



New Foreign Exchange Student: Janus



By: Jadyn Reed

Thousands of miles away from his home, Janus (pronounced YAH-niss)-Ekkehard Simon, a sophomore from Pirmasens, Germany, is one of two of the new foreign exchange students Elk Point-Jefferson has welcomed for the current school year. Janus was greeted in Sioux City around 10:00 PM on August 9th by the Zevenbergens, his host family. He says that so far, his favorite thing about the United States is the macaroni and cheese. "It tastes so good! We don't have mac-and-cheese in Germany." In addition to mac-and-cheese, Janus has been exposed to numerous amounts of other new firsts such as learning about pick-up lines and watching an American football game. Janus says that the one thing he misses most about his home

is the bread, because in comparison to the bread found in Germany, American bread is in fact a "tragedy." He told me that the American school system differs from the German school system greatly. In Germany, they only attend school until about 1:00 PM. When asked about which system he preferred, he replied, "It depends. Here, people in the school have much more school spirit, whereas Germany is much more focused on academics...the German school system is harder. I would probably prefer America." When I asked him what the one thing he wanted me to include in this article was, his face lit up as he replied, "Thank you, everyone is so nice and friendly. The teachers are so kind and everyone is so welcoming." Janus says he is enjoying his time in America.

Brass at the Museum

By: Josh Lehman

The Elk Point-Jefferson Brass Quintet, made up of Eric Nelson, Emma Prouty, Jordan VonSeggern, Josh Lehman, and Mr. Schmeling, played at the Second Annual Country School Reunion this Saturday at the Union County Museum. The band played a setlist of 15 classic tunes written for the trombone, trumpet, tuba, and French horn. Eric Nelson and Emma Prouty played the trumpet, while Mr. Schmeling,

Jordan Vonseggern, and Josh Lehman played the trombone, each playing a different part. The reunion was a huge success. The locals, and even some who made the trip to Elk Point for the event, loved the music put on by the band, as well as the music played by Dakota Valley's pep band. Food and drinks were served by the local Boy Scouts. Those who partook in the reunion had a wonderful time reminiscing about the days of yore.

Mr. Larson

By: Jordan Von Seggern

Of all the new faces here at EPJ, Miles Larsen is the new technology director.

As a child, Larsen grew up and attended school here in Elk Point. He is a graduate of the 2008 class. After high school, Larsen attended SDSU for his undergraduate degree in Health Physical Education and Recreation along with a Physical Education and Teaching Education. After completing his undergraduate degree at SDSU, he graduated with a master's degree in Technology Education and Training at USD.

Larsen has always enjoyed working with technology, but he realized that he really enjoyed the technical side of computers when he took his first job at St. Agnes Elementary as a computer teacher and computer tech director. After working at St. Agnes, Larsen went on to work at the Vermillion School District as the Assistant Technology Director where he was taught

by Jason Gault, who was the head of technology in Vermillion. It was Gault who made Larsen realize how much he wanted to work with technology for the rest of his life.

In his spare time, Larsen enjoys golf, hanging out with family, watching sports--especially baseball, and playing with his two dogs. Many of you may not know that Larsen is a cancer survivor and lost his eye to the cancer when he was eight months old.

EPJ is excited to have Mr. Larson!



EPJ Amends Grading Scale

By: Josh Lehman

Elk Point has adapted a new grading scale for the 2017-2018 school year. This change allows students to earn a better overall GPA, due to the strict requirements for earning an A being lowered. In previous years, the lowest score a student could earn to have an A- was 94%. With the change, it has been lowered to 92%.

When asked about the change and how it came about, Mr. Aslesen, the high school principal of Elk Point Jefferson, explained "I have been working here for over 20 years. I believe this year is my 22nd, and there has always been criticism of the grading scale." Mr. Aslesen went on to explain some misconceptions about the old grading scale. Mr. Aslesen visited the five best colleges in the area to confirm that the old grading scale was not limiting the students' chance for scholarships. For scholarships, they

look at your ACT score more often than your GPA. However, they made it clear that they don't believe all A's are created equal. They acknowledge the different scales and take them into account.

So, Mr. Aslesen put the challenge to the staff: How could they create a grading scale that is fair to students while still challenging them to be their best? They had 3 inservices, reviewed data compiled over the last 5 years, and consulted AdvancED. Mr. Aslesen stated there was much debate over how far the scale should be lowered. 7 of the 10 highest scoring schools in the area have the old grading scale with a 94% A-, EPJ included. Ultimately, they came to a conclusion. The new grading scale will be implemented this year and for years to come. As Mr. Aslesen stated, "The grading scale is a tool. It does not decide the success of the student. A student's greatness is more than his GPA."

