

# Barks N' Growls

## From the Editor's Desk:

Musings from a "Mad" Bookkeeper

'Tis the season for wrapping gifts, stuffing stockings, drinking hot chocolate, and watching Hallmark movies on the couch with your 10th bowl of popcorn. But for me, the Bookkeeper at Ballard, it comes with other responsibilities. Wrapping up Payroll and stuffing envelopes with accounts payable checks, drinking lots of diet Dr Pepper, and watching children file by on their way to Speech or the Nurses' office.

Others get ready for sleigh rides or carriage rides around the square to enjoy the lights, then come home to snuggle by the fire with the ones they love. I am making sure to pay our transportation costs so kids get to school, and the electric bill so we can have classes...also important, the propane, nobody likes a frosty nose inside ;).

So this month, as you are enjoying all the wonderful things Christmas has to offer, be sure to remember there are many moving parts in our schools that all need to work together to make it the best Christmas ever!

If you come by the Superintendent's office, know the Bookkeeper isn't "Mad" on purpose. She is, however, trying to get all the things she has on her list to make it a Wonderful Bulldog Christmas. Merry Christmas to All and a Wonderful New Year from this "Mad" Bookkeeper. - Katrina Bergman



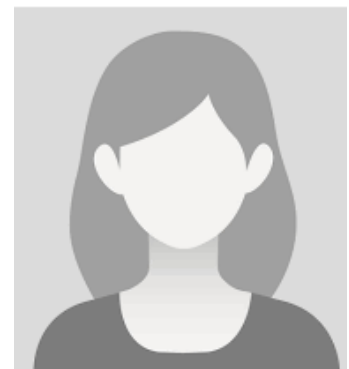
## Senior Spotlight:

### Haley Pray & Lilly Chrisman

Haley Jade Pray, 18, is the daughter of Tony and Melody Pray, and the sister of Kelsey, Mikayla and Brianna. Her favorite class is FACS and her favorite color is pink. Haley's dream vehicle is a Pink Bronco, and her favorite song is Travelin' Soldier by Cody Johnson. And "Let it Grow" from the Lorax. Her hobbies include volleyball, and her favorite restaurant is Tu Casa. Her favorite food is cheesy rice and salsa. She says her biggest pet peeve is her dog stepping on her shoes. After graduation, Haley plans to attend UNL and study special education. When asking Haley where she sees herself in 15 years, she stated that she wants to be rich and living in a big house with her husband, lots of animals and 3 kids. Her Famous last words are "6.....7".



Lilly Jo Chrisman, 17, is the daughter of Jason Chrisman and Amy Borland, and the sister of Colt, Waylon, Wyatt, and Dylan. Her favorite class is FACS and her favorite color is blue. Lilly's dream vehicle is a Blue Bronco, and her favorite song is "Can't Turn You Down" by Jon Pardi. Her hobbies include babysitting. Her favorite food is rice and sour cream and her favorite restaurant is Texas 'little' Roadhouse. She says her biggest pet peeve is people coughing. After graduation, Lilly plans to have career with babies. When asking Lilly where she sees herself in 15 years, she stated that she's having a lot of babies. Lilly's Famous Last Words are "I want a kid."



**Congratulations to November Student of the Month winners: Charlotte Hastings, Grace Doll, Lucas Crump, and Sofia Porter. We are all thankful to have such great students! -- See below to read more about them.**

## **Elementary Student of the Month**

**Charlotte is very deserving of this recognition. She shows gratitude and generosity daily to our classmates and fellow Bulldogs. Charlotte is always saying thank you and expressing her gratitude for things no matter how big or small. She is mature enough to understand that we don't always have access to the same things, yet she is always gracious. She often expresses her thanks for my lessons, as well as thanking her friends throughout the day. When I first introduced the word generosity, Charlotte was able to explain what it meant to her classmates. She does this without making anyone feel less than. She is generous with her time and knowledge! She is a special person that is always gracious and generous!**

**~Mrs. West**



**When reflecting on this month's words—gratitude and generosity—Grace truly embodies both. She is always willing to share with her classmates, whether offering a snack or lending a helping hand with their work. Grace is an exceptional student who consistently puts forth her best effort. She is a wonderful friend whose cheerful spirit brightens every day. I'm so grateful to have her in my class this year—she brings so much personality, joy, and warmth to our classroom community.**

