



# Barks 'n' Growls



BALLARD R-II SCHOOL  
Eighth Edition, May 11, 2017

## From the Superintendent's Desk...

Students, Parents, and Community

The end of the school year is nearly here! Wow! This school year went fast. We will have graduation ceremonies for the senior class and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade on Friday, May 12, 2017. I think this has been an excellent school year, and I expect next school year to be even better. We have a lot to be proud of here at Ballard, and it wouldn't be possible without an outstanding student body, parents, staff members, community members, and a School Board that wants the best for the children here.

As we near the completion of the 2016-2017 school year, I would like to say a few thank-yous to some individuals and organizations.

First I would like to thank the PTO for all the teacher supplies and equipment that they have bought throughout the year. Also, thank you PTO for all the food and signs of encouragement and thanks to the teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week. Your efforts throughout the year are greatly appreciated.

To the Booster Club, thank you for the supplies and equipment you have purchased throughout the year for both athletics and academics. Thank you also for all the support for the athletes by decorating the school, and for the food that you

have contributed to the students who were participating in extra-curricular activities. The Booster Club also provided the meat for the awards banquet.

I would like to congratulate and wish Nardene Wiskur the best as she retires after serving as a teacher and librarian for the Ballard R-2 School District for the past 20 years. Your cheerful personality and dedication to student success will be greatly missed. We are also losing Mr. Smith, Ms. Goucher, and Miss Norton who are moving on to new school districts.

They all have done a great job for us. All will be missed. Thank you for being a part of the Ballard family.

In closing, I want to wish the graduates good luck in the future. I hope you accomplish all your dreams, and everyone here sincerely wishes you the best for you and your family.

I will continue to work hard for this district, and I look forward to seeing the students arrive in August to begin another successful school year. Thanks for your support and caring for the students here at Ballard. Enjoy the summer.

John Siebeneck  
Superintendent

Formatted by Aiyana Murchie

## Principal's Corner

Dear Ballard Families,

It does not seem possible that another school year has come and almost gone. I do hope your child has not only enjoyed the year but has grown in many areas. Many of the goals established at the beginning of the school year have been accomplished. There have been numerous successes to celebrate.

Through the year, I have had so many opportunities to see how our students achieved goals, and I have been actively embraced by all staff, students, and parents. During the next school year, we will continue to link the school with the homes and the community as we strive to continually improve student achievement.

Thank you for getting your children to school on time each day; for kind notes of encouragement – that means so much; for sending your children with healthy lunches and snacks; for making sure homework gets completed... and turned in. Thank you for providing rich, engaging, and well-rounded experiences for your children; and for knowing that education is about joy, wonder, and fostering curiosity, along with the development of the social skills so needed to succeed. For these, and a million other things, we are truly grateful! I am truly happy and excited for the new kindergarten students that

will be entering next year.

Some of the staff will be transitioning to new positions outside of the district. Undoubtedly the staff, both the current, added with the new, will continue to be outstanding educators to all students! Congratulations to our well-prepared and capable Seniors who are moving on to a new stage in their life journey! We wish them well and much success as they move on to their next step!

Lastly, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the principal this past year and get to know each and every one of your children. Thank you to the teachers, staff, students, parents, and the community! Best wishes for a happy and safe summer!

With Great Appreciation,  
Mr. Eric Hon, Principal

Formatted by Aiyana Murchie

# April Student of the Month

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 2016-2017 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 April is Junior Andrew (Drew) Hon, son of Eric and Heather Hon. History teacher Mr. Dunkin states, "Drew is an all-around good sport. I have never heard him speak ill of others, and he takes responsibility for his actions or lack of actions concerning class work." Math teacher Mrs. Kershner states, "Drew is a great class member. He is conscientious about completing his work and is always ready to join in discussions of how to solve a problem. He is naturally curious and willing to think through new ideas even if it's not a part of the assigned work. Being willing to go beyond what is required is the recipe for success!" English teacher Mr. Smith states, "The constant smile says it all. Pleasant and very much improved. Brings a refreshing sense of humor most days."

Drew is a member of the Basketball, Baseball, and Scholar Bowl teams. Drew is also involved in Drama Club, Art Club and Ballard Honor Society.

For Drew's 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:** Terry Rice, Drew Hon, and Eric Hon

# May

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 2016-2017 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 May is Senior Morgan Meade, daughter of Jeremiah and CeNedra Meade. Vicki Lybarger, Music Teacher, states, "Morgan is one of the most enjoyable students I have had in class. She is eager to learn everything I know and comes back the next day asking for more. She is self-motivated and practices her instrument more than any student I have had the opportunity to work with; in turn she is growing as a musician by leaps and bounds. She doesn't stop with what I can teach her; she seeks out others who can help her to grow as well. This is the earmark of a life-time learner. These are the people who realize that even the so called "virtuoso" knows they can still learn something. Perhaps from an older "virtuoso" or even a new young instrumentalist (or vocalist) coming on the scene. Keep learning in all areas of your life, Morgan, and as Spock would say, "Live long, and prosper." God Bless and keep you always." Raelynn Kershner, Math Teacher, states, "Morgan has a kind heart & lots of creative ideas!" Tori Decombes, Art Teacher, states, "We could say a lot about Morgan's intelligence, work ethic, and potential. But ultimately, Morgan Meade's greatest contribution to this school has always been her one-of-a-kind personality. She will be greatly missed."

