Central Winter Vacation Is Finally Here—Have A Great Break!

Central Students Privileged To Receive Special Musical Treat

By Sarah Lam

Excitement could be felt in the air as Central students and staff filed into the lower floor of the school auditorium last Friday, everyone eagerly awaiting a concert and educational presentation that would be performed by the “major league music” Members of the Minnesota Orchestra. Sam Jameson, a ninth grader, remarked that “I’m really excited and grateful they’re here and that we get to see them for free, instead of having to go somewhere and pay for a ticket. It’s really kind of them to do this for us.”

The concert was based on musical works from the great Russian composer, Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky. Music that was presented included pieces from the Nutcracker Suite, including the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Waltz of the Flowers, and music from Movements 3 and 4 of Symphony No. 4.

During the program the conductor, Mr. William Schrikel, explained ideas about the music and about Tchaikovsky’s life. After the performance, freshman Natalie Della Selva’s reaction was that it was “wonderful and crazy. I was blown away. I really appreciated the experience.” Senior Martha Torstenson had the opinion that “It was so inspiring to have such high caliber musicians performing on the Central stage!”

Of particular interest to the Central audience was the appearance of two Central graduates, Danny Kim (left) and Evan Vicic (teacher), who were introducing professional musicians (and Central graduates!), Danny Kim (left) and Evan Vicic are happily reunited with their former teacher and conductor, Mr. Matt Oyen (center). The two visiting players appeared in a concert/educational presentation by the Members of the Minnesota Orchestra last Friday that was held in Central’s auditorium.

What Will YOU Be Doing During Your Special Time Away?

Anne Dombrack (11): “I plan on going up North and sledding with my family.”
Alecia Martin (11): “I will be spending quality time with my family and friends.”
Chi Lee (9): “I will be baking goods with my grandma.”
Jamaaya Sheik (10): “I plan on going to New York City for New Year’s.”
Charleigha Maggitt (12): “I’m spending time with my family.”
Halima Wako (11): “I’m catching up on high school. I’m missing.”
Isaac VanVatter-Flies (9): “My family and I are heading out to Mexico! Goodbye cold, and hello sunshine and warm weather!”

Mr. Brian Paulson (teacher): “I’m going to the farm, near New Ulm, to hang out with my family from all over. They come from Alaska, Montana, Pennsylvania, and Minnesota.”
Tamarra Evans (11): “I will be working and spending time with my family and friends for the holidays.”
A’daia Brown (11): “Spending time with my daughter.”
KiJana Jones (12): “Partying and having a movie night with my friends.”
Marvive Jordan (11): “Sleeping! Hanging with family and friends and eating.”
Ku Lia Vue (11): “I’m planning to help my family design an awesome New Year with them. On Christmas, I am sharing joys with friends, family, and neighbors. A lot of Christmas presents. Every year on Christmas what I want is just joys, no gifts.”

Martha Torstenson (12): “Nordic team holiday camp in Biwabik! Staying with the Nordic team holiday camp in Biwabik.”
Ricky Larson (11): “I’m going to visit a bunch of family and I’m also going to a concert.”
Mr. Matthew Shipman (teacher): “I am going to be spending time with my family, getting outside, and remembering what’s important.”

Thomas Nelson (11): “I am going to sleep all the way.”

Ms. Teri Lentsch (Assistant Principal): “I am going to have over 75 people celebrating Christmas Eve at my house. Wish me luck! For the rest of the time, it will be about me.”
Ms. Mary Mackie (Principal): “It will be a good time to catch up on my sleeping, my reading, and my reconnecting with my grandchildren and children, without time constraints.”

What A Great Month For Central Music!

Professional musicians (and Central graduates!) Danny Kim (left) and Evan Vicic are happily reunited with their former teacher and conductor, Mr. Matt Oyen (center). The two visiting players appeared in a concert/educational presentation by the Members of the Minnesota Orchestra last Friday that was held in Central’s auditorium.

to wonderful applause. What advice do they have for aspiring musicians and vocalists? According to Kim, “It’s a very hard life and jobs are difficult to come by, but if you truly have a passion for it, go for it and work your hardest. Things will come together if you keep at it and don’t get discouraged.” Among many tips, Vicic suggests to “Practice diligently. Quality over quantity.”

Do You Want To Help A “Shadow”?

Ninth grade students with good grades, attendance, and behavior are being sought to help introduce prospective freshmen to Central. If you are interested in helping, please see Ms. Norma Hollins in the Guidance Department for an application.
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Minuteman Math Team Continues Central Success

By Sebastian Alfonzo

The Minuteman Math Team poses for a picture, shortly before leaving for a two game road trip to Milwaukee.

Central's varsity boys' basketball team returned from Wisconsin Saturday night, the first of three over-night road trips the Minutemen are taking this season. The team lost to Milwaukee Bradley Tech, 54-46, but defeated Milwaukee Morse-Marshall, 57-50, in overtime. The Minutemen's mark through last weekend is now three victories and three losses.

What's behind the idea of taking overnight road trips?

According to Coach Scott Howell, the trip to Milwaukee was for competition bonding.

The team stayed in a hotel and also got in a little sightseeing. The squad will travel again, to a four team tournament in Cloquet, Minnesota, during Winter Break and it will make another overnight visit, to Sioux Falls, S.D., in January. Players participate in fund raising and also benefit from being sponsored by Whole Foods Market of St. Paul.

According to guard Sam Galland, the team is ranked first in the city and fourth in the state.

Marta Waalen — Current Team's Head Coach

A woman who played with former Central Coach Willie Taylor's first Central girls' state tournament basketball team—which finished third and then went on to a great start as Central's new varsity head coach.

Marta Waalen, a 2001 Central graduate, has so far guided the girls to a win-loss mark of 5-1. "She's a great coach," says Central guard Chelcie Kizart. "She knows what to do while we're on the court. She has good plays."

Waalen says her team is "real quick. We have a lot of guards. We have a strong inside presence in the post. We have six seniors, so there is a lot of leadership. I think we shall be the top of the conference."

What does she think of coaching at Central? "I love it. I kind of dreamed about doing it since I played here. Coach Taylor is my mentor and my friend. He kind of inspired me to do it, along with my love for basketball."

Waalen became a Teaching Assistant in Special Education at Central a few weeks ago. When she was a student here, she was not only in basketball, but was also on the cross country running and track teams. She won the Athena award, which is given to the Central senior who is considered to be the school's best female student athlete.

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Mock Trial Team Prepares for Case Competitions

By Sebastian Alfonzo

Mock Trial Team

Wendy Baugh, a senior, and Mollie Young, a junior, will travel again, to a case competition, for a good experience, and also get to participate in fund raising and also benefit from being sponsored by Whole Foods Market of St. Paul.

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