High School/Middle School Grading Scale						
A+	100	4.0		C	77-79	2.00
A	95-99	4.0		C-	74-76	1.67
A-	92-94	3.67		D+	71-73	1.33
B+	89-91	3.33		D	68-70	1.00
B	86-88	3.00		D-	65-67	.667
B-	83-85	2.67		F	0-64.49	0
C+	80-82	2.33		I	0	0

I = Incomplete. This becomes an "F" two weeks after the last day of the nine weeks, unless arrangements have been made with the teacher and/or principal.

Ms. Abraham

By: Matthew Noteboom

Ms. Abraham is the new Special Education teacher in Elk Point.

She grew up in Hinton, Iowa, where she attended Hinton High School. After she graduated from Hinton High School, she attended Morningside College in Sioux City. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary and Special Education.

Ms. Abraham's reason for teaching in the elementary is her love of working with kids.

In her free time, Ms. Abraham enjoys hanging out with her family, playing with her kids, and shopping.

We are excited to welcome her to the Elk Point - Jefferson School District!



Senior Spotlights

This week our spotlights shine on Jordan Sidney Von Seggern and Noah Stanley Von Seggern. Jordan and Noah are two of the 48 talented seniors who will graduate this May. EPJ wishes both Jordan and Noah a bright future filled with opportunities.



Jordan Von Seggern

Parents: Monica and Eric Von Seggern

Siblings: Noah Von Seggern, Tonia Stroman, Kim Sadler, Jimmy Leasure

Birthday: October 12, 1999

Future Plans: Mechanical Engineer

Activities: Band, Choir, Jazz Band, Show Choir, Newspaper, Mentor, Community Choir

Hobbies: Computers, hanging out with friends and family, car karaoke, and watching musicals

Role Model: My older brother Jimmy Leasure

A Fun Fact About Me: I love to mess around with computers and I built my friend, Jacob Reed, a custom computer in under five hours.

Kindergarten BFF: Spencer Nelson

A Place I Have Always

Wanted to Visit: Hawaii

If I Could Be Any Age Forever: 30

FAVORITES:

Quote: "A happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit." Proverbs 15:13 (NIV)

School Memory: My favorite memory is when we placed second at State Show Choir in Aberdeen

Superhero: Iron Man

Book/Author: Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, J.K. Rowling

Movie: Secret Life of Walter Mitty

Song/Musician: Skeletons by TAL

Team: Pittsburg Steelers

Food/School Lunch: Pizza Ranch Cactus Bread

Holiday: Christmas

Class: Band



Noah Von Seggern

Parents: Monica and Eric Von Seggern

Siblings: Jordan Von Seggern, Tonia Stroman, Kim Sadler, Jimmy Leasure

Birthday: October 12, 1999

Future Plans: Major in Youth Leadership at Evangel University

Activities: Band, Jazz Band, Marching Band, Vocal, Show Choir Band, Football Manager, Newspaper

Hobbies: Frisbee Golf, hanging out with friends

Role Model: Jimmy Leasure

A Fun Fact About Me: I love to get out and travel.

Kindergarten BFF: Spencer Nelson

A Place I Have Always

Wanted to Visit: Italy

If I Could Be Any Age Forever: 35

FAVORITES:

Quote: "Discipline leads to desire, which matures into delight"~ Dick Brogden

School Memory: Playing football at recess when my friends and I were younger.

Superhero: Captain America

Book/Author: Crash the Chatterbox by Steven Furtick

Movie: Need for Speed

Song/Musician: Anchored by FEARLESS BND

Team: Philadelphia Eagles

Food/School Lunch: Hot Pocket

Holiday: Christmas

Class: Band/Vocal

Husky Happenings

Thursday, Sept. 14:

7/8 Volleyball at Akron-Westfield 4:00

Volleyball with Tea Area 5:00

Golf at EPJ 9:00

Friday, Sept. 15:

Football at Bridgewater-Emery-Ethan 7:00

Saturday, Sept. 16:

Volleyball at Cavalier Clash in Tyndall 9:00

Monday, Sept. 18:

Cross Country at Alcester 4:00

JV Football at Bridgewater-Emery-Ethan 5:00

Dak XII Golf at Two Rivers GC 9:00

Tuesday, Sept. 19:

Dak XII JV Golf at Hiawatha GC 4:00

7/8 Football with Bridgewater-Emery-Ethan 4:30

7/8 Volleyball at Beresford 4:30

Volleyball at Beresford 5:00

Editors: Jill Donnelly, Addison Ludwig, Josh Lehman

Staff: Peyton Hall, Eric Nelson, Matthew Noteboom, Jordan Von Seggern, Noah Von Seggern, Meghan Brewer, Callie Chicoine, Karson Hall, Anna Jallow, Karly Marx, Jadyn Reed, Matthew Giorgio, Kelsie Olson, Will Suing

Advisor: Douglas Wedel