**~Mrs. Hathcock**



## **HS/MS Student of the Month**

**Lucas is respectful, partly because he knows his mother will find out if he isn't, but also because it's who he's grown to be. He is hardworking, dependable, and genuinely fun to be around (as long as he stays in one spot, keeps the sound effects on mute, and doesn't pretend he's starring in a karate movie—IYKYK). He brings energy, humor, and determination to everything he does, and I'm proud to recognize him as student of the month.**

**~Mr. Bergen**



**Sofia is respectful, kind, hard-working, and determined to meet her goals. Even though I do not have her in class this year, I did have the pleasure of being her volleyball coach, so I have seen firsthand her leadership on and off the court. She always has a good attitude, and she is a great example of sportsmanship and discipline. She is well deserving of being Student of the Month.**

**~Mr. Bergen**

**Sofia is an outstanding student who consistently demonstrates kindness, responsibility, and a genuine willingness to help others. She treats her classmates with respect, offers support whenever someone needs it, and contributes to a positive and welcoming classroom environment.**

**~Mrs. Trickey**

# October Student of the Month

Congratulations! The Student of the Month for October is Sophomore, Jacob Eidson and 6th grader MacKenzie Claiborne. This month's special theme is "Self Control and Responsibility". MacKenzie is the daughter of Sandra and Rusty Claiborne. She currently participates in basketball, and outside of school she loves softball, reading, music, and coloring. Her future plans are to do good in school and after college someday visit New York. MacKenzie's statement of inspiration is that she would like to say "If something is hard, don't give up. Keep trying." – Jacob is the Son of Amber and Jeremy Eidson. He currently participates in Scholar Bowl and Envirothon, and simply just doesn't do anything interesting outside of school. His future plans are to attend flight school and go on to become a crop duster. Jacob's statement of inspiration is that he would like you to contemplate the words "Chicken Sandwich."

The Ballard staff have said the following about our students:

"McKenzie is a student who works hard and has a positive attitude."~Mrs. Wainscott

"McKenzie is an outstanding student and a wonderful presence in the classroom. She consistently demonstrates responsibility by completing her work on time and giving her best effort on every assignment. Her positive attitude and dependability make her a true role model for her classmates, showing what it means to take pride in her work and actions."~Mr. Duncan

"McKenzie is very responsible and trustworthy. She stays on task and is a great example of self-control. It really takes a lot to upset her and she is a great example to her peers. I'm glad to have her in class."~Ms. Burgin

And regarding Jacob:

"Jacob is very content to not be noticed, so I am glad he is getting recognized as student of the month. He works diligently on his homework, and participates and pays attention during class time (as long as he remembers his glasses). I appreciate the calmness and wit he brings to the classroom. Congratulations, Jacob!"~Mr. Bergen

"Jacob is a quiet student and is focused on getting his work done. After having Jacob for 2 years as being his class sponsor, Jacob is driven and wants to excel at any task. If he is put into a situation that he is not comfortable with he will remove himself from that situation. Jacob has the capability to exceed everyone's expectations. He has a positive attitude towards his teachers and his peers."~Mrs. Wainscott

"As Master Oogway would say...monkey."~Mr. Duncan

"Jacob Eidson is an excellent student. He is super smart and is always focused on doing good work and getting the job done. He treats his classmates with dignity and respect and never says anything negative. Keep up the great work!"~Mr. Gregory

"What can you say about Jacob? He has a fabulous dry sense of humor. He's super smart, always thinking about science and space and what could be. All that can really be said about Jacob is, "I just like this kid."~Mrs. Gregory

For Elementary we have Ruby Dickson and Hadley Winter. Excellent job! Ruby consistently demonstrates self-control and responsibility in the classroom by staying focused on her learning and completing her work carefully and on time. She follows directions the first time they are given and makes positive choices, even when faced with distractions or challenges. Ruby manages her emotions in a calm and respectful way, showing maturity and kindness toward her classmates. She takes ownership of her actions, is dependable with classroom responsibilities, and sets a great example for others through her positive attitude and strong work ethic.~Mrs. Strunk

