



Students in Kristie Pelle's first-grade class are pictured with the bags of pennies they collected over six weeks for the Penny Harvest. Also pictured in back, from left, are members of the HHS leadership class Marci Vasa, Mallory Bennett and Briar Bergner.

## HES exceeds Penny Harvest goals

Every school that participates in the Penny Harvest Philanthropic Foundation fund raiser is given a goal to collect \$1,250, or 25 bags or 750 pounds of pennies.

Despite being the smallest school to participate this year, Holyoke Elementary School not only met that goal, "they blew it out of the water!" according to sponsor Tracy Trumper.

The Penny Harvest is a project of the Holyoke High School's leadership class, sponsored by Trumper. The project is focused on teaching youth philanthropy and service learning.

Elementary students were chal-

lenged to collect as many pennies as possible within a six-week time period. On Friday, Dec. 12 all the pennies were counted, with the total amounting to \$1,712.36. It also equaled 34 bags weighing 1,020 pounds.

For their efforts, the elementary school students will receive \$1,000 from the Philanthropic Foundation. The extra money will go into a fund that will help other schools who did not reach their goals.

"So in a sense, we are helping directly the foundation itself, and likewise, helping other schools become philanthropists as well," said Trumper.

When the students return from

holiday break in January, they will be planning a celebration to coincide with the presentation of the check. Trumper added the whole school will continue to be involved in researching and narrowing down the choice of what nonprofit organization the students want to give the money to.

This process, she said, will assist students in learning about democratic processes, team building, parliamentary procedure, research, writing letters to nonprofits, interviewing techniques and reading proposals.

Checks to the chosen nonprofits are expected to be awarded late in the spring.