

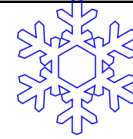


Barks 'n' Growls



BALLARD R-II SCHOOL

Fourth Edition, December 19, 2014



From the Superintendent's Desk....

Merry Christmas!



Wow! It is hard to believe that the first semester is over, and Christmas is nearly here. Where has the first half of this school year gone? It has been a great first half of the year for me, as Superintendent. I have had many learning experiences just as our students have. With the staff and students that we have, it makes things so much easier for everyone involved.

A portion of the following school closing information is repeated from my November article. I want to remind everyone that there are several places to find out if school has been cancelled due to inclement weather. The local TV stations should display this information. KCTV5, KMBC-TV9, FOX4- WDAF-TV and KSHB-TV on channel 41 are all included, as well as their affiliates. That means the following channels should have school closing information: 4, 5, 9, 38, and 41. There are also several radio stations that announce school closings, including KDKD Radio (95.3 FM, 1280 AM, and 104.9 FM) and KMOE (92 FM). Other FM radio stations to check are 99.7, 98.9, 96.5, 98.1, 89.3 and 106.5. Other AM stations are 980, 1660, and 710. A third location for Ballard School closing announcements is our school web site, which is www.ballardr2.net, as well as the Ballard Facebook account. Also if you are included in the @BR2School celly account, you will get a text stating the cancellation. Please keep in mind that whether school is cancelled or not, there are always disagreements on the decision. My philosophy on school closings due to weather is quite simple: when in doubt, error on the side of safety, which means cancel. The last thing we want is to risk the safety of the students or staff members here at Ballard. If you have any questions or concerns about this information, please contact me at any time.

If we should have school when there is snow on the ground, and we would run the snow bus routes, it will be posted on the school's website and Facebook account. It will also be sent out to the contacts included in the @BR2School celly account. If you do not have access to any of these, please let the school know in the very near future, and we will make sure that we contact you by phone.

I would like to thank everyone who made Grandparents' Day a success once again, especially the kitchen crew and, of course, the grandparents who were able to attend. It is very much appreciated. We had a great turn-out and a great meal. Here is a reminder of a few events coming soon. First, varsity basketball is well under way, and we are grateful to those community members who come out and support the Bulldogs, as well as those parents and patrons who attended the PTO Father/Daughter Dance and the Christmas Concert. Please continue to support the students of our district.

Another item of interest that I believe the community needs to be aware of is the filing dates for the next School Board election. The filing dates for any individuals interested in running for a Board position are from December 16, 2014, through January 20, 2015. The two seats that will be up for election are currently held by Richard Eidson and Rusty Binder. The election will be held on April 7, 2015. Filing information and paperwork can be acquired from and returned to Kerri Loyd during school hours (8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.) and up to 5:00 p.m. on January 20th. If interested, you may file during normal school business time. Feel free to contact me or Mrs. Loyd if you have any questions about this process.

Wishing Everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Typed by John Siebeneck
Formatted by Samantha Walsh



January Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|-----------------|
| 6 | Jayden McFalls | 19 | Morgan Meade |
| 15 | Valencia Landeros-Q | 29 | Kamryn Beachner |
| 18 | Victoria Kiffer | 29 | Micah Patrick |
| 19 | Macie Morris | 31 | Harley Copeland |



Principal's Corner

WHEN TO INTERVENE

Believe it or not, we are intervening a lot these days-with great results both happening and coming! Response to Intervention (RTI) is an academic way of saying “preventative educational care.” Much like brushing your teeth prevents you from developing cavities, interventions in school can prevent a student from developing a “cavity” in their academic progress. RTI looks different from school to school, and from grade to grade. It is not a perfect science; rather it is a constant work in progress.

Teachers examine performance data (like MAP, EOC, and local assessments like STAR Reading and now ACELLUS) on each student to identify gaps in learning. Gaps in learning prevent students from having success at the next or the current level. If a student in 6th grade English is having trouble drawing conclusions from written text, then that student is going to struggle with that skill in all subjects as he moves forward. His teacher will plan sets of mini-lessons in either small group or one-on-one settings that will help him re-learn and master the process of drawing conclusions.

This process of identifying target areas for each student is being done by your BR2 teachers during their collaboration time (PLC- Professional Learning Community). They also utilize this time to develop both lessons and assessments to measure when progress goals are met. Some teachers will be using pre-designed video lessons through the ACELLUS server we recently acquired. Some teachers will be creating lessons that any teacher can use to help build specific skills. Bulldog Time across all grades is the time when each student will be receiving targeted help that will enable them to enjoy more success in classes. This does not take the place of tutoring, and it is not a time for student to use as a study hall or to “catch up.” Those processes are already in place as most teachers remain after school at least twice weekly to tutor anyone who requests it.

An example of how RTI is affecting performance can be seen in the dramatic jumps in reading level our students from grades 2-6 enjoyed this quarter. We have several lower elementary students who have jumped more than one grade level with just a few weeks of targeted reading intervention strategies being employed by those teachers. While not all students have increased, a look back in our history shows that there is always an overall drop in reading level for this same time period. This year, we have an overall increase!

Second semester RTI plans are being finalized by each grade level. K-3 will begin a four-group math-focus RTI to increase basic math proficiency. Grades 4-6 will continue with their “common theme” reading focus across three separate groups of students. The secondary teachers will be teaching core-subject specific lessons at multiple levels in math, science, and English on a two-week rotation. Three days per week they will get targeted instruction while the other two they will remain in their reading groups.

The overarching goal by the **hardest working staff in the country** will be to do everything we can to ensure each child receives the best possible chance to succeed and reach their personal goals. No more blanket lessons. No more “here it is, hope you get it.” If a student fails in this school, it will be because they tried to do so.

Have a Merry and restful Christmas Break!

Get Connected

Follow me and the school on Twitter: [@Principaljrb](#), [@BallardR2School](#). You can find links to great articles and news on almost any topic or person, including outstanding educational resources for parents, students, and educators. It's not facebook; it's smarter!

School text alerts are available by typing [@BR2School](#) into your message box and sending it to **23559**. Event updates and school closing/dismissal information will be sent once decisions are made. Regular messaging rates will apply.

Written by Mr. Barton
Formatted by Sam Walsh

Thank you!



We would like to thank Mr. Siebeneck, Mr. Barton, the 7th and 8th, grade and all other boys and girls who helped us with Friday night's event for the Bulldog Boutique. I know it takes a lot of teamwork from the staff and kids so that the PTO is able to put on a great event for the community. There were some boys who helped take boxes out to cars and even stacked tables and chairs for us, then swept the floors after. The Ballard PTO thanks you!!

Thank you,
Jacque Porter

Pre-school News



Dear Parents and Pre-School Students:

Our Pre-School Program set to begin on January 6, 2015, at the Ballard R-2 School District. We are excited to begin this program so that we can help the students in our community become prepared for Kindergarten. I have included information below to help you prepare for your child to attend.

Days of attendance: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$10.00 per day. (If you can't pay this amount or only a portion of it, that is fine.) When you are paying for your child's attendance, you may pay Lori Oswald in the district office.

The Pre-School will be held in the FACS room, which is near the cafeteria. We ask that you walk your child to the classroom room each day, as well as pick them up from the classroom. You may drop your child off between 8:15 and 8:30 a.m. each day of Pre-School.

Just as we ask the parents to provide school supplies for the elementary students, we are asking you to provide the following list of supplies if you are able to.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1 container of Clorox wipes | 1 pair of round tip scissors |
| 1 plastic supply box | 1 box of Crayola Crayons (8 basic colors) |
| 1 box Kleenex | 1 large glue stick |

If we should need any more supplies, we will let you know as the school year progresses. We will also ask that the parents supply a mid-morning snack for the students. We plan to do this as the kindergarten students do. (Each parent will take turns providing snacks for the class for a week.) When we know how many will be attending, we will work with you on what week is your responsibility.

If possible, we ask that you contact the school to let us know if your child will be attending so that we know how many to plan for. If you are hesitant to enroll because you are not sure your child can be here every day, partial attendance is accepted.

We look forward to having your child attend and to work with them. If you should have any questions, please feel free to give me a call at school. (816-297-2656).

