

September - December and beyond ...

June

July

August

Chess Club works together to learn the game, put together the new UIL event "Chess Puzzle" team. As they work, they realize they have all the right ...

PIZZLE Pi

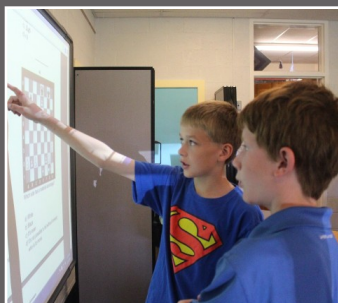


Angle to Angle ... Move to Move ... Players Participate ... Team Gains Success ...

Most students in elementary and many in junior high participate in the annual UIL academic meet. This year the meet was held in Valley on Dec. 8. In addition to the usual offerings, this is the first year that Groom students participated in "Chess Puzzle." Adviser Aimee Fields even formed the multi-grade Chess Club, which helped competitors prepare. "I created Chess Club to create an extracurricular activity of kids who didn't play sports and as a way to get to know the elementary students better," Fields said. "I loved seeing kids excited about doing something academic after school and watching them teach and encourage each other."

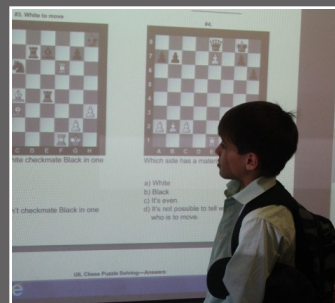
Considerable Concentration ...

Fourth-graders Kye Mays, above, and Lexi Ritter, right, consider their next move as they play an afternoon game in Mrs. Fields classroom.



Seeing the Strategies ...

Logan Burger explains different strategies to Owen Britten. "The real reason I liked it was because I like to get out school." Burger said. Chess Puzzle practice started in the fall. This is the first year Groom has done it. "I like it because my Uncle Matthew taught me how to play," Britten said.



Holding out Through the Hardships ...

"It was very hard," fifth-grader Connor Fields said of the UIL's chess puzzle event. "But I got in some good practice."



January

February

March

April

May

UIL Results

Event-Grade Competitor-Place

Art- 5th 3rd-Place Team	Logan Burger, Briana Ritter, Blayne Shuck -6th
Art- 7th	Mallie Williams- 4th/2nd Team
Chess Puzzle- 2nd 1st-Place Team	Wyatt Burger- 1st Maddie House- 3rd Cooper Treadwell- 4th
Chess Puzzle- 3rd	Kenny Blackwell- 3rd
Chess Puzzle- 4th	Kye Mays- 6th
Chess Puzzle- 5th	Logan Burger- 2nd/3rd Team
Chess Puzzle- 6th	Phineas Eugea- 1st Mark Meyer- 5th
Chess Puzzle- 7th 1st-Place Team	Colby Linquist- 1st Zander Mays- 4th Tanis Terbush- 5th
Creative Writing- 2nd	Jocee Rocha- 4th Wyatt Burger- 5th
Dictionary Skills- 5th	Logan Burger- 1st/3rd Team
Dictionary Skills- 7th	Braedon Williams- 5th
Dictionary Skills-8th	Kaylie Ritter- 1st Chandra Rice- 6th
Impromptu- 8th	Gianna Miller- 4th
Listening- 7th 2nd-Place Team	Gunner Lamb- 3rd Graci Treadwell- 5th
Maps, Graphs & Charts- 7th 1st-Place Team	Braxton Johnson- 1st Gunner Lamb- 5th Aubrey Ritter- 6th
Maps, Graphs & Charts- 8th 2nd-Place Team	Hallie Thompson- 4th William Kelly- 5th
Mathmatics- 7th	Braxton Johnson- 2nd
Number Sense- 6th	Phineas Eugea- 5th
Number Sense- 7th	Aubrey Ritter- 6th
Oral Reading- 7th	Aubrey Ritter- 3rd Kristen Rice- 5th Braedon Williams- 6th
Oral Reading- 8th	Gianna Miller- 1st
Ready Writing- 3rd	Collin Thomas- 1st
Ready Writing- 5th	Zayden Johnson- 4th
Ready Writing- 6th	Samantha Short- 6th
Ready Writing- 7th	Braedon Williams- 4th
Ready Writing- 8th	Katelyn Burger- 1st Kaylie Ritter- 6th
Science- 7th	Mallie Williams- 6th
Social Studies- 7th 2nd-Place Team	Braxton Johnson- 2nd Graci Treadwell- 6th
Social Studies- 8th	Kaylie Ritter- 4th Laurel Fields- 5th
Spelling- 3rd 2nd-Place Team	Bryson Shuck- 2nd Collin Thomas- 4th
Spelling- 4th	Ryan Weinheimer- 6th
Spelling- 5th	Logan Burger- 2nd/2nd Team
Spelling- 7th	Tanis Terbush- 4th/3rd Team
Spelling- 8th 1st-Place Team	Katelyn Burger- 1st Gianna Miller- 4th Kaylie Ritter- 5th
Storytelling- 2nd	Hugh Britten- 2nd
Storytelling- 3rd	Jocee Rocha- 6th Abby Bowen- 6th