Morgan is involved in Publications, Scholar Bowl, Ballard Honor Society, Drama Club, Art Club and Pep Club.

For Morgan's hard work in school, she is receiving a certificate of recognition from the Adrian Optimist Club and \$20.00 in Adrian Chamber of Commerce "Chamber Bucks."



**Pictured:** Optimist Member, Eric White, Morgan Meade, and Principal Eric Hon



# Alumni Basketball Tournament



On Saturday, March 18, the Ballard Booster Club held an alumni basketball game at the Ballard School. Graduates young and old came out to support their high school, and to just have a good time! Four basketball games were played that night. Two of them were girls basketball, and two were boys. It was extremely entertaining watching from the stands, and many laughs were shared between different alumni players. One of the games was played with four six-minute quarters, two were with four eight-minute quarters, and one was played with four ten-minute quarters. The ten-minute quarter seemed



to last forever! It was quite obvious that the boys' games were taken a lot more seriously by their players than the girls' games. They were really getting into it, and being very competitive! Let's just say that the refs called way more fouls on the boys! However, the girls seemed to have a great time, and played tough

against one another. In the end, it was a great time, and fun was had by all! Thank you again to everyone that came out to support the Ballard Alumni, and thank you to the Booster Club for putting on the event!

Written by Camryn East  
Formatted by Adelyne Dowse

## Morgan's Matter of Facts

By Morgan Meade

1. Grilled cheese isn't just grilled cheese.
2. It's possible that you've purchased milk at separate times from the same cow.
3. Many animals probably need glasses, just no one knows it.
4. There are more people alive now than when there were fewer people.
5. The Expendables 3 gets its name from being the third Expendables film in the series.
6. Sucking on hard candy is basically drinking flavored spit.
7. Science proves that buildings can't jump.
8. Your chance of death increases 100% when you are born.
9. Al Pacino is not the brother of cappuccino.
10. Internet pirates don't have pirate ships.



## Scholar Bowl Ending With a Bang

On Thursday, April 6, the High school and Jr. High traveled to Bronaugh to compete in the conference Scholar Bowl meet. The high school team tied in wins with Bronaugh, which led us to a tie-breaker that we lost. We still brought home the second-place plaque and loads of memories. The Jr. High went in seated 4th and came out shocking every school with a second-place win! Congratulations to both teams on an amazing season.

We would like to have a special farewell to our Seniors

who have helped create each memory in all the years they have played. Aiyana Murchie, a two-year member, stated her favorite memory as being the bus rides to and from the Scholar bowl meets. Holly Tate, a player of 6 years, told us that the best moments she shared were all the practices. Morgan Meade, a 5-year veteran, said she will miss constantly getting yelled at with Aiyana for stuff the other one did and amazing the other schools with how many random things she knows.

By Morgan Meade

# The Second Annual Science Fair and Art Show



On Friday, April 21, 2017, the school hosted the second annual science fair and art show. During the art show, students were placed from first to third and two honorable mentions. For the jr. high and high school, our first place winner was Savana Allen with her artwork titled *Midnight*. Kelsie Karo was in second with her *Victorian Owl*, and Mikayla Pray came in third with her *Palm Tree Sunset*. Kelsie also got Honorable Mention with her *Reba McIntyre*, and Maddy Murray won an Honorable Mention with her *Michael Jackson*.

The elementary winners were Jada Gains, with her *Fiesta* in first place, Tory Snyder with *Birch Forrest* in second place, Sam Setzer with *Jelly World* in third place. The two Honorable Mentions were Kamryn Beachner and Kenadee Allen. Mrs. DesCombes wrote, "Ballard Students never cease to amaze me with their artworks."

For the science fair, students set up their work along the bleachers. Each class had to cover a certain kind of science theme. This year, the eighth grade picked their own projects, some of them being Borax Crystals, Ferro fluid, and Oobleck. The seventh and eighth grade also created paper rollercoasters and tested them out at the fair. Both events went extremely well; we hope next year we can have them both again!



## Singing at State

Written by Mikayla Whitaker

On Friday, April 28th, Austin Carpenter traveled to the University of Missouri in Columbia to perform two solos. Austin performed the songs "Du Bist Wie Eine Blume" and "Fußreise" and received a 2 rating on both solos. He had an excellent time doing what he enjoys, and we would like to congratulate Austin!



Written by Adelyne Dowse

## Bulldog Puppies

Mrs. Meade



This is the final month, and during the few weeks left of preschool, we have been very busy doing all sorts of interesting things, like learning about the letters W, X, Y, and Z, and all of the words that start with these letters. Wonderful projects have been made out of recycled materials, also, that prove one man's trash is another man's treasure. One of the students even made a rocket ship out of paper towel rolls! Our final letter of the year was Z, so we had a zoo theme that



week and learned all about the different types of animals that live in a zoo. Finally, the group would like to wish the new kindergarteners for next year good luck, and we'll see everyone else next year!