Sincerely,
John Siebeneck, Superintendent

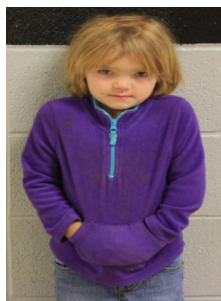
New Faces



What is your name? Gracy Morgan
What grade are you in? 4th
What is your favorite:
Show or Movie: Frozen
Food: Pancakes
Color: Purple and Red
Holiday: Christmas and Fourth of July
Sport: Football
What do you want to be when you grow up? Football player



What is your name? Kash Morgan
What grade are you in? 2nd
What is your favorite:
Show or Movie: Star Wars
Food: Broccoli
Color: Green
Holiday: Halloween
Sport: Football
What do you want to be when you grow up? Builder and a Scientist



What is your name? Tory Snyder
What grade are you in? 1st
What is your favorite:
Show or Movie: Frozen
Food: Pizza
Color: Pink
Holiday: Christmas
Sport: Softball
What do you want to be when you grow up? I don't know

Welcome, New Students!!!

Typed by Sydney Berry

Motley is CTS Student of the Week



Carli is a senior at Ballard High School. She is a Health Occupations II student. She earned her certification as a Nursing Assistant in May 2014. She is also certified in Basic Life Support for Health Care Providers and Basic First Aid through the American Heart Association.

Carli is a two-year member of SkillsUSA. Last year, she was a sub for the Clinton Chapter SkillsUSA AM Opening and Closing Team. This year, Carli is the manager, and again a sub for the OCC team. As a sub, she needs to know all of the Opening and Closing Team parts. She has filled in as needed whenever needed. In November 2014, Carli earned her Statesman Award in Leadership at the SkillsUSA West Central District Leadership Conference. In March 2014, Carli competed on the Health Knowledge Bowl Team and also competed in the Technical Spelling event at the SkillsUSA West Central District Championships. Her Knowledge Bowl team of 4 placed first at Districts and she placed 3rd in Technical Spelling. At the Missouri SkillsUSA Championships in April 2014, Carli's

Health Knowledge Bowl Team placed 2nd in the State of Missouri.

Mrs. Houk said, "Carli is a very quiet-spoken, kind-hearted person. She will be an asset to any health care field she chooses. She is rarely absent and is probably one of the most conscientious students I have ever known. I can't think of a more deserving student to become the student of the week."

Carli goes to Golden Valley Memorial Healthcare daily and spends clinical time in the Birthing Center. She would like to continue her education to become a Registered Nurse specializing in Obstetrics.

Information supplied by Lisa Kaiser,
Counselor/Assessment, CTS
Formatted by C. Murchie

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Ben Oswald, 17, is the son of Jerry and Lori Oswald. He has one sister, Mackenzie Oswald. Some of Ben's favorites include: Ag class, the color green, and steak. His favorite restaurant is Texas Roadhouse. Some of Ben's hobbies are hunting, fishing, playing basketball, and baseball. His dream car is a 1958 Corvette. Ben's famous last words are "That's what she said." One of his biggest pet peeves is stupid people. Some of Ben's extracurricular activities are FFA, NHS, Art Club, basketball, and baseball.

Ben's plans for the future are to go to college, get a degree, and get a job! When asked "Where do you see yourself in 15 years?" Ben replied, "With a wife, maybe a couple of kids, and a job I love."



By Tatiana Martinez

December Students of the Month

High School Middle Level



The Ballard R-II School District is pleased to be working in conjunction with the Adrian Optimist Club to honor a Student of the Month for the 2014-2015 school year.

Student of the Month is selected by the staff of the Ballard R-II School District using the following criteria: attendance; attitude towards others and school; behavior; leadership; and improvement in or maintenance of good grades.

The Student of the Month for December is senior James Engelhardt, son of Charles and Lawanda Engelhardt. Music Instructor, Vicki Lybarger, states "James was one of the (students) who worked so very hard on props for the elementary program. He always helps me carry in heavy things from my car, and he isn't in any of my classes. He is just a really nice young man."

Art Instructor, Jenny Czynewski, adds "James is always willing to help others. He puts aside his own interests in order to tutor peers in math and science, as well as helping teachers accomplish goals like building sets for the school play, or putting up risers for the music performance. He contributes to the positive atmosphere in the school and maintains a cheerful and humble attitude in all he does."

For James' hard work in school he is receiving a certificate of recognition from the Adrian Optimist Club and \$20.00 in Adrian Chamber of Commerce "Chamber Bucks." **Pictured: James Engelhardt, and Principal Jimmie Barton.**



The Ballard R-II School District is pleased to be working in conjunction with the Ballard Parent-Teacher Organization to honor a Middle Level (grades 5-8) Student of the Month for the 2014-2015 school year.

Student of the Month is selected by the staff of the Ballard R-II School District using the following criteria: *attendance; attitude towards others and school; behavior; leadership; and improvement in or maintenance of good grades.*

The Middle Level Student of the Month for November is 6th grader Drake Vermillion, son of Tara Vermillion and Wayne Vermillion. Music Instructor, Vicki Lybarger, claims "Drake is a very hard worker. When he sets his mind to do something, he goes all in. He is a bit of a show off, which sometimes gets him in hot water, but it came in real handy during the play. He did an excellent job as Scrooge. Drake is very smart, and I look for big things in his future."

For Drake's hard work in school he is receiving a certificate of recognition from the Ballard PTO and a \$15 gift certificate to the Ballard Grill. **Pictured: Drake Vermillion and Principal Jimmie Barton**

3rd Grade Receives Dictionaries

On Thursday, December 11, Lorrain Horner, a member from the Butler Rotary Club, presented the third grade class with dictionaries. Each student received his or her own dictionary and learned how important and useful they are. The kids were able to take their dictionaries home with them, so that they will have easy access to all kinds of words. The third grade class appreciated the dictionaries and will use them in years to come.



By Jenni Burkhart

Meet the Scholar Bowl Teams

Junior High



First row L-R:
Delaney Doll,
Sage Copeland
Second row L-R:
Amanda Teagarden,
Daylen Doll,
Megan Mantonya



The Junior High Scholar Bowl team (**pictured left**) consists of five members. They have traveled to two meets at Sheldon and Hume and came away the victor for both nights. This gave them a great start for the season. Well done, and keep up the good work!

Sponsor Cheryl Murchie stated that she was very proud of her team, and she "couldn't wait to resume practice in January to sharpen our skills for another conference win."

High School

This year, the High School Scholar Bowl team has nine members (**pictured right**). They have only had two meets so far and are off to a super start with a perfect record of 5-0! If you see one of these kids, tell them congrats and ask them a question or two. Got to keep their skills sharp!

Sponsor Cheryl Murchie Stated that she was very proud of her high school team, and she "couldn't wait to resume practice in January to get pumped up for another conference win."



First row L-R:
Holly Tate
Carli Motley
Levi Meade
Savanna Snethen
Second Row L-R:
Samantha Walsh
Morgan Meade
Stephen Jones
T.J. Sickels
Sabrina Walsh



Franklin's Facts



Mr. Franklin

Elementary:

Our character word for November was Honesty, and our December word is Respect. I introduced these words during guidance time, and students participated in activities and discussions. Character word posters are posted in all elementary classrooms and on the counselor's bulletin board. In keyboarding, we are continuing to work on some of the basic skills needed for typing. In grades K-2, we are working on letter/key recognition skills, grades 3-6 are working on using the home row keys correctly and typing paragraphs.

Middle School:

My 7th grade life skills class completed their careers unit. We are now moving on to personal-social skills training. We will be covering beliefs/values, stereotypes, prejudices, name calling, misinformation, and rumors.

Career Assembly:

On Wednesday, December 3, 2014, grades 7-12 attended a career assembly in which Mrs. Debbie Stark, Director of Emergency Services from Golden Valley Memorial Healthcare, came to speak to our students about careers in nursing. Mrs. Stark discussed the seriousness of the career, yet the really good moments the experience can provide. She also provided the students with a better understanding of the different levels of nursing and the educational requirements for each level. She mentioned what students post on social networking sites, such as Facebook, could affect their employment opportunities later on in life. Mrs. Stark also discussed the educational reimbursement opportunities her institution provides in case some of the students might wish to have a career near home; nursing could provide this opportunity for them. A career as a Registered Nurse (RN) is a highly projected career throughout the year of 2020 in Missouri.

We also completed "The Truth about Drugs" during the assembly, which is a video about the real story of what drugs are and what they do to your body and mind – told by the people who have been there, done them, and survived to tell about their negative drug-related experiences.