I see Ruby using her manners and she is always writing kind notes for teachers as well as her peers.~Mrs. West

Ruby works hard and has a positive attitude.~Mrs. Wainscott

Hadley is a wonderful student who consistently demonstrates responsibility and self-control both in the classroom and throughout the school. She takes ownership of her learning by staying on task, completing her work carefully, and always striving to do her best. Hadley is respectful and thoughtful in her interactions with others, and she sets a great example for her classmates through her calm and positive attitude. She can always be counted on to make good choices and to handle situations with maturity and kindness. I'm very proud of the responsibility and self-control Hadley shows each day.~Mrs. Bailey

I have not taught Hadley, yet she is always polite, and gracious in her daily actions at school.~Mrs. West

Hadley is a determined student who enjoys working in Art Class.~Mrs. Wainscott





# Sports Pages

## HS Basketball: Meet the Bulldogs



**Back row: Coach John Siebeneck, Braydon Siebeneck , Waylon Chrisman, Bradley Bergschneider, Lucas Crump, Xander Menken, and Asst. Coach: Nathaniel Wainscott**  
**Front row: Ethan Hester, Cash Anderson, Payson Hill, Noah Bales, Levi Bockover, and Harry Greer**  
**Front middle: Lane Meade**



**The Ballard HS Girls are Co-oping with the Montrose team this year.**  
**Back Row: Asst. Coach Carrie Scott, Emmalee Scott, Aspyn Eidson, and Ashton Siebeneck**  
**Front Row: Lily Bergen**



# JH Basketball: Meet the Bulldogs



**Back row: Coach Vincent Shroeder, Ian Bergman, Callan Rotert, Maxton Wainscott, Nathaniel Wainscott**

**Front row: Huntlee Myrtle, McKenzie Claiborne, Noah Meade, Cayson Hester**





# JH & HS Cheer: Meet the Lady Bulldogs



L-R (Back): Ellee Scott, Coach Mandy Strunk, Dani Crump  
L-R (Front): Melody Bergen, Brynlee Wainscott, Summer Hastings, Nichole Luper



L-R (Back): Taylinn Hester, Aspyn Eidson, Coach Mandy Strunk, Emmalee Scott  
L-R (Front): Lily Bergen, Haley Pray, Macie Wainscott

# Counselors Corner



As we move closer to the holiday season, I want to take a moment to highlight the kindness and teamwork happening throughout our school. Our Angel Tree project is in full swing, and I'm so grateful for the generosity already shown by our students, families, and staff. We are still collecting goodies, gifts, and essential items to help make the holidays brighter for families in our community. Every contribution—big or small—makes a meaningful difference, and we appreciate your support as we continue spreading that holiday cheer.

Our elementary students have also been working incredibly hard preparing for their Christmas concert on December 18th. Their excitement is contagious, and we can't wait for families to see the joy and talent these young performers bring to the stage.

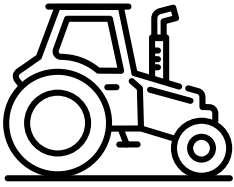
And to our seniors—this is your friendly counselor reminder to complete your FAFSA as soon as possible. Early submission opens the door to more financial aid opportunities and helps set you up for a smooth transition into life after graduation. If you have questions or need assistance, please reach out—I'm here to help every step of the way.

Wishing everyone a warm, cheerful season full of giving, learning, and celebration! (Kelsi Bergen/ School Counselor in Training / Ballard R-II)



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT MRS. BERGEN AT (660)297-2656 EX105  
OR BY EMAIL AT KBERGEN@BALLARD.K12.MO.US





We have been doing lots of different things. We got together for Thanksgiving and had our annual potluck. There was a lot of food and lots of fun! We also just got all of our fundraising items in, and they have been taken home. We are looking forward to the contest season coming up, seeing everybody be successful, and looking forward to a great year!

## **The Ballard Food Pantry**

The Ballard Food Pantry was grateful to work with Jacque Hill and the Ballard community to provide the ingredients for a Thanksgiving meal along with groceries and household items provided to twelve local families the week of the holiday. All of the families were very appreciative. This was a generous expression of the care and concern the Ballard community has for our neighbors.