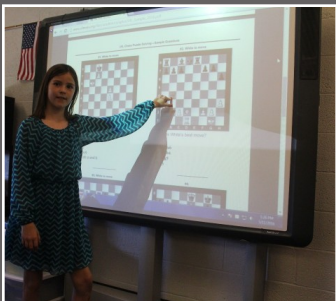


Chess Chums ...

In the dominant photo above, and the photo left, third-grader Kenny Blackwell considers a move. Others who participated and can be seen in this group of photos include fourth-grader Jacob Ragain, sixth-grader Phineas Eugea, second-graders Wyatt Burger and Cooper Treadwell, eighth-grader Kodi Tiffin and second-grader Madison House.

Courting the Queen ...

Fourth-grader Lexi Ritter demonstrates her skills in chess puzzle. "My favorite piece is the queen because it can move all different directions," Ritter said.



Crossing the Great Grade Divide ...

Fourth-grader Jacob Ragain plays a game of chess with sixth-grader Mark Meyer. It was not unusual to seeing students of a variety of grades challenging each other's chess skills during after-school practices, which often occurred on Tuesdays.



We're

BACK



with
new rules.

2015 Blizzard?

Since school didn't start until Tuesday, siblings Molly, 4th, and Davis Babcock, 1st, took advantage of the fresh snow playing in it at every opportunity. The Babcock kids are normally seen playing outside, but playing in the snow was a special treat.



Photo Cred: Jill Babcock

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday



Tigers vs. Tigers

Duo ninth-grader Corbin Ruthardt and senior Nate Roskens, play defense against a Hartley offensive player. Roskens had many steals for several layups, but it wasn't enough to better the Hartley Tigers.

Photo by S. Ritter

Short Stack

Eighth-grader Cade Linquist shoots a lay up straight up the lane in the Miami Tournament against Canadian. The Cubs won against Higgins and Canadian and were going to the championship game. But, due to weather, the Saturday portion of the tournament was canceled due to a snowstorm.



Photo by S. Ritter



Photo by Madison Friemel

Enforced Policy Graces School Hallways But, Not Student Hearts

When students returned to school from Christmas break they learned that cellphones would no longer be allowed during school hours. As a result, frustration seemed to have filled the halls.

"I think we should have our phones during breaks to text my mom," sophomore Charity Perry said.

Administration cracked down on cell phone usage on school campus. Faculty members cited this phrase from the student handbook in support.

"... Devices must remain turned off during the instructional day."

Students used cellphones for music, entertainment, contacting parents and even ordering lunch from the grocery store.

"I hate it because we can't use it (cellphone) at lunch to play games," sixth-grader Cael Rudthardt said.

In many cases cellphones have become a higher priority than school-work making administration feel like this is the last resort.

"Students were using the cellphones in inappropriate ways," Principal Steven Vanderpool said. -Matthew Bowen

What phone?

Principal Stephen Vanderpool collected phones as he enforced the new cell phone rule. Here freshman K'Leigh Keesee hides hers.

78% of American teens that are ages **12-17**

have cell phones. - Pew Research Center

More than

26 million

Americans play basketball.

- Sports & Fitness Industry Association



Photo by S. Ritter

Thursday



Photo by S. Ritter

Back in Miami

Seventh-grader Graci Treadwell, dribbles in one of the many games from the Miami Tournament. Like the boys, the girls were set to play in the championship by beating Canadian and Higgins, to get there. But, the junior high girls were unable to compete to finish out the tournament due to weather.

Friday

Girls Begin District

District basketball begins for the varsity girls program, but it didn't begin with a win. They lost to the Silverton Lady Owls. Sophomore Morgan Trevino shoots in the last quarter in an attempt to better the score and finish the game out.

"What I remember most about that game was it was awesome," Morgan Trevino said. "It always kept me on my toes."

