



# set to competition

**All these snow days left us speechless**

Pella high hosted the Large Group Speech District Competition this year. It was rescheduled 5 times due to bad weather before it finally took place on Jan. 25 and 26.

“It was heartbreaking to miss so many competitions from the snow days,” said senior **Ezra Blasi**.

Speech Coach and cohost of the District Competition **Ashlee Whittington** was impressed with how her students worked together to prepare for their performances on Friday and then came back on Saturday to help set up for the other Iowa schools to compete.

“All the students really stepped up to make it happen,” said **Whittington**.

Freshman **Maddy White** enjoyed her first experience of a speech competition in spite of the snow.

“My favorite part was getting to spend time with and meet new people,” said **White**.

The heavy snow also affected the All City Speech Night, which is when Pella High and Pella Christian perform their acts for the community.

“The snow days made us cancel the All City Speech, and we couldn’t reschedule,” said freshman **Gage Huyser**. “That was very disappointing.”

//The television news broadcast, also referred to as POPN, advanced on to State and All-State. They received all ones and two nominations at All-State. POPN includes: **Gavin Klein, Gavin Tierney, Troy Miller, Jacob Schemm, Levi Duggar, and Matthew Thompson**. “We’ve made All-State with POPN 3 times. Last year, we were performing All-State, which is a bigger deal because you go there and perform, but this year and two years ago, we made the non-performing list,” said **Klein**. “I like doing other speech stuff but POPN is really fun and unique to me because you’re putting together something cool with your friends without a whole lot of outside guidance.”

## winter weather

Because of the heavy snows in January, sports events, speech competitions, and show choir competitions were rescheduled or canceled. Besides the disruption to extracurriculars, the start of second semester classes were also affected.

“We couldn’t get momentum in the classroom. It really affected the curriculum as well,” said English teacher **Ashlee Whittington**.

There was a record amount for failing grades posted after the first three weeks of class.

“Well now everybody is annoyed and irritated, and that will show in their school work,” said junior **Dakota Huddleston**.

There were seven snow days total. To make up for those days, the last day of school for all freshmen, sophomores, and juniors will be June 7.

“I like Memorial Day weekend, and usually that is the start of summer,” said freshman **J.T. Atchinson**. “I’m a little upset we have to go until June. There were days we could have gone to school.”

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# Boldly facing the future

## Jason Andringa talks to students about future careers

After Andringa's presentation, many underclassmen were inspired and began to think about their plans for the future. Freshman **Meridith Rowe** was one of those students. "I'll probably attend a 4 year college and minor in English or History and get my major in secondary education," said **Rowe**.



The president and CEO of Vermeer, Jason Andringa, came to the high school and gave the freshman and sophomores a presentation about careers.

He told students about his own experience majoring in mechanical engineering and working other places, including at NASA, before returning to Pella and Vermeer. However, his main message was to encourage students to look at their future with a particular mind-set.

"I think it's important that everybody in high school recognizes that there are no jobs that they can do starting out after high school and do it their entire career till they retire, so every student needs to have the lifetime expectation of being a lifelong learner," said Andringa. "They can start that in high school, start the mental practice of continuously learning new things because no matter what jobs students go into, the expectation in their career is that they are lifelong learners."

Sophomore **Chelsea Jorgensen** thought his presentation was helpful.

"I thought it was a great learning experience, and it helped me think of careers in my future," said **Jorgensen**.

# snow days

How did you spend your snow days?



"It gave me a much needed mind break."  
-Freshman **Emma Curry**



"It actually benefited me because it gives me more time to get stuff done and adjust to the cold weather."  
-Sophomore **Cameron Knox**



"I was stuck at home all day, so I watched Netflix."  
-Junior **Jalen Howe**



"I slept. Oh, and I got sick."  
-Senior **McKenzie Meyer**



// Freshman **Abbi Vanderhoff** walks through piles of snow in front of the school. The heavy snows in January created a white backdrop for Pella High. "I think the snow was really pretty," said **Vanderhoff**. "It makes everything look clean, fresh, and new."

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