By Holly Tate



# May 2017 Library Report

Mrs. Wiskur



Good morning! While I was rowing to school this morning, I was marveling at how fast the year has gone. Isn't it amazing? (I suppose we say that every year.)

Today's topic: **Highlights of 2016-2017**. I have narrowed them down to the top five.

## **Item 1: Opportunities to Be Involved in Current Events**

To the Editor:

I would like to bring up a matter of utmost importance—one that affects one and all, here and there, near and far. It is a terrible problem, an extreme annoyance, a widespread pestilence! This is the matter of...SIDEWALK WORMS!

Sidewalk worms are squirmy, squishy, slimy pests. They crawl everywhere— everywhere, I say— and no one is doing anything to stop them!

That's right: NO ONE on the editorial staff of this paper has done anything to stop them. What do you say for yourselves? How can you call ourselves an editorial staff when you sit idly by and let this pestilence continue here in our very midst?!

Step forward, citizens! Speak out! Stand up and fight this war of wars! We will not be vanquished!

Peacefully,  
Mrs. Wiskur

## **Item 2: Fun in the Library**

One of my favorite memories of being librarian in the day I had a certain class for KINDERGARTEN library. A little boy walked up to me and announced, "When I grow up, I'm gonna be Gene Autrey and sing 'Back in the Saddle Again!'" (I am not making this up.)

## **Item 3: Opportunities to Meet Famous People**

Headline: Mrs. Wiskur Meets Old Friend, Celebrated Author Mark Twain  
September 28, 1869

A hushed excitement fell over the capacity crowd in the ballroom of New York City's Biltmore Hotel. As the expectant crowd awaited the arrival of Mr. Charles Dickens for a reading from his acclaimed novel David Copperfield, Midwest Correspondent Mrs. N.T. Wiskur rose to meet the new arrivals.

A buzz of excitement rose over the crowd. Mr. Mark Twain, accompanied by the lovely Olivia Langdon stopped to greet the correspondent. "Mrs. Wiskur, what a pleasure to see you again!" exclaimed Mr. Twain. "I see by your astonishment that my presence has been unexpected. The reports of my death, you see, have been greatly exaggerated."

Mr. Twain pressed an autographed copy of The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn into the correspondent's hand...and continued on his way.

## **Item 4: Follow-Up to the Worm Invasion**

At a subsequent library staff meeting, staff members voted to make a suggestion to the editorial staff of the newspaper—one which would, once and for all, eradicate this pestilence.

We suggest that the Publications Class install three-foot barricades on both sides of all sidewalks here at the school. This could be done in their spare time, while they are putting the finishing touches on this year's yearbook.

*Please do not try to thank me, Editorial Staff.*

## **Item 5: Famous Visitors**

Finally, I wish I could have been there the day before Easter break when kindergarten and first-grade library classes had a famous visitor! It must have been so exciting to have the EASTER BUNNY come hopping in to share stories of Peter Rabbit and Benjamin Bunny. What fun!

So this year— as I stand at the library windows, watching you jump on the bus at the end of the year, I'll be wishing you a great summer— filled with fun, fresh air, and lots of great books.

Warmly,  
Mrs. Wiskur

Formatted by Mikayla Whitaker



# Welcome Back!

Welcome back, Gavin Schliem! Gavin is in the first grade, and we are glad to have him back!

Written and formatted by Maddy Murray

# Jefferson City Field Trip

Pictured below are the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth grade classes, along with Representative Pike

On Wednesday, March 15, 2017, the fourth, fifth, and sixth grade classes went on a field trip to our state capitol, Jefferson City! The kids were so antsy on the bus ride there (I don't think they realized that it was going to be such a long drive). I'm not sure if it was because everyone was ready to be off of the bus, or if they were just ready to explore, but everybody was ecstatic when we first arrived! The weather was beautiful, making the capitol look even prettier than it already was! All of the kids scattered to the South entrance, and dispersed inside, where we immediately went through a series of metal detectors. After a quick and very much needed restroom break, we headed upstairs to have lunch. Right after lunch, the tour began! It consisted of looking at the Missouri State Seal and talking about its history; observing the murals on the walls, and how, when you would walk past them, their points of reference would change; a swift visit to the capitol's museum; an observation of the House of Representatives in session; and finally, the kids got to listen to Trisha, our excellent tour guide, discuss the mural painted by Thomas Hart Benton that is located in the House Lounge. The mural depicts abundant scenes of Missouri's history and is extremely fascinating!