1 Dark Play

'Chemical Imbalance:
A Jekyll and Hyde Play'
by Lauren Wilson

The Final Gotchal

Junior Caroline Britten ends the play by hitting Dr. Jekyll, played by Nate Roskens, during the final scene of the play. Britten summed the end of the play like this: 'Dr. Jekyll's victims are sprawled all over the floor. As Dr. Jekyll is going through one of his evil spasms, Calliope hops out onto the stage with a fire poker in her hand. Dr. Jekyll asks, 'Which one are you?' to which Calliope replies 'I'm the bad one!' Dr. Jekyll turns to run and is met by Plodgett who slams him in the head with a cast iron skillet. As he twitches on the floor, Plodgett drops the skillet on his stomach and says,

'You see, Ivy?
Sometimes you
just have to take
matters into
your own two
hands.'

The Jekyll women run on stage and are met by the horrifying sight. When Ivy completes her final narration, the stage goes black. Then, Dr. Jekyll turns on his red light and growls, scaring Ivy off the stage.



District



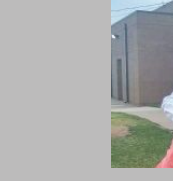
Best Actor - Nate Roskens **Honorable Mention Cast** - Caroline Britten
All Star Cast - Carson Ritter, Lauren Kuehler

Bi-District



Honorable Mention Cast - Sydney Ritter, Lauren Kuehler **All Star Cast** -
Nate Roskens **Best Stagehand** - Mason Miller

Area



Honorable Mention Cast
Roskens **Best Lights -
Crew** - Halle Barkley.

Corbin Ruthardt

Halle Barkley

Leslie Germany

Helena Ybarra

Morgan Trevino

Jeffery Marshall

Bradie Dodson



Agh. Hairspray.

Sophomore Lauren Kuehler covers her face to avoid the hairspray Caroline Britten is spraying. Britten did Kuehler's hair in kinky curls that normally took about 50 minutes. These curls were often covered by a hat.



Not Again!

Freshman Sydney Ritter helps safety pin Sophomore Charity Perry's hoopskirt with more than one pin.. Perry had more than one malfunction with the skirt coming undone underneath her dress throughout the year.



Back, Back, Back

Junior Garett Rocha helps unpictured Junior Mason Miller back up the prop trailer to the loading dock. Miller and Rocha took care of this job every competition, and loaded the trailer where it was easy to pack and unload.



Just a Little Help



Trailer Time...

The whole cast and crew were grateful when an anonymous donor helped by giving the group a trailer, which held all needed props. Props they knew they couldn't forget included a stuffed horse, a black cane, and a fire-poker.

So Many Bobby Pins

Sophomore Jamey Germany twists Sophomore Chelsey Lamb's hair back. Germany did most of the buns for the girls and used bobby pin after bobby pin. Luckily, everyone kept up with them so the nobody had to buy more.

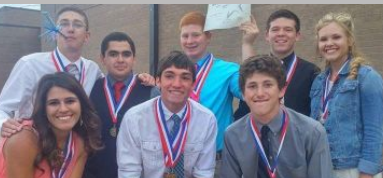


Help Each Other

Director Aimee Fields and Co-Director Lisa Roskens accept flowers from the cast at the public performance. These two ran every practice with collaboration to make the play the best it could be.



Regionals



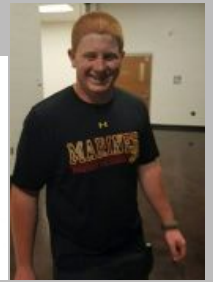
Best - Jamey Germany, Carson Ritter **All Star Cast** - Nate Roskens, Cayden Lambert **Best Stagehand** - Mason Miller **Best** - Matthew Bowen, Garett Rocha, Lambert, Miller



All Star Cast - Nate Roskens, Cutter Babcock **Honorable Mention Cast** - Charity Perry, Caroline Britten

State

Junior Mason Miller missed his last week of school for state OAP.



Junior High Leaps...

Braxton Johnson

Junior High Competes in
4 Different Track Meets...

