“Gone” earns national award for ISD 8th grader

Hope Murapa has only been at ISD since the fall and in record time, she has earned finalist status in a national math competition, a spot on the school’s coveted wall of honor, and most recently, was named the grand prize winner in a national literary contest.

Her creative writing entry, “Gone,” is about the shooting death of a sibling due to mistaken identity by police. It earned first place in the middle school category, then was chosen as grand prize winner for writing of all the elementary through high school written submissions in the country.

(Continued on p. 3)

Sparks of efficiency

Power Drive class students Levi Post (from Grinnell) and Jessie Murphy (from Council Bluffs) are more efficient welders thanks to a boost from area industry partners Miller, Matheson Gas, Elliott Equipment and Olsson. ISD metals tech instructor Scott Versch (far right) works with the students on an electric car frame.

It only takes a spark to get a tack weld going. With new equipment made possible by the local Nebraska Section 81 chapter of the American Welding Association (AWS), getting the sparks is more convenient than ever.

Section 81 members reached out to the ISD metals technology department to assess what equipment could enhance the program. The result? The department was gifted a new multi-process welder, which means students can perform three types of welding using only one piece of equipment.

Having the versatility of MIG, TIG and stick options in one welder means less space, less time switching out equipment, and less cords to work around.

The AWS also helped build a new 7-foot portable welding table which not only aids in holding pieces for tack welding, but also acts as a precision measuring guide accurate within .003+/- an inch. Two tons of practice metal was donated to the program through the endeavor. More details here or visit iowaschoolforthedeaf.org and click Bobcat Prowler at upper right.

“(With the new equipment) more ISD students will have opportunities to become the best candidates in the welding field of tomorrow.”

– Scott Versch
ISD Metals Technology Instructor
Screen time is approved.

Got an idea for a video? Need to fact check? Want to figure out how to make that sick video transition?

ISD students who stay overnight in the dorms now have new iPads to research and create with just a tap on the screen. The ISD Foundation purchased six new devices for the department so more students can have access to exploring their Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) interests.

A designated STEAM space is used by students and dorm staff to enhance curiosity, creativity, problem-solving and more. Taryn Peterson, ISD student life advisor, said the iPads will be also be used to involve more students with Bobcat News, a video production which captures the latest happenings on campus.

The reporters and production crew learn the entire process, from planning interviews, shooting and editing footage to captioning and adding audio voice overs. The iPads will enable more students to be involved with the project.

“Gone” continued from front

Gallaudet University hosts the annual literary contest for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. Murapa’s prize is one of three trips to the Gallaudet campus, located in Washington, D.C.

Murapa, who is a new resident of Orange City, has promising math skills, too. Of 100 middle school virtual national math competitors this fall, she placed 8th in the finalist round. The contest is sponsored by National Technical Institute of the Deaf.

With Murapa’s accomplishments, it is no wonder she was chosen for the Bobcat Spotlight this winter, an internal honor recognizing ISD’s rising star students.

“Gone” continued from front

Gallaudet University hosts the annual literary contest for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. Murapa’s prize is one of three trips to the Gallaudet campus, located in Washington, D.C.

Murapa, who is a new resident of Orange City, has promising math skills, too. Of 100 middle school virtual national math competitors this fall, she placed 8th in the finalist round. The contest is sponsored by National Technical Institute of the Deaf.

With Murapa’s accomplishments, it is no wonder she was chosen for the Bobcat Spotlight this winter, an internal honor recognizing ISD’s rising star students.

Additional literary winners

Four other ISD students earned first place or honorable mention from the Gallaudet National Literary Competition, which is held to challenge and inspire deaf and hard of hearing students to showcase their American Sign Language and writing skills.

Aidan Gaines, 8th grade, from Council Bluffs was awarded honorable mention status for his poem, “Gallaudet.”

T J Nipper, a senior from Council Bluffs, earned honorable mention in the high school essay competition. TJ wrote about the movement to defund the police.

Jonathan Sanchez, a senior from Irwin, won first place in the high school creative writing category. “Felicity’s Art” is about a woman repressing a traumatic event.

View the student works here or visit iowaschoolforthedeaf.org and click Bobcat Prowler on top right.
Building a toolbox of careers

ISD high school and middle school students are building personal toolboxes of potential careers.

Plumbing, construction and furniture retail are just some of the trades being explored by ISD students as they participate in the statewide Intermediary Network’s job spotlights. Fifteen regional networks, grouped around community colleges, invite area secondary schools to join monthly job spotlights. The spotlights are usually presented on the job site. In lieu of in-person tours this year, the experiences have come into the classrooms virtually, allowing students and professionals to exchange live and candid dialogue. In an hour, students watch these careers in action and can start to consider if any of the spotlights connect with them.

“This is the first time I’ve ever participated in an activity related to job information,” said junior Levi Post, who is from Grinnell. “It helps me to think a lot about my career goals and I want to get as much information as I can before I graduate.”

“The job spotlights give students a good foundation for career and college readiness,” said Chris Nipper, ISD’s work experience coordinator.

Can’t wait for summer?
Keep watching the ISD Facebook page for announcements about ISD camp, expected this month. Find the page HERE or click the Facebook icon at iowaschoolforthedeaf.org.

Two staff receive Regent honors

Justin Cyboron, teacher, and Erin Drake, interpreter, received faculty and staff excellence honors as Iowa School for the Deaf staff.

Cyboron was an interpreter for 10 years before becoming a licensed teacher of the deaf. He began employment at ISD in 2016, where he teaches middle school science and social studies. This year, Cyboron is also supporting both online and on-site students. Bryce Hendricks, assistant principal stated, “Having him on staff benefits all of us.”

Drake has provided interpreter services at ISD since 2014. She also mentors university sign language interpreter students and other educational interpreters throughout Iowa. “Her work truly embodies excellence,” stated Deb Cates, Ph.D., who is the sign language program coordinator and Drake’s supervisor. “We are thrilled to honor her skills, her work, and her passion.”

A little bit Greek –
Just like the high school students, middle school dormitory students have developed a junior fraternity and junior sorority. “The goal is to strengthen bonds and develop a variety of skills—especially soft skills like leadership and socialization,” said Taryn Peterson, student life advisor. Sample activities so far this year include blind volleyball, where the net is covered so the other team isn’t seen, cooking contests and Minute-to-Win-It game nights.

Questions about ISD’s dorms?
Contact Dolly Murray, dean of student life dolly.murray@iaedb.org.
ISD’s outreach services expand

Schools, area education agencies and families across Iowa now have an additional point of contact at Iowa School for the Deaf.

Tina Caloud has been hired as the school’s outreach coordinator, with the goal of strengthening and expanding collaborative efforts across the state for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Caloud will connect with state agencies and schools, helping stakeholders work together and determine what services may be needed across Iowa.

Currently, Caloud is working with the LEAD-K effort, serves on the Early Hearing Detection Intervention board, has expanded American Sign Language class offerings for Iowa families and will lead summer camps. As needs are identified, her role will expand.

Caloud is a native Iowan and alumna of Iowa School for the Deaf. She has worked in deaf education more than 20 years throughout the country. She has taught ASL at universities and deaf schools. She served as an ASL teacher and ASL specialist at Atlanta Area School for the Deaf and Indiana School for the Deaf.

Caloud will earn a master’s in education in educational administration and supervision this May. She will begin a doctoral program in language, literacy and culture education at the University of Iowa this fall.

Contact ISD Outreach:
tina.caloud@iaedb.org
Video phone: 563.279.4937
Text: 712.309.1461