After our tour, everybody had the chance to visit the whisper room that is located in the capitol's dome. Some kids had a great time whispering across the room to one another, while others were afraid to even be up close to the balcony. If you looked up, you could see the beautiful chandelier suspended from the top of the dome; directly down were the breathtaking murals that surrounded it. From there, the students had to climb what felt like thousands of stairs to reach the very top of the building. When there, everybody stepped out and could see the entire city, along with the Missouri River. The sights were amazing! Once we returned to the inside of the capitol building, the fourth, fifth, and sixth graders got to go out on the chamber floor of the House of Representatives. We were the first organization of people, besides the representatives, that had the opportunity to go out on the floor and not just stay on the balcony. Each student sat in one of the representatives chairs and asked questions about the capitol to Representative Patricia Pike. Finally, to end the day, each class went one at a time to print their own Missouri Seals onto a piece of paper. It was a great souvenir to remember a great day! All of the kids seemed to have had a great time and learned a lot! All in all, the trip was successful!

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Pictured above the fourth, fifth, and sixth Grade students on the chamber floor

# Ballard Stars Shine



On the evening of Saturday, April 8, the Ballard Drama Club put on a wonderful play called “The High-schooler’s Guide to the Galaxy.” This wonderful performance was directed by Mrs. Wiskur. The show started off with a group of kids talking amongst themselves about the fears and anticipations for High School. Then suddenly, they were interrupted by two ladies with a “Guide to the Galaxy.” The play covered all of the stereotypical scenarios usually experienced in high school, such as a school dance, what to wear, and school lunch.

Mrs. Wiskur has directed thirty-four plays in her career here at Ballard. In all of her productions, she has touched many students and taught many lessons. In my five years of acting underneath her, she has always welcomed me with a smile and a “Gooooood Morning!” You will be greatly missed. Thank you for your dedication and hard work. You went out with a bang!

By Morgan Meade

## First Comes First

Mrs. Ordal

What a quick year this was! We ended the year with our field trip to Lego Land, an Easter egg hunt, and field day. The mothers will be surprised on Mother's Day with a special treat we have been growing for them!



The students are becoming very good readers, writers, and scientists! They should do very well in 2nd grade with Mrs. West. I have truly enjoyed having this class! I wish them nothing but the best in their future at Ballard! Please join us at the awards assembly on the last day of school to celebrate and recognize our little Bulldogs for their hard work and achievements.

Written by Mrs. Ordal  
Typed by Morgan Meade

## Second to None

Mrs. West

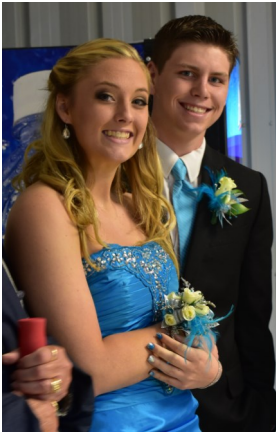
This school year has flown by for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Speaking of flying, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade had a little Easter fun back in mid-April trying to make peeps fly. We built simple catapults and sent our peeps rocketing into space! Payson Hill says, “Science activities are my favorite part of school!” Some of the students were inspired to try to build even bigger catapults at home.

During 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, book clubs were started in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Students were placed in groups and chose a book that they then read together. The groups took turns going to Mrs. Gulling for “Snack and Chat” to discuss their books. Abby Bergen said it best when she exclaimed, “It is two of my favorite things, READING, and eating!!!!”

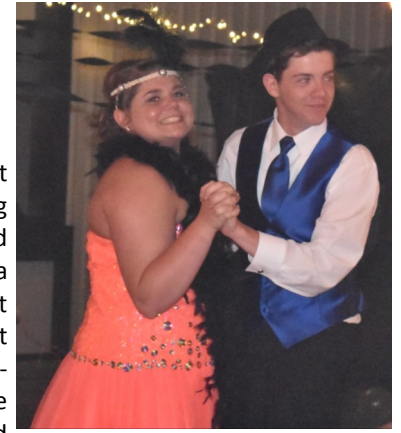
I just hope that the excitement for learning continues to grow in the hearts and minds of this dynamic class. It has been a great joy getting to know each of these charming, unique students. Have a super duper totally awesome summer!



Written by Mrs. West  
Formatted by Mikayla Whitaker



# Prom 2017!



Prom 2017 was a huge success! The theme was “The Great Gatsby,” and the Junior class did a wonderful job in planning, setting up, and decorating for the evening. There was a lot of great food served, including salad, your choice of chicken or shrimp alfredo, a roll, your choice of white cake or a lemon bar, and Shirley Temples. It all tasted great and received a lot of compliments. Everyone that showed up looked very nice and elegant, including the much appreciated servers. After everyone finished eating, Camryn East gave the opening remarks, Merritt Roach gave the prayer, Adelyne Dowse and Camryn East read the wills written by the seniors, and Austin Carpenter read the senior prophecy, written by Camryn East. Like always, the wills and prophesies were very funny and much appreciated. Jordan Hinrichs won King, and Micah Patrick won queen. Prom turned out to be an overall success and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves!