March 5

Lefors Trach Meet

March 10-11

Groom Track Meet

March 23

White Deer Track Meet

March 31

Lefors District Track Meet

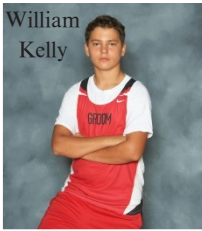


Aubrey Ritter

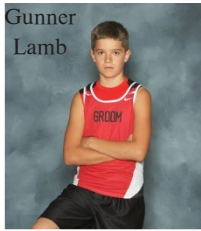


Cade Linquest





William Kelly



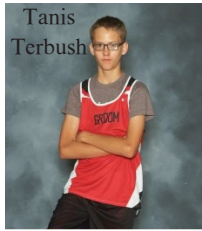
Gunner Lamb



Ginna Miller



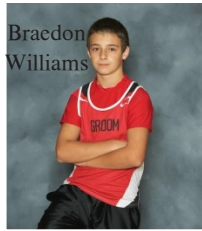
Chandra Rice



Tanis Terbush



Graci Treadwell



Braedon Williams



Ginna Miller

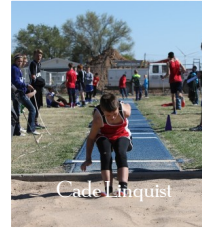
For a Win



Zander Mays



Tanis Terbush



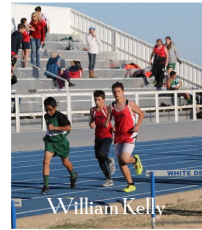
Cade Linquist



Gunner Lamb



Braedon Williams



William Kelly



Graci Treadwell

K'Leigh
Keesee



Jamey
Germany



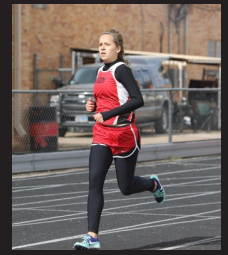
Helena
Ybarra



Lauren
Kuehler



Chelsey
Lamb



Instant PR replay...

'Personal Record' matters

K'Leigh Keesee	4x200	2:07.41
Jamey Germany	4x200	2:07.41
Helena Ybarra	Shot Put	26' 6.50
Katie Marshall	Discus	00-00
Lauren Kuehler	Discus	67' 9.00
Chelsey Lamb	400m	76.48
Morgan Trevino	Shot Put	21' 2.00
Halle Barkley	High Jump	4' 4"
Caroline Britten	4x100	60.64
Madison Friemel	1600m	7:23.71
Charity Perry	High Jump	4' 7"
Cutter Babcock	3200m	12:26.10
Nate Roskens	1600m	4:48.92
Jeffery Marshall	200m	27.4
Cade Ruthardt	4x200	1:36.26
Matthew Bowen	400m	63.77
Garet Rocha	110m Hurdles	21.51
Brice White	4x200	1:36.26
Corbin Ruthardt	Pole Vault	9' 0.00
Andrew Ingle	3200m	12:21.56
Carson Ritter	400m	55.04
Adrian Hendricks	Discus	86' 4.00
Cody Kling	Shot Put	36 4.50



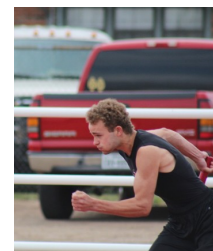
Cutter
Babcock



Nate
Roskens



Jeffery
Marshall



Cade
Ruthardt



Matthew
Bowen

Katie
Marshall



Halle
Barkley



Caroline
Britten



Madison
Friemel



Charity
Perry



Soaring to State



State 5/12/16
Sydney Ritter

Freshman Qualifies in 3 Events

The race starter blows the whistle, signaling the timers are ready. Sydney Ritter stands behind her blocks about to begin the 400-meter dash. She may only be a freshman, but that has no impact on her performance. Ritter steps into her blocks. She focuses.

“Before every race, I normally chant Philippians 4:13 (I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength),” Ritter said. Then, “It’s not that far, and I’ll be at the finish soon.”

Bang! The runners are off, and Ritter makes everything she does look easy. Looking as if she is out for a casual run, she cruises the first 100 meters.

“If we could ever get her to run hard, she might just make it somewhere,” Superintendent and Coach Jay Lamb said of this Groom High School freshman.

Ritter has an effortless stride and near perfect running form which makes her appear to glide down the track. She runs with a determination and passion that does not resemble her age.

“I mostly just want to run and jump for PRs (personal records),” Ritter said.

When Ritter triple jumps, she shows a will and power that allows her to fly into the pit. She is not focused on the competition. After the first 100 meters, Ritter looks as if she is shot from a cannon, exploding to the front of the field. She spent many hours doing the same steps.

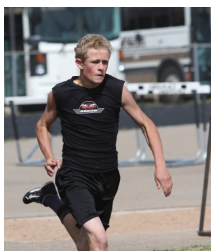
Ritter qualified for the state meet in the triple jump, with a first; the 100-meter dash, with third place in the wild-card slot; and the 400-meter dash, where she earned second place.

At state, she earned a bronze in the triple jump as well as in the 400-meter dash.

-Nate Roskens



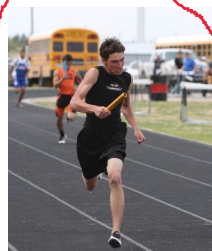
Brice
White



Corbin
Ruthardt



Andrew
Ingle



Carson
Ritter



Adrian
Hendricks



Cody
Kling