

Jalen Talks Homecoming Football

By: Annabelle Wooldridge
Staff Writer

House Municipal Schools joins with Fort Sumner for athletics, and football is a big part of the excitement during Homecoming. We caught up with varsity football player Jalen Shaw to hear about his Homecoming experience and what football means to him. Jalen described this year’s Homecoming as “fun and exciting.” When asked to describe Homecoming in three words, he chose “awesome, fun, and cool.” For Jalen, playing in a Homecoming game does not feel much different from playing in a regular football game, but the crowd can make a difference in the team’s energy. “They need to be loud or the team is not hyped,” Jalen said. “If they are loud, then the team is hyped up.”

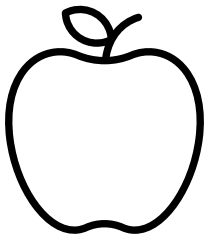
Jalen believes one of the team’s biggest strengths this year is experience. His favorite football memory is winning the state football championship and he hopes to continue helping his team succeed this season. One piece of advice from his coach has also stuck with him. “The last play is over with, and you have to move on to the next one,” Jalen said. On game days, Jalen said he does not usually eat much before playing. He also would not want to switch positions with anyone because he already gets the opportunity to play the positions he enjoys. With experience behind him and a championship already among his favorite memories,

Jalen is focused on moving on to the next play and helping his team throughout the rest of the season.

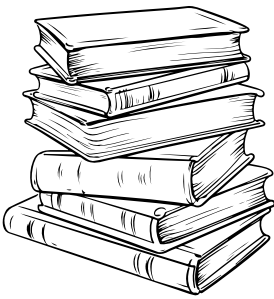


Top: Jalen Shaw at Homecoming.

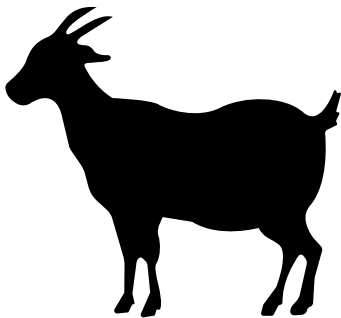
Second Picture: Jalen and his teammates observing the national anthem.



Two Grades, One Classroom — p. 2
Teaching two grades in one classroom takes a lot of patience, planning, and juggling! See how Mrs. Lavender keeps her first and fourth graders learning, supported, and having fun together.



AR Goals & Rewards — p. 3
Reading is even more rewarding this year! Students can earn snack tickets and chances to win big prizes as they work toward reaching 100% of their AR goals.



Headed to the State Fair — p. 3
Elizabeth and Kenneth Downey took their goats to the New Mexico State Fair after putting in plenty of hard work and preparation. From showing animals to seeing friends and enjoying fair food, the experience was one to remember!



Fall Festival — p. 4
Fall Festival is right around the corner, and we’re getting ready for a night full of fun! Come out and enjoy games, prizes, food, and time together with our school community.

Serving Up a Strong Season

By: Maria Lopez
Staff Writer

Volleyball season is underway and this year Annabelle Wooldridge is representing House Schools on the court. Annabelle said her volleyball season is going well so far and she is excited to see how the team does as they get closer to playing back-to-back games. She expects her team to work together, play their best, and continue improving throughout the season. Annabelle was inspired to play volleyball by her mom, who played in high school and told her how much fun the sport was. Now, Annabelle has set three goals for herself this season: build more stamina, become a better player, and win more games. Her favorite position is hitter because she enjoys attacking the ball and helping her team score points.

Before games, Annabelle likes to listen to music and hype herself up. She tells herself, “You got this,” to help her stay confident and focused before stepping onto the court. One of the hardest parts of volleyball for Annabelle is all the running the team does during practice. Even though it can be difficult, she knows it helps her become stronger and build the stamina she needs during games. Annabelle also has some advice for anyone interested in playing volleyball. She encourages new players to work hard, practice, listen to their coaches, and never give up when things get difficult. With goals to improve her skills, build her stamina, and help

her team win, Annabelle is ready to see what the rest of the volleyball season brings.



Top: Fort Sumner JH volleyball players gather on the court.

Second Picture: Annabelle Wooldridge competes during a volleyball game.

EDITORIAL

Two Grades, One Classroom

By: Kaliah Quintana
Editor

Teaching one grade can be challenging, but Mrs. Lavender has two. This year, she teaches first and fourth grade students together in one classroom. Having two grade levels means Mrs. Lavender has to do a lot of juggling to keep the classroom running smoothly. She also has to make sure students in both grades are getting the help they need. One of the biggest differences is what the students are learning. The first graders are learning to read, while

the fourth graders are reading to learn. Mrs. Lavender said that none of her students are completely independent yet, which can make giving everyone enough time and attention challenging. Even though teaching two grades can sometimes get hectic and stressful, Mrs. Lavender works to make sure her students are learning and having fun. The students also spend time together outside of the classroom. Jalen helps during PE with the first and fourth graders

and the Pre-K students. He helps with some of the games and activities they play. Teaching also comes with some interesting moments. Mrs. Lavender said she has heard so many bizarre excuses from students that she cannot even remember them all. When it comes to teaching, one of Mrs. Lavender’s biggest pet peeves is seeing someone unwilling to work with a student who is willing to learn. Teaching first and fourth grade together may require a lot of juggling,

but Mrs. Lavender continues working to make sure students at both grade levels get the support they need.



Above: Students learn together in Mrs. Lavender’s classroom.