Junior/Senior Parent Open House:

I want to thank all of the parents and students who attended the Junior/Senior Parent Open House on Tuesday, December 2, 2014; this was a good opportunity for me to meet

Junior and Senior parents and to provide valuable resources to the community on mental health issues. Some parents were interested in the ACT testing dates, while others were interested in student scholarship opportunities. I explained to parents how to access the school website and where scholarship postings are located. Both students and parents had the opportunity to register for six door prizes during the event. The recipients of the door prizes are as follows: Graham Wainscott, Lori Wainscott, Lori Oswald, Gene Morris, and Karla Walsh. All won a \$5 gift card to McDonalds, and Pam Hill won a \$25 gift card to Walmart. A special thanks to Jake Light for taking time away from the game to conduct the drawing for door prizes.

The Government EOC test will be given on Thursday, December 18. The Junior and Senior Government class will be taking the test.

The ASVAB can help High School students who are considering a career in the military to discover their strengths in both military and civilian jobs. If a student scores high enough on the AFQT part of the test, they may use their score to enlist within the two year expiration window. Source: Union Test Prep – ASVAB, <https://uniontestprep.com/asvab/> accessed on 12/7/14.

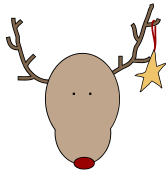
Robert Jett is the ASVAB Test Administrator, and he wanted students to know that the ASVAB is a placement test and is not just used for military purposes. I suggest students make good use of the free-testing resource. Practice ACT test questions are available for student access in English, Mathematics, Reading, Science, and Writing at http://www.actstudent.org/sampletest/?_ga=1.19084984.1439140601.1417985538.

Scholarship Opportunities:

All seniors interested in a scholarship need to come see me! I have several new opportunities, and they are time sensitive! Also, if you have not sent me your professional E-mail address, you need to do so now because many scholarships are in electronic format and I can send you the web-link to them as they arrive. My e-mail address is wdfballard@gmail.com.

Typed by Mr. Franklin
Formatted by Jenni Burkhart





Second to None

Mrs. Wainscott

Dear Santa,

I heard you were looking for a reindeer. I would be great for the job. Here are my reasons. First, I can run very fast. I can jump while I'm running. Next, I have the perfect sized ears. I can hear if there's danger near you. Also, I can hear if people are saying bad things about you. Also, I can help you. I can help you make toys. I can take you places too. Last, I can fly fast over hills. I can fly high over clouds too. Now you know why I would make a good reindeer.



Your friend,
Kamryn Beachner

Dear Santa,

I heard you were looking for a reindeer. I would be great for this job. First, I can fly great. I can fly nice and straight. I can fly high in the sky. Next, I can run fast. I can run fast because I'm a reindeer. I can run smooth because I'm a reindeer. Also, I'm really smart. I think really hard. I try really hard. Last, I can pull hard and smooth. I can pull hard because I try. Now you know that I would be a good reindeer.

Your friend,
Zoie Wheeler

Dear Santa,

I heard you were looking for a new reindeer. I would be great for this job. Here are my reasons why. First, I am very smart. I'm a good reader. I'm very good at writing. Next, I am fast. I can run like a cheetah and run like the wind. Also, I would be a good helper because I can pull a sleigh, and I can make toys. Last, I am happy, very happy. I smile a lot. I am friendly, too. There are the reasons I would be a good helper.

Your friend,
Oakleigh Hill

Dear Santa,

I heard you were looking for a new reindeer. I would be great for the job; here's why. First, I fly good. I can fly up in the air in less than three seconds. I can fly fast. Next, I am a good helper. I will pull your sleigh for you. Also, I can make toys. Also, I jump good; I can jump high over hills. Also, I can jump over hills fast. Last, I'm smart because I go to school. I try really hard to do my work. Now you know that I would be a great reindeer.



Your friend,
Jon Setzer

Dear Santa,

I heard you were looking for a new reindeer. I would be glad to take the job. First, I'm strong because I help my dad lift strong things. I'm strong because I lift weights every day. I can pull Santa's sleigh really fast so he can get to every house and throw down presents. I'm smart, so I can. Next, I can jump high in the sky. I can jump fast over everything. Also, I'm

smart so I know where to go because I know where every house it. Last, I'm very joyful. I love to spread Christmas cheer. I love to make others happy on Christmas. These are the reasons why I would be a good reindeer.

Your friend,
Sam Setzer

Dear Santa,

I heard you were looking for a new reindeer. I would be great for this job. Here's why. First, I would be helpful. I would clean the reindeer's stalls if they were dirty. I would feed the reindeer everyday. Next, I would be joyful. I would get dressed every morning very fast. I would decorate the tree with ornaments. Then, I can be very smart. I know a lot about reindeer. I know that they fly very high. Last, I am very sweet. I can help people move. I would take food to old people. These are the reasons why I would be a good reindeer.

Your friend,
Audrey Foster

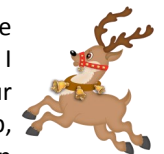
Dear Santa,

I heard you were looking for a new reindeer. I would be great for this job. Here's why. First, I fly fast. I can keep up with the other reindeer. I fly really high. Next, I'm really fast. I'm the right amount of fast that you want. Also, I'm really smart. I know what you are looking for. Last, I can jump high! I can jump over mountains! These are the reasons why I would be a good reindeer.

Your friend,
Brenden Card

Dear Santa,

I heard that you were looking for some reindeer. Here's why you should pick me. First, I am strong. I am strong enough to pull your sleigh. Also, I can lift you. Second, I run, jump, and fly because I know how reindeer fly. I can keep up with the other reindeer. Third, I am a good helper. I can deliver toys fast. If you don't have any more room I could hold a bag. Fourth, my name might be Dasher because I am fast. I am fast to deliver toys. That is why I would be a good reindeer.



Your friend,
Kash Morgan

Written by the 2nd graders
Typed by Darby Hill



Kindergarten Kids

The Publications students went to the Kindergarten class and asked them individually what they wanted for Christmas this year. These are the answers we received:

Dear Santa,

I have been a good boy this year. I want a tractor, a blue hat, a bunny, a donkey, and a train. I want to tell the Elves "Hi!" I want to say thanks for my toys last Christmas!



Thank you,
Harry Clark

Dear Santa,

I have been a good girl this year. For Christmas, I would like a swing set with two slides and two swings. I would also like a big, pink playhouse.

Love,
Macie Wainscott

Dear Santa,

I have been a good girl this year. For Christmas I would like a new cup. I would also like a puppy that is black and white. I also wish for a big, fuzzy blanket.

Love,
Maggie Foster

Dear Santa,

I have been a good boy this year. I want a morpher, a Power Ranger, a Power Ranger backpack, a Power Ranger cup, and a donkey.

Love,
Bradley Bergschneider

Dear Santa,

I have been a good girl this year. I want new baby doll stuff, a teddy bear, and Easy Bake oven, a flutter fly fairy, a new Frozen bed, and new Frozen nail polish.



Thank you, Mrs. Claus.
Ashton Siebeneck
Dear Santa,

I have been a good girl this year. For Christmas this year, I want a great, big, brown teddy bear, a doll, and all kinds of toys. Also, I want a reindeer, and an elf to make me toys.



Love,
Olivia Porter

Dear Santa,

I have been a good girl this year. I would like to wish Santa good luck this Christmas. For Christmas, I want a computer and new clothes.

Love,
Maribel Arredondo

Dear Santa,

I have been a nice boy this year. I want an iPod, a comfy shake, a ball, a hat, a jump rope, a comfy tiger, and a fake snowman. I really like you, Santa!

Love,
Luke Jacob Meade

Dear Santa,

I have been a good girl this year. I want a Lala Loopsie cup, a penny, a Lala Loopsie cook, and a dog.

Thank you, Santa!
Keslyn Page

Dear Santa,

I have been a nice boy. This year I want a blanket and a new bed, pie, and a Christmas toy.

Love,
Daxtyn Greer

This year, I want a kitty cat. How do your reindeer fly with feet? I would really like a trampoline because they're so much fun. I also want a baby dog named Charlie. How do you get your sleigh to go? Thank you, Santa. My sister has been bad this year.

Love,
Madison Gunter

Dear Santa,

I have been a good girl this year. For Christmas, I want a bear, a unicorn, a flower, and a stuffed toy hand. I also want a teddy bear, a stuffed puppy, a stuffed snowman, and a toy house with dolls.

