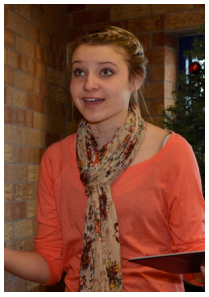

By Carolyn Lee
The Imperial Republican

For a first meet, coming off of Christmas vacation, the Longhorn Invitational at Chase County Schools (CCS) last Saturday wasn't a daunting experience for speech students.

The CCS team took third place with 61 points, with Perkins County taking first with 81 points and Paxton coming in second with 66 points. Also participating were Hershey, Sutherland and North Platte St. Pat's High Schools.

Organizer and CCS speech coach Jill Bauerle said, "Not one of us had a full team because it was so ridiculously close to vacation."

She noted that CCS doubled the number of points it received at last year's Longhorn Invitational.

Earning medals were Tapainga Kahle, first in humorous prose (Batting a Thousand); Emily Johnston, second in serious prose (My Left Breast, about a woman with breast cancer); Korey Krutsinger, second in informative (the importance of preparing a will) and sixth in extemporaneous; Anna Bauerle, second in persuasive speaking (Be Happy!); Emma Bauerle, MaKenna Ketter and Anna Bauerle, second in Oral Interpretation of Drama (Deliver Us Not!); Andrea Hogsett, third in humorous prose (And the Dish Ran Away with the Spoon) and fourth in poetry (selections about "The Journey" of life); Jessica Hartman, fourth in serious prose (Ice Cream for Dinner, about a girl preparing to die); Sabrina Hayes, fifth in poetry (selections about angels); Calen Griffin, fifth in extemporaneous speaking.

Mindy Castle earned fourth place with points in extemporaneous speaking, but was disqualified due to a coaching error, Bauerle said.

The next tournament CCS attends will be the Wallace Speech Invite this Saturday.