What Would King Think Of Today's U.S.?

In conjunction with the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday last week, some Central staff members were asked what they believe the late Civil Rights leader would think of today’s America. Here are ideas they shared:

"He would be pleased to see that our President is a black man, a sign that things have changed. However, he would be dismayed at the reality of race in America. For all our "progress," we still have ghettos, huge racial job gaps, and a prison system with [too many] African-Americans..."

-- Mr. Alex Schen

"Dr. King’s vision of all Americans having access to opportunities in our society has not been fulfilled. There has been some progress, but we continue to struggle with race-related issues that have systematically oppressed certain groups of people. Dr. King would continue to fight against the inequities that continue to permeate America’s liberties, freedoms, and justice."

-- Ms. Duane Dutrition

"I think the natural reaction of many people is to assume that MLK would be profoundly disappointed in the progress the United States has made with its race relations. However, I think it’s important to factor in MLK’s mission and his unwavering positivity. I think he would see that we have a long, long way to go."

-- Ms. Meg Petersen

Picture: King’s 1963 "I Have A Dream" Speech

‘Let’s get going, there’s still plenty of work to do.’

-- Ms. Jesse Kwakenast

"Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., would have mixed feelings about the U.S. today. He would be pleased by our first Black President. He would be disappointed by our low graduation rate and high incarceration rate of African-American males, in addition to so many of our nation’s children living in poverty."

-- Ms. Mary Mackbee

"I believe MLK, Jr., would be glad that overt racial discrimination is no longer legal or even acceptable in the public sphere, but sad that our institutions and systems continue to provide advantages based on race."

-- Mr. Lucas Marchie

"He would look at events such as the Trayvon Martin case in Florida, racial profiling, and all the discussion in the news about the educational achievement gap...and would think: ‘We have come a long way since the Civil Rights era, but we still have a long, long way to go.’"

-- Ms. Meg Petersen


dr. king’s vision of all americans

Congratulations to Central Competitors

Kudos to Central chefs Christian Photiansang, Tamara Evans, Gillian Jones, Mai Nhia Vang, and Ryan Vo-tjetch for winning the Master Chef Competition at the school level January 15th. The quintet was required to use a spaghetti base to develop a team recipe and to also prepare and serve the final product. The five students earned the right to represent Central at our school district competition February 28th at St. Paul College.

Way to go, Central artists, who were honored at an awards ceremony held in the Concordia University Gallery on January 16th for their wins as part of a four high school competition in the Concordia Annual High School Honors Exhibit. Jade Mulcahy scored a second prize victory and Miles Aus- tin, Paulina Heng, Elena Renken, and Nathaniel Weissman received honorable mentions.

Congrats, Central music scholars, for your excellent showing at last Friday’s annual Minnesota Music Listening Contest Regional Competition at the University of Saint Thomas.

The team of Isaac Blumfeld, Erin Kennedy, and Paul Ihlenfeldt earned the first place score and will advance to the state level competition at Augs- burg College on February 7th. Hana Brod, Happy-Sarah Kim, and Ethan Levin also did well in the contest, earning the third place score in the region.

Who Will Win The Yearbook Senior Class Polls???

The Senior Class Polls categories have been announced, with nominations scheduled for yesterday and the final vote—with one senior male and one senior female to be named, one category—slated for February 5th. The categories include:

- "Most Likely to Change the World,"
- "Most Changed Since Fresh- man Year,"
- "Biggest Flirt,"
- "Cutest Couple,"
- "Best Friends (2),"
- "Class Clown,"
- "Couples We Wish We’d Seen,"
- "Most Likely to be FOr m u s c l e n s ."
- "They also include "Most Creative,"
- "Most Athletic,"
- "Prettiest Eyes,"
- "Biggest Party Animal,"
- "Person You Wanted to Get to Know,"
- "Loudest."

Freshmen, Sophomores, Jun- iors, Seniors, Staff! Don’t miss your chance to order your Central yearbook BEFORE THE PRICE INCREASE (from $68 to $75) that hap- pens Saturday, February 1st. Buy at jostensyearbooks.com OR purchase your book at school.
Central Students Work On Robot-Building
By Sebastian Allsion

To some people, robotics might seem like a thing of tomorrow. However, it is something that is happening today. Even here at Central, robotics is a very real thing, as we have a robotics club.

Central’s robotics club is currently preparing for this year’s FRC (First Robotics Competition) event, which is titled Aerial Assist. The Central students will have to build a robot with the capabilities to catch, pick up, and throw large balls. The robot will have to do such things as throwing the balls into baskets and through hoops.

This is Central’s second year of Robotics Club and FRC participation. Aaron Lodewyn is the team captain. His goal is to have the team make it to the elimination round of the competition, which comes after the state round.

The club is still accepting members. It meets in Mr. Nelson’s room (1314) on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

Central Male Gymnasts
Compete With Johnson

About thirty male gymnasts from Central physical education physical education classes traveled to Johnson High School January 10th for an informal meet with about the same number of male students from Johnson. Even though it wasn’t an official athletic competition, students did receive scoring from MSHE judges. Johnson won the abbreviated duel which, because of time constraints, did not include events using equipment.

The meet is something that the two schools have been doing for three years. It is a way for students to show what they have learned and to add a little competition. It’s possible that a more expanded match might be held in the spring.

Although it used to be a state high school league sport for males, gymnastics hasn’t been one for several years. Ironically, however, 1980s Central graduate John Roethlisberger, whose father coached gymnastics at the University of Minnesota, was an American Olympian three times!

The Chinese New Year Arrives Tomorrow!
By Ellen Gee

The Chinese New Year, which starts January 31st, has been celebrated for as long as anyone can remember. There’s a legend that once every year, on the lunar new year, a beast called “Nian” would rise out of the lake and eat Chinese villagers.