I love you, Santa!
Serenity Wallace

Dear Santa,

I have been a good girl this year. I want an American Girl doll, a blue iPod, a snowboard, and fishies. Also, I want a dog and a cat.

Thank you, Santa.
Kennedy Borland

Dear Santa,

For Christmas this year, I want an army game for X-Box and a new dirt bike game for X-Box 360.

Love,
Payson Hill



Dear Santa,

I have been a good girl this year.

Typed and formatted by Sydney Berry



First Comes First



Mrs. Walsh

The First Grade Class wrote letters to Santa telling him what they wanted for Christmas.



Dear Santa,

What I want for Christmas is a cat and dog. Also I would like a duck and a zebra. Lastly, I would like to have a goat.

Love, Valencia Landeros-Quiroz

Dear Santa,

For Christmas, I would like a Barbie Wii set and an Elsa Wii set. Last, I want an Elsa Barbie doll.

Love, Haley Pray



Dear Santa,

What I want for Christmas is an Elsa Barbie doll and Ana Barbie doll and a phone.

Love, Celia Campbell

Dear Santa,

I want a Wii for Christmas. Also, I would like a duck. Then I want a rabbit.

Love, Cash Anderson

Dear Santa,

I want a Barbie and an iPad. Also a goldfish, horse, and some chickens.

Love, Tory Snyder

Dear Santa,

For Christmas, I would like a toy sword. The second thing I would like is a black pocket knife.

Love, Lucas Crump

Dear Santa,

For Christmas, I would like a box of beef jerky. For Christmas, I would like a black pocket knife. For Christmas, I would like a phone.

Love, Dayne Greer

Written by the first grade class

Typed by Jenni Burkhart

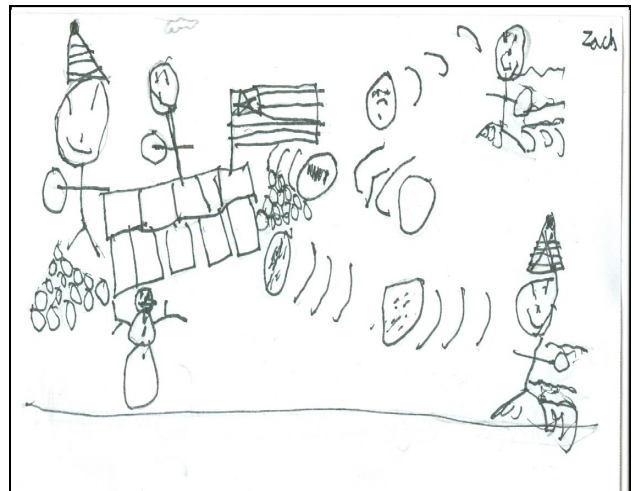
Fabulous Fourth

Mrs. Moore

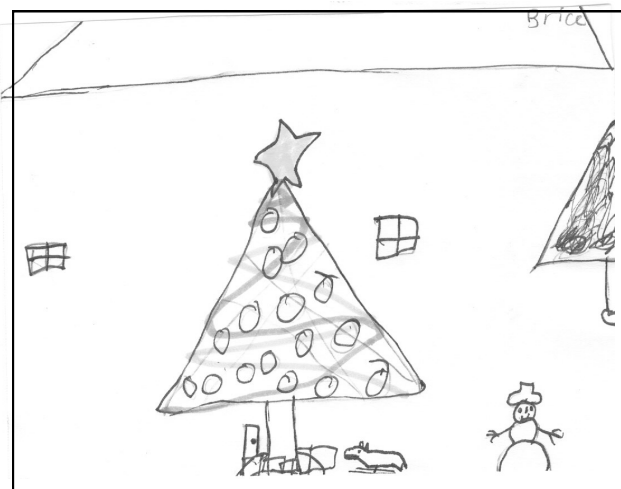
This month the fourth grade class was given an assignment to create Christmas cartoons. This is their work.