Written by Adelyne Dowse

## Partying at Project Prom!

After the juniors, seniors, and parents helped tear down all of the wonderful decorations from Prom, the Project Prom festivities began! Tons of food and drinks were provided for the kids to enjoy during the night. Lots of games were also offered for the kids to play! Some of them included: a Bean Bag Toss, Dodgeball, Volleyball, Basketball, Hungry Hungry Hippos, Bean Boozled, Apples to Apples, and many more! Everyone took the games extremely seriously and had a blast playing them! If you won any of the games, you received a poker chip, and at the end of the night, whoever had the most poker chips won a prize! The girl and boy with the most chips were Caleb Morris and McKinley Brewster! McKinley won \$25 and Caleb won four tickets to a T-Bone’s game. Once all of the games were cleaned up, everyone settled in the cafeteria for donuts, juice, and milk! Then, it was time to reveal who got to collect the grand prizes! Merritt Roach and Jordan Hinrichs received a television. Camryn East and Stephen

Jones got Kindle Fires! Andrew Hon and Holly Tate acquired a laptop. Savana Allen and Aiyana Murchie got \$250! Micah Patrick got a \$125 gift card to Wal-Mart and a \$25 Visa Card. Morgan Meade obtained a \$125 gift card to Wal-Mart. Adelyne Dowse received a Senior Pictures session from Hannah Newkirk. Caleb Morris got two tickets to a Royals game. Finally, Mikayla Whitaker received an air pump for her car tires! Also, everyone who attended prom got a goodie bag filled with all sorts of stuff, ranging from candy and soda, to gift cards and money! Morgan Meade stated, “This year’s Project Prom was the best! I had a blast eating nasty flavored Jelly Beans and just being with friends.” Camryn East exclaimed, “I had an absolute

blast! There was so much to do this year! And the prizes that we got at the end of the night were legit!” We would like to thank everyone who helped make this year’s Project Prom possible, and everyone who donated items to it. Everyone had a fantastic time!



**First Row (L-R):** Camryn East, Stephen Jones

**Second Row (L-R):** Merritt Roach, Jordan Hinrichs

**Third Row (L-R):** Andrew Hon, Holly Tate

**Fourth Row (L-R):** Savana Allen, Mikayla Whitaker, Caleb Morris, Adelyne Dowse, Aiyana Murchie, Micah Patrick, Morgan Meade

Written and Formatted  
by Camryn East



# ÷ Thrilling Third

Ms. Goucher



This month, we have spent the last weeks of April reviewing for MAP testing. Which requires going over everything we have learned this year. My students have been working extremely hard these past couple of months, preparing for the MAP test. On April 6th, Kindergarten through Third grade took a field trip up to LEGOLAND in Kansas City. The kids had a fantastic time building cars to race on the race tracks and also enjoyed riding the rides. I can't believe this school year is nearly over, it seems just like yesterday school was just starting up! Now Summer is right around corner, it has been my privilege to teach your kids and I can't wait to see what them become.

Written by: Ms. Goucher  
Formatted by: Maddy Murray

# Fiesty Fifth



In math, we are multiplying and dividing fractions. We also learned about shapes and angles. The fifth grade worked very hard to prepare for the science fair in April. During reading, we were working in our small groups and completing centers. For writing, we wrote our autobiographies. In Social Studies, we spent our time reading about the constitution and watching Liberty Kids.

During Computer class, we worked on typing and Study Island. In Art, we worked on our clay projects. Music class is preparing for the spring concert. During our PE class, we have been working out. In library, we watched Tom Sawyer and participated in our book talks. For our counselor time, we spent it relaxing and clearing our minds of stress. And finally, our basketball teams both placed second in the championship at Calhoun.

Written by Cade Callahan and Parker Hill  
Formatted by Mikayla Whitaker

# Fantastic Fourth

Mrs. Moore

For the last article of the school year, the fourth graders decided to tell everyone what their favorite part of the year was. Below are their responses:

Ethan— My favorite part of the year is the last day, because there is no more school!

Samuel— My favorite part of the year is MAP testing. I like it because I think it's fun. Testing is fun, because you get to learn.

Audrey— My favorite part of the year is the last day of school. I am not trying to be mean. I like the last day because it is fun and you don't have to go to school for a while.

Kamryn— My favorite part of the year is recess, because we get to play and stop working.

Nate— My favorite part of the year is the art show, because we get to show our work to other people and get prizes.

Brenden— My favorite part of the year is MAP testing, because you get to review the stuff you learned.

Zoie— What I think my favorite part of the school year is, is probably MAP testing, because number one, it is fun, two, it will help you, and three, it will make you smarter.

Jonathan— My favorite part of the year is the last day of school, because after that day is over school is out until next year.

Isaiah— My favorite part of the year was gym class, because I loved playing dodge ball, soccer, kick ball, and mat ball.

Written by Mrs. Moore  
Formatted by Adelyne Dowse

# Snazzy Sixth



The Sixth graders have realized that the school year is winding down, so they have been very busy learning as much as they can! They have been learning statistics and probability in math, trying to get as much knowledge as possible before heading to Mrs. Kershner next year.

Their final writing projects, "A Broken Promise," are coming together! In Science, they are reviewing forces and motion. After a few weeks of gearing up for the MAP test, the sixth graders completed all of the testing and are hoping to learn without stressing the rest of the year!

To my Sixth graders, I want you to know that you can do anything you set your mind to. I know you are ready to move on to Junior High and I'm excited to see what each one of you will do!

