mashed Potatoes
8) Cranberry Sauce
9) Dessert
10) Green Beans

Happy Thanksgiving