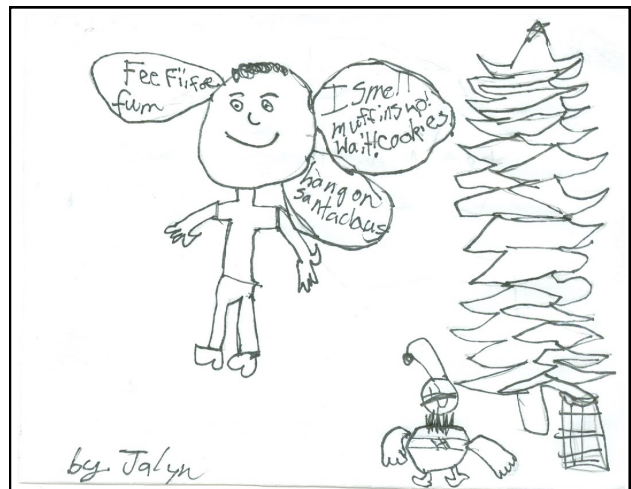
Jentry Bergman



Zach Thomas



Brice Miller



Jalyn Cook

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Tucker Roach



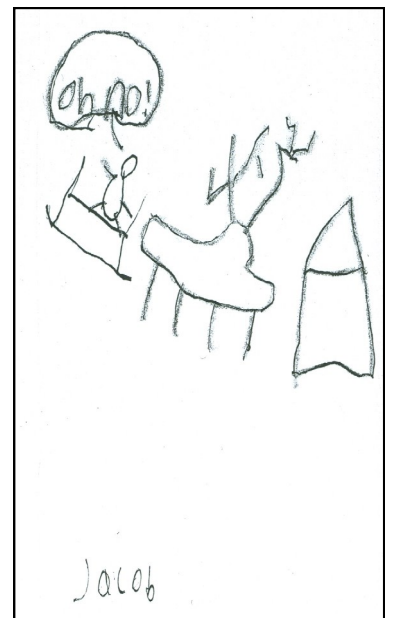
Gracy Morgan



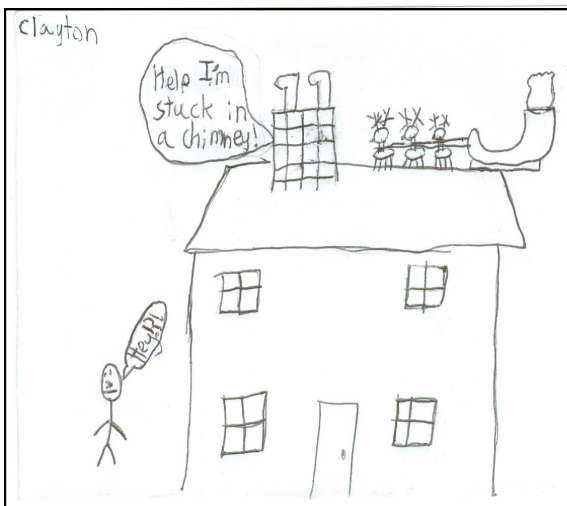
Lucas Whitaker



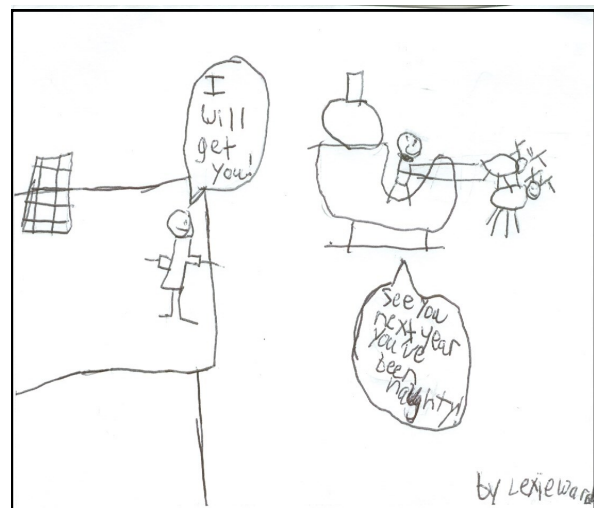
Aubrey Copeland



Jacob Kepner

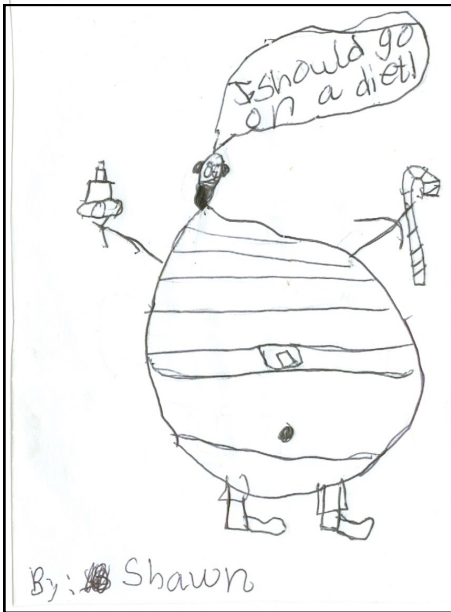


Clayton Bridges

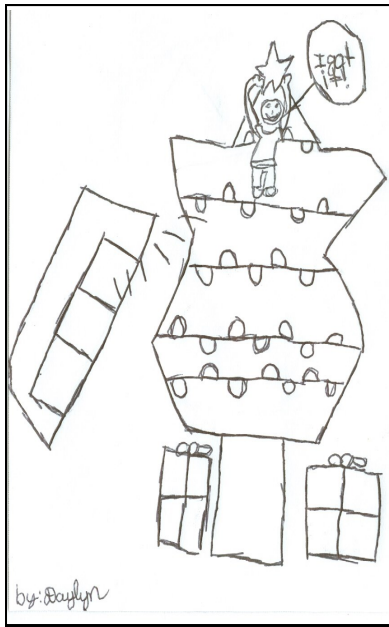


Lexi Ward

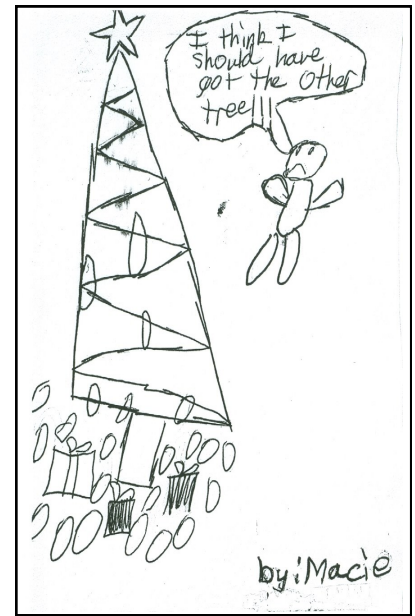
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Shawn Walsh



Daylyn Vermillion



Macie Morris

Thrilling Third

Miss Goucher

The third grade students worked in teams to create their Christmas stories. The theme was...“The Day We Saved Christmas.” They all had a great time with the stories.

The Day We Saved Christmas

Chapter 1

Five days before Christmas, Cade got a call from the North Pole. A man said, “You have won a trip to the North Pole.” The man on the phone sounded a little sick. This night three elves went through the house and then went outside. They saw a big red sleigh and there was one big reindeer attached to the big red sleigh. At the front of the seven reindeer was a little reindeer with a shiny red nose. They put us in the back of the sleigh, then we flew to the North Pole. The elves carried us to Santa’s room and Cade, Lilly, and Dallas woke up. Cade asked Santa, “Are you the one I heard on the phone?” Santa replied, “Yes, I can’t deliver presents this year. I went to Africa for vacation and got Ebola. I need you to deliver presents for me.”

Chapter 2

There were three days before Christmas. We trained and trained and trained! It was Christmas night; all of the elves polished the sleigh, and made the reindeer look nice. There was a big red bag in the back of the sleigh that Cade set in the back seat. Lilly and Dallas sat in the back seat close to the presents. In a blink of an eye, Cade cracked the whip and Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen, and Rudolph took off!



Chapter 3

We flew off into the stars. We were going so fast that

Lilly and Dallas thought that we got to every home in the world in a minute! It actually took an hour though. We hit a few bugs, but other than that it was fun. We went back to the North Pole.

Chapter 4

We were glad to see Santa was okay and not dying from Ebola. That is how we saved Christmas!

Written by Cade, Lilly, and Dallas

The Day We Saved Christmas

The reindeer were playing in the snow one evening. Then a giant yeti came and grabbed the reindeer. Then he took them to his cave under ice. The yeti came back for the elves. He grabbed 109 elves in his hands and took them to his cave. He tied the reindeer and elves up over a boiler. (Don Don Don) Santa got Rudolph to Earth to get Parker, Jessie, and Donovan. Santa warned us so we flew with jet-packs to the North Pole. We went to the yeti’s cave. We weren’t powerful enough. We grabbed Jessie and broke the ice wall. Donovan and Parker grabbed the elves and reindeer. They were lying with Jessie in the snow. Parker got a bazooka and killed the yeti. Santa gave us a medal, and this is how we saved Christmas.



Written by Parker, Donovan, and Jessie

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The Day We Saved Christmas

The day we saved Christmas was a stormy night, and the power was out. It was raining very hard, foggy as can be, and thundering very hard! It was like that all over the world! In the North Pole, lived three kids named Aimee, Valentina, and Wynne. They lived in a town called Vixen City. When Santa was delivering presents, the North Pole was still raining! Santa's sleigh had too much water in it, and the present bag fell out! The three kids found the bag, but not Santa! Then Santa finally appeared and approached Aimee, Valentina, and Wynne. The kids asked "Do you need any help?" And Santa replied with "Why Yes!" So they took the presents to their house and got hair dryers, lights, and fans. They all grabbed one and started drying off. It took about four hours for them to dry. They helped Santa load the presents onto the sleigh. Santa took off for North America! The kids and Santa lived happily ever after! The end!



Written by Wynne, Valentina, and Aimee

The Day We Saved Christmas

Once upon a time there was a legend about a snow

monster that destroyed toys made by elves. One day, the snow monster took a visit to Santa's workshop and destroyed all the presents! Then Santa asked nicely for the presents back, but the snow monster said, "No! I already broke them all!" Then the snow monster took all the reindeer and even Santa Claus! The elves were scared to death and didn't know what to do. Then suddenly, this boy named Todd came through a portal. He saw the elves scared and asked, "What is going on?" Then one of the elves said "The snow monster took Santa and the reindeer and destroyed all the toys!" Then the boy asked, "Which way did the snow monster go?" Then one of the elves replied with "They went left!" They all were walking until they found the snowmansion. That's where Santa and the reindeer were captured. The elves knocked on the door and the white door opened. There were eight reindeer and Santa! Then Todd pulled out the sword from a stone and slayed the monster. When he died, he came back to life and was a nice monster and fixed all the presents and bought more decorations. They all lived happily ever after together.



Written by Hannah, Lindy, and Jada

Written by the Third Grade Class

Typed by Caitlyn Inglis

Fantastic Fifth

Mrs. Burke



If I Were a Gift...

Ashton Carullo: If I were a present, I would be myself. I would give myself to Audrey Foster because she is my best, best friend. She has an awesome house, two other siblings and I could live there.

Payton Miller: If I were a present, I would be a Power Ranger. I would give myself to Tim and River because they are good friends.

Briana Arredondo: If I were a present, I would be a Surface Pro 3. A Surface Pro 3 is a tablet connected to a keyboard and comes with a pen and you can draw on the screen with the pen. It's AWESOME. If were the Surface Pro 3 I would give myself to me because that is what I want for Christmas.



Kale Oerke: If I were a present, I would be a bow. I would give myself to my brother Garrett because he really wants one for Christmas.

John Ganfield: If I were a present, I would be a PSVita. I would give me to myself because I'm awesome! P.S. so is my dog (Lab/Pit-bull) Thunder.

Cody Bridges: If I were a present, I would be a full size rocket ship. I would give myself to my brother Clayton. Then I will launch while he is playing and land in front of him, and then he'll run away. But then I will take him to the moon,



space suits included with the ship. The End.

Tim Simpson: If I were a present, I would be a brother. I would give myself to Payton because then we could hunt, play, and fish all the time together.

Brendan Moore: If I were a present, I would be a baseball. I would give myself to my cousin, Jacob because when he throws me I would fly.

Brian Boone: If I were a present, I would be a cow. I would give myself to my Uncle Keith because he is a butcher.

Dakota Steinhoff: If I were a present, I would be a remote control helicopter. I would fly around the world like a crazy person. I would give myself to Grandpa because he would play with me. He could fly me by his dog and it would chase me around.

Henry Oates: If I were a present, I would be a Jamaal Charles jersey. I would give myself to me because that is what I want for Christmas.

River Clark: If I were a present, I would be a gold plated pocket watch. I would give myself to a friend because that way they will always know the time.