Written by the 6th grade class  
Formatted by Camryn East

# Flite Fight

Good job to the eighth graders on their hard work this year! We have less than a week left of the 2016-2017 school year and it is going by very, very fast. We are all ready for summer. Swimming, camping, and other summer activities are taking up most of our thoughts. We hope that everyone has a great summer and we hope to see you all next year.



Written by Serenity Morris  
Typed by Holly Tate

# Slick Seventh

This year has been very fun! All of us have enjoyed it. In Physical Science, we finished up our finals. In math, we finished up our IXL's. In Social Studies, we finished taking a test over the country China. In English, we read Where the Red Fern Grows. In Ag, we went over nutrition labels. It has been an awesome year!



Written by Briana Arredondo  
Formatted by Mikayla Whitaker

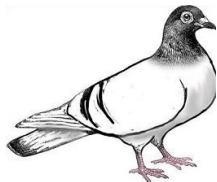
# Silly Sophomores

The last few weeks of school are finally winding down! And along with school ending, all Sophomores finally have their licenses. Look out on the roads! Now that we can all drive, summer will go by even faster! We are all very pumped for summer, aside from not seeing each other's bright and bubbly faces. Have a great summer, everyone, and see you next year! When we are Juniors!

Written by Kelsie Karo  
Formatted by Maddy Murray

# Scientific Notation

I can't believe that we're already at the end of the year! We have a lot of things going on in the science department right now. On April 21, we had our second annual science fair, along with the annual art show and freshman taco dinner. The seventh graders just got done studying the body systems. Biology I and II just finished dissecting pigeons. The eighth graders took the MAP test. The Forensics class is finishing up their crime scene kits. Physical Science made roller coasters, which they showed off at the science fair. This year has been great, and we hope you have a good summer!



Written by Mr. Brewster  
Typed by Andrew Hon

# Funny Freshmen

It's the end of the school year, and it has been great! On Friday, April 21, our Freshmen class held a taco/burrito dinner, and we raised over \$1,000! The turn-out was great! We would like to thank all of the volunteers that helped prepare the food, and all of the community members that came out to support us! We would also like to thank our amazing sponsor, Mr. Smith. Have a great summer, everybody!



Written by McKinley Brewster  
Typed by Andrew Hon

# Jazzy Juniors

Well, what an eventful year! There has been nothing but non-stop fun! We have had nothing but adventures after adventures this year! The junior concession stand has been very wonderful, and every dinner we have had went great! We hope you all have had a great year as well. We are so grateful for anyone and everyone that has supported us in the concessions and dinners we have done! We really appreciate it. We hope everyone keeps up the good work through this next couple weeks! Have a wonderful summer!

Written by Savana Allen  
Typed by Andrew Hon

# Sarcastic Seniors



Well, time is up, ladies and gentlemen. The seniors are officially graduating in T-minus 1 day! May 12 has approached quicker than we thought. We have had such a fun run. We are so thankful for the time we were able to spend together on senior trip. Those memories will last a lifetime.

We would like to thank everyone that has encouraged us throughout our schooling. We appreciate everyone that has been there to watch us grow and has supported us.

The Senior Class of 2017 would like to leave the underclassmen with a little bit of advice. Enjoy the time you spend in school; it goes by faster than you think. Be grateful for your friends and the memories you make. Growing up is tough.

We will miss all the time we have spent in school, all the teachers we have annoyed, and all the friends we have made. We hope you all had a fantastic year. Also, a big good luck to the underclassmen! We believe in you, and know you'll be able to do great things! We are outta here!

Sincerely,  
Class of 2017

By Aiyana Murchie

# Everlasting English

Mr. Smith

Finally, the end of the school year is here! To wrap up this year, the eighth grade is reviewing some chapters of grammar and studying some writing tips to be fully prepared for the MAP test. After testing is done, the class will finish the year with a little bit of literature. The freshmen class is finishing a grammar unit and just finished the novel *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens. The sophomores are working on paragraph writing structure and reading comprehension. To finish out the year, the class will be doing a unit of literature.

The juniors have been working on a grammar and writing unit to make sure that they are fully prepared for the ACT. After their preparations for the ACT, they will be looking at some literary pieces by John Steinbeck, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and several others of that time. College Prep just finished a huge unit of short stories and is currently finishing up their final paper in MLA and APA styles. Finally, the speech class just finished their persuasive speeches and is currently working on group debates. If time allows, when the seniors return from senior trip, they will maybe do one or two small speeches to finish up the year.

By Holly Tate

# Adventures in History

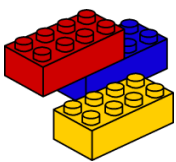
Mr. Dunkin

To start off, the world history class is studying the twentieth century and the evolution of mass society. The Civil War class is looking into the conflicts of 1864, and taking a deep look into the stalemate at Petersburg. This class also went to visit two different civil war sites, Battle of Island Mound and Marais des Cygnes Massacre on Thursday, March 30, 2017. The class toured both sites and learned some very interesting facts about the sites, like how at the Battle of Island Mound the first colored regiment was involved in a conflict during the Civil War.