Red firecrackers were used to frighten away the creature. People say “gong xi” or “congratulations” to each other for surviving the beast attack. They continue to say it to this day to congratulate each other on a successful year.

The Chinese New Year celebration lasts fifteen days, ending with the Lantern Festival. To prepare for the New Year, people clean their homes to get rid of the bad luck from the previous year, decorate, and buy new things.

A feast of New Year’s Eve, families often have reunions, set off fireworks, and eat. Common foods to eat on Chinese New Year’s Eve include meat, a whole fish, and hot pot (which refers to several east Asian varieties of stew). A whole fish is an indication that “every year we have a surplus.”

It is a tradition during the Chinese New Year to go and visit family, relatives, friends, and even bosses and teachers to show one’s respect. Every household gives visitors peanuts, lotus seeds, candy, or tangerines to eat; especially to newlyweds, which for them symbolizes wishes for their fertility.

“Nian gao” or New Year’s cakes made out of sticky rice symbolizes wishes for growth, be it physical, career, or for a relationship. The cakes are therefore a popular gift.

Children usually receive red envelopes with money in them from parents and older relatives during the New Year celebration.

The Chinese Zodiac animal for this coming year is the horse. There are twelve animals in the zodiac, which forms a twelve year cycle. Traditionally, parents would want their child born in the Year of the Dragon because it is considered lucky.

The Chinese New Year will begin the Chinese year of 4712.

Who Do You Want To Win The Super Bowl?

Luke Almquist: The Seahawks, because I don’t like the Broncos.

Christian Yorke: The Seahawks, because they are good.

Abdul Aliyev: The Broncos, because they have the best QB in the last decade and the Seahawks are a young and inexperienced team.

Ben Bushnell: The Broncos, statistically the best offense in history/all around amazing.

Kyrgi Lee: The Seahawks, because Russell deserves his first Super Bowl ring.

Sumeya Kalib: The Broncos, because they are one of the best teams in the NFL and if Manning retires, he deserves to retire with another ring.

Ermias Abraham: Seattle, because they have a great defense. They also have a good core of receivers and a good quarterback.

Yoshi Abate: The Broncos, because Peyton Manning is the best QB and they have a great coach, Kate Rogers: Seattle, because I like the city.

Dominic Pierce: Broncos—Peyton Manning is awesome.

Arre Harris: I don’t really care who wins the Super Bowl. I like both teams and Manning is one of my favorite QBs.

Winter 2013-2014 Central Sports Report

As January is ending, some Central sports are getting close to the end of their seasons. Also, because of the weather, some sports contests have been postponed or canceled. Others records are tricky to report for various reasons, including when not all St. Paul public high schools have teams in a particular sport. Here is a partial assessment of where Central sports are as of January 26th:

In GIRLS’ SPORTS, Central’s BASKETBALL team is in first place in the conference, with a 4-0 record. Overall, the team is 11-4.

In GYMNASTICS, the Central ladies find themselves with an 0-2 conference mark, behind Highland Park and Johnson, and a 3-2 overall record.

In HOCKEY, where Central has two participants with the Blades, the Blades are 4-2 in their conference and 4-12-4 overall.

In NORDIC SKIING, Central’s females have gained the following team finishes: 3rd of 3, 3rd of 4, 3rd of 7, 5th of 10, and 5th of 11. The ladies are in second place of the three conference schools listed in the standings.

ALPINE SKIING may have scores to report later.

IN BOYS’ SPORTS, the BASKETBALL team is currently tied with Johnson for the conference lead, with a mark of 5-0. The Minutemen have an overall record of 10-4.

In HOCKEY, where a couple of Minutemen play varsity for Como, the Como squad is 0-8-4 in their conference (the Tri-Metro) and 7-10-0 overall.

Central boys NORDIC SKIERS have team finishes of 3rd of 3, 2nd of 4, 1st of 8, 4th of 10, and 4th of 11. They are atop the three listed teams of the city conference.

The Central boys’ SWIMMING/DIVING TEAM is in second place in the conference, at 3-6, and is listed with a 3-2 overall mark. Large meet finishes have included 4th of 8 and winning the Tartan Invitational.

The WRESTLERS are atop the city conference with a 4-0 mark and, as usual, have participated in numerous other matches.

As with the girls, boys’ ALPINE SKIING may have scores to report later.

For more details and continuing updates, please turn your attention to the St. Paul City Athletic Conference website, which can be located at: sports.spps.org

CENTRAL ROBOTICS CLUB MEMBERS Riikka Solin (left) and Connor Norkonen work with wheel and chassis materials.

CENTRAL’S TALENTED JAZZ BAND, shown playing here for Central students as they arrived on the last day of school before Winter Break, will provide music for next week’s Central Showcase on February 6th. The Showcase, an annual event, is designed to attract new students to Central.

PART OF THE PROGRAM that was billed as “Central Asian New Year 2014” and held January 3rd in Central’s cafeteria included models wearing clothing from a variety of Asian cultures (top picture). The evening also included vocalists, musicians, dancers, and dancing by the audience and program participants (lower picture). The event was sponsored by the Central Asian Culture Club.

In MUSICAL AND DANCE ENTERTAINMENT, as well as a meal, were part of last Friday’s Fresh Force “Wish Upon A Charity” event in the Cafeteria. Proceeds were designated for Our Brothers and Sisters Orphanage in St. Paul.

Central’s dodgeball tournament January 17th, which was sponsored by Roots & Shoots.

EVERYONE KNOWS that the roof of the Metrodome has been allowed to deflate and that the building will be torn down. Did you know that Central played at least two baseball games at the dome, at least one basketball game, and perhaps one football game? Did you know that the new football stadium will cost about $1 billion?

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HIGH ENERGY is a win over Highland.

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