Written by the Fifth Grade

Typed by Sabrina Walsh



Spectacular Sixth



Mrs. Bridges

If I were a gift, I would be an Airsoft gun “cm”. I would give myself to my friend so he could shoot it.– Wyatt Blair

If I were a gift, I would be a potion that brings people back to life. I would give myself to Rocky. I would give it to her to give to her brother because I know she misses him. – Taylor Wilcox

If I were a gift, I would be a mansion so my whole family could be together and have their own house. Then everyone would be happy!!-Serenity Morris

If I were a gift, I would be Olaf and give myself to Kailee because she loves Olaf.– Sudie Callahan



If I were a gift, I would be a mastiff and give it to my mom because she wants a puppy for Christmas.– Kailee Smith

If I were a gift, I would be a calf and I would give myself to my grandpa so we can rope him and get meat from him. – Drake Vermillion

If I were a gift, I would be an animal shelter and give myself to all of the animals in need so they would not starve or die. - Dylan Tippie

If I were a gift, I would be a truck and give myself to my grandma because she really wants a truck.– Jayden McFalls

Written by Sixth Grade class

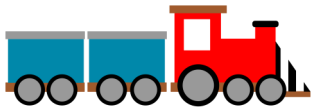
Typed by Sabrina Walsh

FFA

The FFA hasn't been very busy lately. On Friday, November 21, we were supposed to have our annual barnwarming, but was canceled due to weather and was rescheduled to February during FFA week. On December 6, 2014, the FFA students went to Crown Center and ice-skated. We all had so much fun! Lots of us did not know how to ice skate, so there were many falls and laughs. Poor Jack never left the side of the wall that he held on to because he had never ice-skated. After some blisters, bruises, and cold fingers, we left the rink with some funny memories and a time we will never forget.

After we went ice-skating, we went over to the Crown Center mall. We were all super hungry and were ready to eat! Some of us went to a restaurant called Fritz. If you haven't been there before, then first off, you are crazy and need to try it. Second off, it's a railroad restaurant that delivers your food from above with a little train that sends your food down and delivers it to you. You also order your food through this phone. Even though the food was good, it was

more fun trying to see if we can send our food back up to the train at the top.



The last thing that we did was to go shopping at the mall. A few of us went into some chocolate and candy stores, which smelled amazing! A few of us decided to go to the very top level of the mall, and we found this real high class, expensive store. We, Ballard kids, were of course not used to all of the expensive, shiny stuff. We had Jacob Kennedy with his camo coat and his big camo muck boots, and Jordan showing off his recent pocket knife that he bought, I guess you could say we didn't look like we belonged up there. We walked through the store, looking at all of the prices, and were absolutely amazed! We found a single, strapless, dress, that was three thousand dollars! We also found a hat and scarf that were seven hundred dollars! We just couldn't believe why anybody would want to spend that much for any item of clothing. We kind of enjoyed the weird looks that some “higher class” people gave us. Overall, we had a very fun day and would like to wish everyone Happy Holidays, and we will see everyone back after break!



Typed by Katrina Clark

Ag

The Ag department has been very busy this month. Ag Economics finished the first unit of principles of economics and they have taken a semester final so they could move on to principles of Ag business. The Small Engines class finished all small engine products and now are moving on to Ag power. The Ag II class finished their soils

unit and are moving into Ag II shop curriculum so they can go work out in the shop. In Ag Animal Science, the class did some animal dissections so they could learn about the various organs in the animal's body. They have also learned about the nutrition required for certain animals. The 8th graders finished their bridge projects that will be broken before we go on break. After that, they will be moving on to ecology. In Ag Structures class, they have been working on shop projects.



By Sabrina Walsh

Lucky Seventh

This month, the 7th grade has thought hard about what we want for Christmas. With the holiday approaching, we can't wait for Christmas break! Here is what we want for Christmas:

- Sage— Water Speakers
- Laney— Phone and Collar for Smudge
- Dale— Call of Duty Advanced Warfare
- Brice— A chocolate lab puppy
- Sierra— iPhone 6 and DS
- Jake— Basketball goal and basketball
- Donovan— Fishing pole
- Garrett— Compound bow and hot tub
- Brianna— Hippos



Written by Laney Doll
Typed by Darby Hill

Foreign Language



As the first semester comes to an end, so does our foreign language class. We are all very excited to finish up this semester with passing grades and knowledge of a new language. This semester has been a new learning experience that will hopefully help us in the future. Our teachers have been patient and willing to help even though there have been a lot of problems getting everything working. In Spanish, Darby and Morgan have learned how to speak in complete sentences. In French, Holly and Jenni have learned how to describe articles of clothing. In German, TJ has learned how to tell time. That's all for now!

By Darby Hill

Funny Freshman

This month the Freshmen Class decided to make a Christmas list of what they want for Christmas this year.

- Addie D.— Luke Himmings
- Abbi C.— A phone
- Maddy M.— Samsung Galaxy 5S
- Merritt R.— A million dollars
- Colton P.— New boots
- Harley C.— Austin Carlite or Fronz
- Savanna S.— iPhone 6



- Ray C.— Games
- Mikayla W.— Books
- Camryn E.— A day off from school
- Michaela C.— To move into my new house
- Caleb M.— Boots
- Trent T.— I don't know
- Savanna A.— More leggings or new Clothes



Well, we are half-way through the school year, and it's almost time for Christmas! We are all so excited for Christmas break. Well, I hope you have a great Christmas break and have fun, but stay safe.

Written by Savanna Allen
Typed by Katrina Clark

Silly Sophmores

The Sophomore Class has put together a Christmas list!

- Jordan: Nissan GTR
- Tori: Front End Dragster
- Stephen: Full Metal Alchemist season 1
- Micah: A truck
- Holly: iPhone 6
- Morgan: A Chinese chef, and a bazooka



It's Christmas time! The Sophomore class will be doing secret Santa! We hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas break and safe travels. Remember the true meaning of Christmas, and give thanks for everything you receive! Happy Holidays, everyone!

Written by Tori Kiffer
Typed by Caitlyn Inglis

Jolliest Juniors

This month has been a very busy time for the Juniors. With Christmas fast approaching, we decided to make a Christmas list.

- Darby Hill: Sperry's and money
- Sydney Berry: For my cousin to have an early leave and come home.
- Caitlyn Inglis: A 1970 Chevelle
- Jenni Burkhart: A giant 3 foot tall stuffed teddy-bear
- Tatiana Martinez: Endless supply of lip-gloss and socks
- Katrina Clark: A pretty cow
- Sabrina Walsh: A phone
- T.J. Sickels: My car to be fixed
- Levi Meade: A Nintendo 3-D XL
- Kody Green: A lifetime supply of Monsters
- Jacob Kroenke: An iPhone 5
- Mylan Murray: New head phones
- Tyler Kennedy: Airsoft bbs Jacob Kennedy: A lifetime supply of pop



Super Seniors

This month, the Senior class had the pleasure of setting up the Christmas tree. This year's tree is a little peculiar compared to trees in the past. Some may say it's a little frightening, or others may say its inviting .

When asked what the seniors wanted for Christmas, they replied:

- Graham: Siebeneck's good looks
- Kyle: Cummins with stacks
- Ben: World peace
- Sam: A new car
- Carli: I don't know
- Scott: A LOT of money
- James: The semester to be over



By Samantha Walsh



Elite Eight

This month, the eighth-grade students were asked to write down what they each wanted for Christmas this year.

- Daylen Doll**—Fluffy socks
- Payton Inglis**—C.O.D. Advanced Warfare and a new gun for hunting
- Kelsie Karo**—For this school to have less favoritism
- Jimmy Kiffer**—Money, but nothing really
- Megan Mantonya**—To be with friends and family, a phone, and a Realtree overcoat
- Kelsey Pray**—Realtree or Mossy Oak hoodie, candy, food, and pop
- Mikayla Pray**—Books and art supplies



- Jack Rotert**—A new Under Armour hoodie
- Amanda Teagarden**—A new hunting knife
- Kiara Valentine**—Bullet for my Valentine tickets and a Superman hoodie
- Kayla Wainscott**—Wii U and *How to Train Your Dragon* figures
- Sonya Walsh**—Tablet
- Jailynn Wheeler**—One Direction tickets
- Morgan Wheeler**—Nail polish
- Jaeden Schliem**—New video game

Written by Amanda Teagarden and Megan Mantonya
Formatted by Sydney Berry

Language Arts



December is flying by! All of the Language Arts classes have been working hard on different types of informative papers. The Novels class has been reading books that have movie adaptations, such as *The Maze Runner*, *The Giver*, and *The Fault in Our Stars*. The Novels class will be switching next semester to Critical Analysis of Films, and we're all looking forward to learning more!