Seventh grade geography is learning about Asia, China in particular. They are examining their culture, economics, and the land that makes up the country. Ninth grade U.S. history is currently investigating WWII and how it affected the U.S. They will also delve into the events immediately following the war. Eighth grade U.S. history is discussing one of the biggest events to ever occur on American soil, the Civil War. Finally, the geography class will be planning a new Ballard, using zoning skills they have recently learned to plan their own city of Ballard.

By Holly Tate

## THE LEGO LAND ADVENTURE



On Thursday, April 6, 2017, the kindergarten through third-grade classes went to Lego Land. The adventurous day started off at nine o'clock in the morning with the students, teachers, and additional helpers boarding the bus. The trip up to Kansas City was very long, but it was well worth the wait. Excitement buzzed in the air as the school bus pulled up to Crown Center. The students were amazed by the fountains and all of the bustle of city life.

Once in Lego Land, the group watched a short film that was in 4D, which is like a regular 3D film, but viewers can experience severe wind gusts, getting rained on, and many other things that make the audience feel like they are right there with the characters. After the introduction to Lego Land, the theatre doors opened and the students were free to build, observe, and climb on several different Lego exhibits. There were two different rides for the students to enjoy.

When all of Lego Land had been explored, it was time for lunch, which most of the group was ready for after a long day of play. Lunch was served in the patio area next to the fountains. Many struggled to keep hold of their trash because of the strong wind, but all trash was cleaned up, and the adventure continued at the Belton park where the group could burn off the rest of their energy. All that attended had a wonderful time.



By Holly Tate



# Softball & Baseball Kick Off!

Pictured below are Mary Patrick, Tina Eidson, and Angie Bergschneider



On Sunday, March 26, 2017, the Booster Club held its second annual Ball Day at Ballard! The event started at 5:30 p.m. and kicked off with some science experiments presented by the Junior High students. Some of the eighth graders filled up empty Pepsi bottles with liquid nitrogen and released them into the air, creating rockets! The seventh graders filled up a premade rocket with liquid nitrogen until it was completely full, and it soared super high up into the sky! The students seemed to have a great time doing their experiments. Next, Mrs. Moore sang the National Anthem before



Pictured above Morgan Wheeler

the Softball and Baseball players split into teams to have a scrimmage. To split into teams, the players picked a yellow, or a yellow and pink softball, out of a bucket. The pink and yellow team was coached by Mr. Bridges, and the yellow team was coached by Larry Bergschneider. The game went extremely well, and each team seemed to have a great time! At "half-time," Mary Patrick, Angie Bergschneider, and Tina Eidson did the mustard, ketchup, and relish race! Angie Bergschneider took home the gold, even though they all cheated! The second half of the game went even better for the yellow team than the first half, ensuring them the win! Once the game was over, all of the players went up to the snack shack, where the Booster club was providing everyone with free grilled hot dogs! Shortly after it got dark, the Booster Club lit off fireworks that the original Mr. and Mrs. Bridges had donated to them. All in all, it was a great event and everyone had a wonderful time! We didn't let the cold weather get us down! Thank you to everybody that came out to support the two teams, and we wish them both a successful season! Also, we would like to say a huge thank you to the Booster Club for all that they do for us!



## Stingin' the Hornets

The Ballard Lady Bulldogs took on the Hume Hornets on April 27, 2017, in a fight to the death. The game, like the Ballard vs. Hume game on April 12, 2017, was a very close one. At the end of the 1st inning, the score was 3-3. Then, in the 2nd inning, it was 4-3, with the Bulldogs in the lead. Through the rest of the game, we slowly lost our lead. In the 6th inning, we got our heads back and put the score with us down only one point. In the 7th, we picked up a lot of great hits and tied it up, 14-14. Since we were tied up at the end, we had to play one more inning. The Bulldogs pulled out a big win for the Senior night game, with a final score of 15-14.



## Softball

<b>Lady Bulldogs vs. Kingsville</b> April 10, 2017	
<b>Ballard</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Kingsville</b>	<b>15</b>

<b>Lady Bulldogs vs. Sheldon</b> April 11, 2017	
<b>Ballard</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Sheldon</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>Lady Bulldogs vs. Hume</b> April 12, 2017	
<b>Ballard</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Hume</b>	<b>12</b>



## Barkin' at the Bears



On April 17, 2017, the Ballard Bulldogs took on the Butler Bears in a fight. The Bulldogs started out a little rocky but picked it up towards the end. Although they took a loss, they fought hard and never quit. The Lady Bulldogs had quite a few fielding errors and some easily-fixed batting mistakes. With a lot of ground balls hit out to left field, it left the Bears with easy singles and doubles the whole night. With an ending score of 5-22, the Bulldogs never lost their heads and kept a positive attitude through the whole game.