Color Wars Bring Out the School Spirit

By: Dawson Gamble
Staff Writer

Color Wars is a school-wide team competition that encourages students to have good behavior while having fun with their classmates. Every student is placed on a team, and each team is represented by a different color from the rainbow. On Mondays, students can show their team spirit by wearing their team color to school. Throughout Color Wars, students also get opportunities to compete in different activities and challenges with their teams. Students can earn tokens and points for going above and beyond, helping other people, and showing good behavior around the school. Every point earned helps the entire team, so students have to work together if they want their team to do well. Color Wars gives

students something fun to look forward to while also encouraging everyone to make good choices at school. Students from all grade levels are able to participate in Color Wars and help their teams throughout the competition. One of the most important parts of Color Wars is learning that the choices one student makes can affect the entire team. Students can help their team earn points by being kind, helping others, participating in activities, and making good choices during the school day. Teams can also lose points when students make poor choices or do not follow school expectations. This

encourages students to think about their behavior and how their actions can affect the people around them. Color Wars is important because it helps students build teamwork, social skills, responsibility, and school spirit. At the end of the competition, students can be proud of the points they earned and the ways they worked together as a team.



Above: House students participate in Color Wars activities.



AR Goals & Rewards

By: Kaylee Smith
Faculty Sponsor:

Reading and reaching Accelerated Reader (AR) goals has always been an important part of our school. Reading regularly helps students build vocabulary, improve comprehension and fluency, and become stronger, more confident readers in every subject. This year, we are adding a little extra motivation along the way! For every 5% of their AR goal that students complete, they earn a ticket for snacks. This allows us to celebrate their progress as they work toward 100%.

There are also some big prizes up for grabs! Students who reach 50% of their AR goal by December will be entered into a drawing to win big prizes. Students who reach 100% by the end of the school year will be entered into a drawing for even bigger prizes! The prizes make it fun, but our main goal is simple: get our students reading! Every book they finish helps them become stronger readers. Keep reading, keep growing, and keep working toward 100%!



Headed to the State Fair

By: Hannah Vander Merwe
Staff Writer

Elizabeth and Kenneth Downey traveled to Albuquerque for the New Mexico State Fair, where they showed their goats and represented House Schools. Getting animals ready to show took a lot of time, effort, and preparation. Kenneth said the process “is harder than it looks.” Preparing for judging taught him just how much work goes into getting goats ready for the show ring.

Elizabeth also put a lot of time and hard work into preparing for the State Fair. Before the fair, she said she was excited about the experience. “I’m excited. The first day at the fair is usually fun,” Elizabeth said. For Elizabeth, one of the best parts of attending the State Fair was getting to see her friends. Kenneth had a different favorite part, the food! Kenneth hoped one of his

memories would be “winning the show,” while Elizabeth wanted to remember all the work she put into preparing, regardless of the results. “I put a lot of hard work in no matter the outcome,” Elizabeth said. The New Mexico State Fair gave Elizabeth and Kenneth the opportunity to show the results of their hard work, spend time with friends, and make memories along the way.

We are proud of them for representing House Schools at the State Fair!

VOICES OF HOUSE SCHOOLS

If you could have any animal as a teacher’s assistant what would you choose?

*“Turtles”
Aaron, 12th*

If your shoes could talk, what would they say about you?

*“You’re heavy”
Kyle, 10th*

If a tiny dragon moved into your backpack, what would you name it?

*“I would name it Kenny Jr”
Kenneth, 6th*

If your chair could take you anywhere instead of sitting in class, where would you go?

*“Bucees”
Adela, 9th*

If ice cream could be any weird flavor, what flavor would you invent?

*“Pizza”
Alicia, 10th*

Teacher Spotlight: Taylor Smith

By: Alicia Gonzales
Staff Writer

Taylor Smith plays a special role at House Schools, working one-on-one with a student and providing support throughout the school day.

Taylor learned about the position through her mom’s friend and has enjoyed becoming part of the House Schools family. Her favorite thing about the school is seeing how everyone supports and encourages one another. When it comes to working with students, Taylor says one of her greatest strengths is being patient and positive, even on the rough days. She enjoys being able to help students learn, work through challenges, and have a successful school year.

Outside of school, Taylor enjoys spending time with her friends and playing volleyball. She is originally from California and hopes to return for a visit someday.

Whether she is helping with schoolwork, offering encouragement, or simply being there when her student needs support, Taylor brings patience and positivity to her role each day.

House Schools is happy to have Taylor as part of our school community and appreciates the difference she makes through the work she does.



WORD SEARCH

H	K	U	B	M	N	S	Z	D	W	Y	O	Z	H
Y	A	X	I	T	H	X	Q	P	M	O	D	G	C
M	W	R	C	H	I	L	L	Y	H	R	J	Z	L
Q	R	W	V	X	F	R	O	Z	O	A	R	P	Q
L	V	Z	A	E	L	A	H	Z	C	N	U	O	Z
N	Y	W	N	Q	S	O	B	L	T	G	S	G	L
O	F	D	J	Y	M	T	R	O	O	E	T	P	A
A	F	J	D	U	O	I	E	J	B	A	L	I	U
J	A	N	F	A	L	L	E	H	E	R	I	A	T
D	H	O	G	F	E	H	Z	T	R	T	N	B	U
Y	R	O	H	V	X	J	Y	Z	L	H	G	B	M
M	A	U	F	L	E	A	V	E	S	Y	G	B	N
Y	C	R	I	S	P	Q	L	X	D	B	H	U	G
I	R	D	M	M	K	L	C	O	Z	Y	F	I	N

- EARTHY
- AUTUMN
- CRISP
- COZY
- BREEZY
- CHILLY
- OCTOBER
- FALL
- LEAVES
- RUSTLING
- ORANGE
- HARVEST



HOUSE MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS

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