Written by Mrs. Gray
Formatted by Sydney Berry

Art

Mrs. Czyzewski

This month, the Exploratory Art class is creating a color wheel collage made from magazine clippings. The collages are a reflection of the creator's personality. Art 1, 2, and 3 classes have been working hard on illustrating a song of their choice.

The Independent Art students have been working on the play set for the annual Music Department's Christmas concert.



The eight graders finished their clay houses inspired by their favorite fairy tales. Now they are doing a calligraphy project. Jenni and Darby did a wonderful job finishing the Tom Sawyer mural in the library. The elementary classes have been working on holiday projects. They made several projects like: symmetrical snowflakes, and origami ornaments.



By Samantha Walsh



Adventures in History

Ms. Bell



Our semester has flown by and it has been a good one! American History II students are finishing up World War I, while World History students are entrenched in pre-World War I Europe.

American History I students are studying the path that led to the American Revolution in 1776, and the birth of our Constitution. American Government students are reviewing all the rights and freedoms we enjoy daily as Americans because of that exceptional document. In addition, American Government students will be taking the EOC on December 18.

Social Studies students have finished studying the earth, its issues and concerns as a whole, as well as the various economic and governmental systems that are utilized by countries in the world. Next semester, we will begin an in depth study of each continent and its countries, beginning with North America and the United States. Ms. Bell wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Written by Ms. Bell
Typed by Jenni Burkhart



Musical Notes



Mrs. Lybarger

The Christmas program was Thursday, December 4, and the children did such a good job! I am so very proud of them all. We didn't have as much practice all together as I would have liked, but for some reason they think students need to be in regular classes. (I am joking.) Seriously, I know they need to be in regular classes, and I support this with all my heart. I also expect my students to maintain a high level of grades in each of their classes and was disappointed to find that some of my students were not making the grades they needed so they could not get out of classes to practice, as we had in the past. So kids, get those grades up. I need your musical talent; I know you can do it. Music is applied mathematics. If you can read music, you can do math. Think of it as a song, and it will come easy for you.

On that note, I will be starting a unit with the elementary where we will be doing some Music Math. If you hear this term at home, it is not a joke. It is for real. We are going to be

taking notes converting them into musical equations and doing the math.

The Jr. High will be prepping for Jr. High All District Band in Sedalia, MO, on the 17th of January. We have three students attending: seventh grader Dale Dowse, and eighth graders Sonya Walsh and Megan Mantonya. This should be exciting for the kids since it will be a band of students from all over the district from schools of 1-A, 2-A, and 3A of their own ages playing together under the direction of a great director. This will be the first time Ballard has participated in this event in years. Give these kids your support and pats on the back; it's a really big deal.

I would like once again to thank everyone for the risers, instruments, and the great trip to "A Christmas Carol."

Have a great Christmas and Happy New Year.

Typed by Mrs. Lybarger
Formatted by Jenni Burkhart



The Librariferous Report



Mrs. Wiskur

Ho Ho Ho! Merrrry Christmas from the entire library staff! And welcome to Ballard School Snow Central, where for no extra charge, you will receive the latest up-dates on the snow situation, including snow measurements, rounded to the nearest foot.

Every year about this time, when kindergarten comes to the library, there is a day when the *Big Question* comes up. After a heated discussion, one of them will invariably come up to me and cry, "Mrs. Wiskur! Joey says there's no Santa Claus!"...After only the slightest pause, I always say, "Well, Mrs. Wiskur thinks there is a Santa Claus, but maybe you'd better go home and ask your mother. "

I also once had one kindergartener who, on his first day in the library, strode up to my desk and announced, "When I grow up, I'm going to be Gene Autrey and sing "Back in the Saddle Again." But I'm digressing here.

Hurrah! It's Christmas vacation time! It's time for shaking gifts when no one is looking, baking cookies, and playing in the snow. It's time for building a cheerful snowman outside the library windows.

And so we'll stand by the library windows and wave as you jump on the bus, exclaiming, "Merry Christmas to all— and to all a good two of three feet or snow!"

Written by Mrs. Wiskur
Typed by Jenni Burkhart

Santa's workshop comes to Ballard



On the last week before Christmas break, the elementary students got an opportunity to go shopping in Santa's Work Shop. The students were able to choose from a wide variety of gifts for everyone on their shopping list. They could choose gifts from candles to towels for the adults on their list, and balls to activity books for the younger people. Some students seemed to know exactly what they wanted for their family members, and others had a hard time making the selections. In the end, they had a great time picking and choosing just the right gift.

This event was made possible by the Ballard PTO and has become a great way to let the students shop for their parents, grandparents, and other family members all by themselves. Thanks to everyone who helped make this event possible!



Written by Ms. Murchie



Grandparents Day!



On Friday, December 5th, Ballard held their annual Grandparents Day luncheon. There was a great turn out again this year . The students enjoyed the time they got to spend catching up and having a good meal with their grandparents. The cooks in the kitchen did a marvelous job preparing the food this year. As usual, the 6th grade class did a great job serving drinks and clearing the tables as soon as people were done eating . Overall, the day was a huge success , and we are all excited for next year.

By Samantha Walsh



Book Donated by Family



Mary Cruce Self grew up in Ballard and her Dad, John Cruce, was a World War II veteran. She went to school here, along with all her siblings. Mary recently donated a book that chronicled what happened to and on the ship from the Bombing of Pearl Harbor to the end of the war called Tales from a Tin Can written by Michael Keith Olson. John Cruce served on the same ship as the author, the USS Dale in World War II. The author mentioned all the men along with Mr. Cruce in his book. This book is now in the Ballard school library and has a lot of interesting facts and history in it.

By Sabrina Walsh

Pictured to the left: Mary Cruce Self (donator of the book) and Mrs. Wiskur

PTO Hosts Annual Father-Daughter Dance

On the evening of Friday, December 5, the PTO held their sixth annual Father-Daughter Dance. Several excited young ladies attended with their fathers. The daughters, as well as all the fathers, were dressed up and looked very nice.

Photos were taken during the night by Lacey Kagarice, a Ballard Grad, to capture this special night for the fathers and daughters. There were face painting offered to all; however, the fathers declined and let the girls have all the fun. There were activity tables set up for the daughters and fathers to make Christmas ornaments.

The fathers and daughters entered the gym to dance the night away to the great

music provided by Murchie Entertainment. There was a mixture of fast dances, slow dances, and line dances...something for everyone. The daughters had a great time. Several of the dads even got out on the dance floor to lead their daughters in some fancy dancing moves.

The PTO had the commons looking festive with the decorations. A variety of snacks was supplied for the dads and daughters to munch on throughout the night. Once again, the PTO did a wonderful job and made this a very memorable night for all involved.

Written by Ms. Murchie



A CHRISTMAS CAROL



On Thursday, December 4, at 7pm the Ballard Music Department held their annual Christmas concert. The play/musical this year was "A Christmas Carol," and it was a huge success. The elementary bands also played a selection of Christmas music that included: "Christmas Medley," "Jingle Bells," and "Good King Wenceslas".

After the bands played, the high school and junior high choir girls sang "Let it Go" from the hit Disney movie "Frozen." The girls were wonderful and we all enjoyed the magic that is "Frozen."

Next on stage were the Kindergarten, First, and Second graders. They did a "Winter Melody Mix Up." This was a combination of the songs, "Let it go," "Do You Wanna Build A Snowman," "Frosty The

Snowman," and "Jingle Bells." This melody was arranged by Vicki Lybarger.

Then, it was time for the main event, "A Christmas Carol!" The stage opened with Ebenezer Scrooge and Bob Cratchit in their counting house. Throughout the play, the younger elementary sat on the risers and sang songs in between character changes. Overall, the kids did a great job and the entire night was a huge success.

Thank you to all the parents, family, and friends who came and supported the kids in the Christmas Concert. The students looked great, the production was very entertaining, and everyone had a wonderful time. Also a big thank you goes out to Mrs. C's independent students: Scott Morris, Kyle Teagarden, and James Engelhardt, for making the sets that the students used during the play. Thank you to Susan Doty for running the sound system. Mrs. Lybarger did a good job in directing the kids and bringing everything together.