Written by Adelyne Dowse

# Battling the Eagles

On Wednesday, April 12, 2017, the Ballard Bulldogs played against the Miami Eagles on the Bulldogs' home field! When asked about the game, Andrew Hon stated, "The game started off very well! In the beginning, we had a huge lead on the Eagles. The new pitching rule for baseball, that each pitcher can only throw 105 pitches per game, hurt us tremendously, however.. We ran out of pitchers, and had to put in people that had never pitched before. By doing that, we walked a lot of players, and eventually gave up the lead, which lost us the game." The final score was 14-19. Good try, Bulldogs! Keep giving it your all!



Pictured above Jaeden Schliem

Bulldogs vs. Kingsville April 10, 2017	
Ballard	8
Kingsville	18

Bulldogs vs. Sheldon April 11, 2017	
Ballard	11
Sheldon	12

Bulldogs vs. Leeton April 24, 2017	
Ballard	4
Leeton	14



Pictured above Merritt Roach

# An End to a Great Season

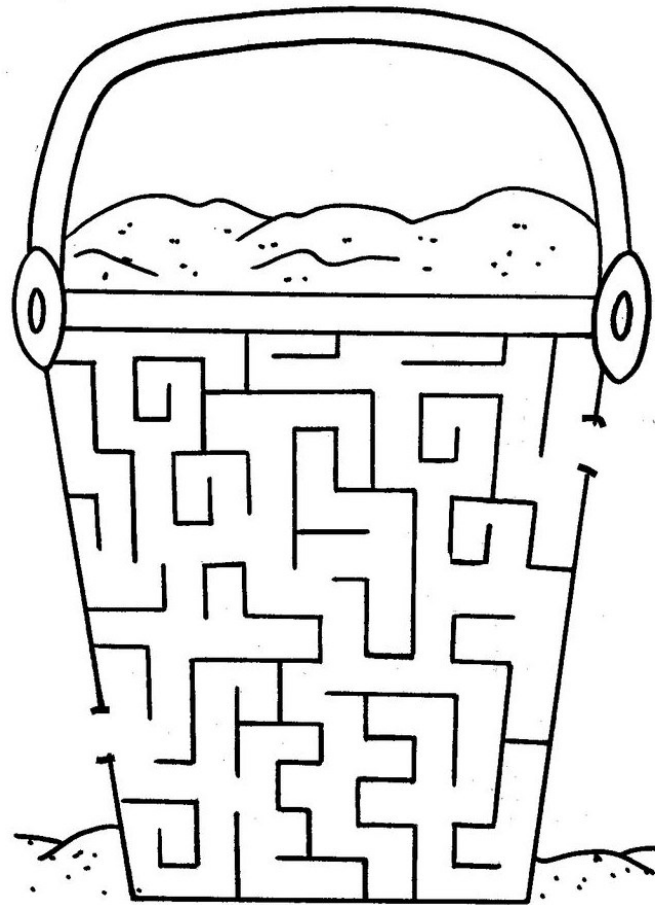


Both the boys' and girls' elementary basketball teams seasons ended on a good note! They both placed second in the Calhoun tournament! Everybody got to play and had a great time in the process! Some of the players will be moving up and playing Junior High basketball next fall, and they can't wait! They will use all of the knowledge that their coaches gave them this year, and will hopefully learn lots more in the upcoming season. Congratulations on a wonderful season, boys and girls, and thank you to all of the parents that supported them on their journey to success!



Pictured above Jessie Pulliam

# Fun Page



Q. What did the pig say on a hot summer day?  
A. I'm bacon!

Q. Why do bananas use sunscreen?  
A. Because they peel!

Q. Which letter is the coolest?  
A. Iced t!

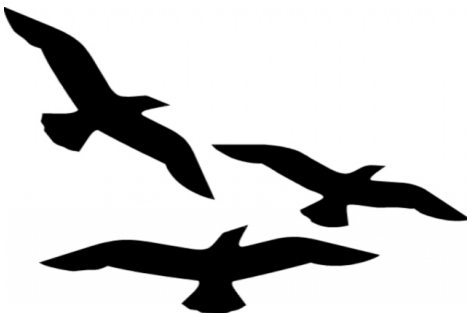
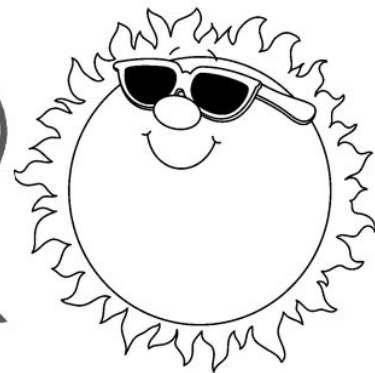
Q. What do you call a fish with no eyes?  
A. A fsh!

Q. What do you call a snowman in July?  
A. A puddle!

Q. When do you go at red and stop at green?  
A. When your eating a watermelon!

Q. What is the best day to go to the beach?  
A. SUNday!

## Summer Word Search



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

BEACH  
CREAM  
HOLIDAYS  
HOT  
ICE  
MOSQUITOS  
PICNIC  
PLAYING  
POPSICLE  
SANDALS  
SUMMER  
SUNFLOWER  
SUNSHINE  
SWIMMING  
VACATION

WARMTH  
WATERMELON