By Jenni Burkhart

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus

Many years ago, while driving home from school one day, my son and granddaughter were talking about what they want for Christmas. And "the question" was asked: "Grandma, is Santa Real?" "Of course" I replied, "What would Christmas be like without Santa." The memory of the statement makes me think of the heartwarming letter you see below.

A famous letter from Virginia O'Hanlon to the editor of The New York Sun, first printed in 1897.

We take pleasure in answering thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun:

Dear Editor

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The external light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to

watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding. No Santa Claus! Thank God! He lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.



The Publications Class
Wish You a
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!

Fun Page

Tatiana Martinez

Word Search

S K N D F R T H A M A C C D C
I L X U W W P Q I J J H Q H E
O V E V T L N S Y O R R H A S
H P E I O C T X O L J I M A J
A E Y D G L R S J L P S N O E
Y I U O E H S A T Y V T B J J
T R Q T O K Y J C N A M G Z O
H T O E G G N O G K E A S V J
G E D R A Z Z I L B E S F H J
U L I H A T Y G C B N R E L H
A V I M G S Q A N I T C M R E
N E C I N J F I B V M T O Q P
K A S J X S C E A E O E X D G
X M C M C E L E B R A T I O N
E C K G W K M P N P W S N X G

Word Bank

BLIZZARD, CELEBRATION, CHRISTMAS
EGGNOG, ELF, JOLLY, JOY
MISTLETOE, NAUGHTY, NICE
NUTCRACKER, PRESENTS, RUDOLPH
SANTA, SLEIGH

Jokes!

Q: What do you call an obnoxious reindeer?

A: RUDEolph

Q: What do Santa's elves learn in school?

A: The Elfabet

Q: What type of cars do elves drive?

A: Toy-otas.

Q: Who delivers presents to cats?

A: Santa Paws!



Sports Page

By Katrina Clark and Caitlyn Inglis

Ballard vs. Kingsville November 25	
Ballard	33
Kingsville	45
Leading Scorer: Sam Walsh with 11 points	

Ballard vs. Chilhowee December 16	
Ballard	39
Chilhowee	28
Leading Scorer: Camryn with 12 points	

SHOOT...

Ballard vs. NEVC December 5	
Ballard	32
NEVC	20
Leading Scorer: Sam Walsh with 16 points	

SCORE!!!



Pictured above is Savana Allen

On Tuesday December 2nd, the Lady Bulldogs took on the Hume Hornets. The girls ran out with a new defense anticipating a close game. The first half they fell a bit short with a score of 6-20 but tried to keep a good fight. In the first half Sabrina was the lead scorer with 4 points. When the Lady Bulldogs went into the locker room during half time, Coach Hill pumped them up and got them ready for the second half. They came out with 11 more points in the third quarter. Sam and Sabrina Walsh scored the most points! In the fourth quarter, Sam Walsh was on fire! She scored 8 points and ended up being the lead scorer with a total of 15 points. The ending score was Ballard 36 and Hume 58. The Lady Bulldogs fought

hard, and we'll get them next time!!

Facing the Wildcats

On Tuesday December 9, the Lady Bulldogs took on the Bronaugh Wildcats! Throughout the first and second quarter, the lady Bulldogs were doing very well keeping up with the Wildcats. Camryn, Sabrina, and Samantha all three led with a leading score of 6 points per person. The Lady Bulldogs had a very unexpected and great first half with the score Ballard 23 and Bronaugh with 31 points. After half time, the ladies were eager for a win. The defense had a few mistakes and Bronaugh made some unexpected points and Ballard ended up losing with the score of 62 to 31. The Ballard Lady Bulldogs played better than they have against Bronaugh in a while. I am so eager to see how the our Ballard team will turn out this year.



Pictured to the left is Camryn East

The Battle Against Appleton City

On Friday December 12, the Lady Bulldogs fought against the Appleton City Bulldogs. The Ballard Lady Bulldogs expected a rough game, but was ready to have a hard fight. In the first and second quarter, the Lady Bulldogs was ready for a fight. In the first quarter I don't think Appleton City expected Ballard to come out with so much effort and hard work. The Lady Bulldogs were up by five points in the first quarter. In the second quarter, two starters got into some foul trouble. Right before half time the score was 19 to 22 with Appleton City ahead. The leading scorer before half time was Sam with ten points followed by Katrina with 6 points. After half time the Appleton City Bulldogs switched up their defense and made it harder on the Ballard Bulldogs. The Ballard Bulldogs fell short and the Appleton City Bulldogs shot and made a lot of them. The Lady Bulldogs lost the game with the score of 25 to 52. The official leading scorer for the whole game was Sam Walsh with 12 points.



Pictured to the right is Sabrina Walsh



Sports Page Boys Basketball

The Win Against Hume

On Tuesday, December 2nd, the "Bulldogs got a good team win! They got contributions from everyone on both ends of the floor. We had better movement and spacing on offense. We did a good job of turning steals into points," Coach Engelhardt says. We are very proud of the Bulldogs and what they're accomplishing this season! The boys ran out of the locker room with determination.



Pictured above Kyle Teagarden

They were determined to win and they did! The score was Ballard 61, Hume 27. Leading scorers this game was Ben Oswald with 28, James Engelhardt with 14, and Colton Page with 11. We couldn't be more proud of our Bulldogs and their win!

Ballard vs. Kingsville November 25	
Ballard	37
Kingsville	45
Leading scorer: James Engelhardt 16 points	

Ballard vs. NEVC December 5	
Ballard	46
NEVC	53
Leading scorer: Ben Oswald 27 points	

Ballard vs. Chilhowee December 16	
Ballard	49
Chilhowee	52
Leading Scorer: Ben Oswald with 26 points	

Ben Makes 1,000 Points

On Tuesday, December 16th, Ben Oswald scored his one thousandth point against the Chilhowee Indians. If you see him congratulate him on his huge achievement.



Domination against the Wildcats

Tuesday, December 9th, Ballard hosted the Bronaugh Wildcats. It was a wild night filled with anticipation and excitement! The Bulldogs fought their hardest and pushed through even the hardest parts of the game. We were winning at half time and came back the second half with the same confidence and determination!



Ben Oswald was on fire during the game, making 18 free throws! The Bulldogs fought to the finish and dominated the Bronaugh Wildcats! The final score was 68-44. It was a very intense game and we are very proud of how our Bulldogs played. We know they will continue playing great throughout their season and we can't wait to continue watching them! Good luck, boys!!

Pictured left Colton Page

The Fight Against Appleton City

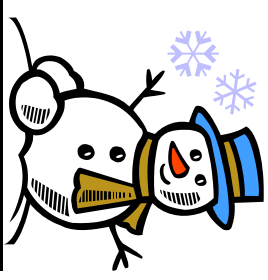
On Friday, December, 12, the Appleton City Bulldogs took on the Ballard Bulldogs. Coach Engelhardt said, "We have got to do a better job taking care of the ball. Our turnovers led to too many fast break points. Appleton City did a good job converting points from our mistakes." The Ballard Bulldogs did a good job keeping the score close during the first half of the game. Ben Oswald was the leading scorer with 20 points. Leading rebounders were Ben Oswald with 9, followed by Kody Green with 4. Most assists were Ben Oswald, Tj Sickels, and James Engelhardt with 3 each. The first half of the game, the Ballard Bulldogs kept up with the Appleton City Bulldogs, and the game was 16-23. In the fourth quarter, the boys fell a bit with the final score being 39-60. We still couldn't be more proud of our Ballard Bulldogs!



Pictured above T.J. Sickels



January 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 NO SCHOOL 	2 NO SCHOOL <i>Teacher in service</i>	3
4 Court Warming Week	5 Start of 3rd Qtr/ 2nd Sem 	6 FFA Greenhand Conf @ UCM Noon 	7 4-H 7pm	8	9 Court Warming VBB @ H vs. Sheldon 	10
11	12 Board Meeting 7:30 pm Lakeland Tournament 	13 VBB @ Adrian 6pm	14	15	16	17 ESBB 8-12pm
18	19 NO SCHOOL 	20 VBB @ H vs Montrose 6pm 	21	22 VBB @ H vs Drexel 5:30 	23	24 ESBB 8-12pm
25	26 Leeton Tournament 	27	28	29	30	31 ESBB 8-12pm