We will be working with the FFA this month to provide something similar for the Christmas holiday. Currently we are also sending 17 backpacks with food items home with students.

We appreciate your continued support of this program and the generosity which makes this possible.

Norma Jones



## **Fearless First**

The Fearless First graders wanted to mention what they wanted for charismas.

Charlotte- Cloud slime

Chloe- ice skates

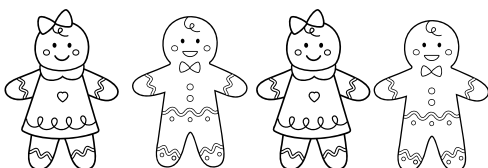
Grayson- Dirtbike

Paisley- Stitch poster

Otto- Nintendo Switch 2

Jay- PS5

Mason- Toy Cars



**Christmas movies are a great way to spend time with family!**

**Christmas movies help many get into the Christmas spirit. My favorite Christmas movie is The Nightmare Before Christmas. I love this movie because it is very different from other Christmas movies. I asked the 7th Grade class what their favorite Christmas movie was, and this is their response..... (Macie Wainscott)**

**Maxton Wainscott - Home Alone  
Huntlee Myrtle - Home Alone  
Charlie Fisher - Elf  
Logan Fuerst - Home Alone  
Kyoko Smith - Home Alone  
Noah Meade - Home Alone  
Kinzley Winter - Home Alone  
Kadin Thompson - Polar Express  
Bell Feris - Home Alone  
Ellee Scott - Home Alone  
McKinzie McKinney -  
Nightmare Before Christmas  
Jacksyn Hough - Grinch**



## **Ablaze Of Art**

**Art 1 students have been gearing up for the Christmas Concert. They have been re-creating some popular Christmas Movie Characters. Kindergarten has enjoyed making their snowman/snowwoman and adding some fun "glitter" to their creations! 1st and 2nd grade have been learning a new painting technique for some vibrant Christmas Trees. 3rd and 4th grade made some glowing Christmas Candles that will help guide your way down the High School Hallway. Upper elementary students will begin working on their "Ugly" Christmas Sweaters. Happy Holidays from the Art Room! (Erin Wainscott)**

# Salty Sophomores

## Sophomores Christmas break plans:

**Harry Greer: Hang out with family**

**Addison Fields-Wareham: Hang out with her boyfriend**

**Jacob Eidson: Hanging out with family**

**Oliver Hon: Touch grass**

**Nathan Bales: Hang with family**

**Gavin Schliem: Hang out with family**

**Owen Meade: Hang out with family**

**Taylinn Hester: Hang out with Emmalee**





# **Jaw-Dropping Juniors**

On December 6th the Junior class hosted the annual Chili Cook-off. This year's winner was Audrey Coddard, the older sister of current students, Luke and Lane Meade. Presenting the award is Junior Class Sponsor, Mrs. Rachel Gregory. Eight wonderfully different chilis competed for the coveted trophy. The Juniors want to thank all the people that participated in and helped to prepare for the competition. We appreciate your support



## **Favorite Christmas Food - Junior Edition**

**Maribel: Ham**

**Noah: Pumpkin pie**

**Abigail: Stuffing and Ham**

**Bradley: Cheesy potatoes**

**Jordyn (me): Ham**

**Kennedy: Little Debbie Christmas Trees**

**Daxtyn: Green Bean Casserole**

**Payson: Spicecake Cookies**

**Luke: Green Bean Casserole**

**Xander: Strawberry Cheesecake**

**Keslyn: Chili**

**Olivia: Chili**

**Ashton: Homemade Cinnamon Rolls**

**Macie: Ham**





## *Veteran's Day Celebrations*

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 we hoped to show how much we appreciate our veterans and all they have done for us. We had many veterans visit with us and talk about where and how long they served. We had our 4th-6th grade classes sing a few songs they had been practicing. After this, Ms. Nold spoke about the MIA table and how it represents soldiers missing in war. We ended the event gathering together to enjoy cake, tea, and coffee.

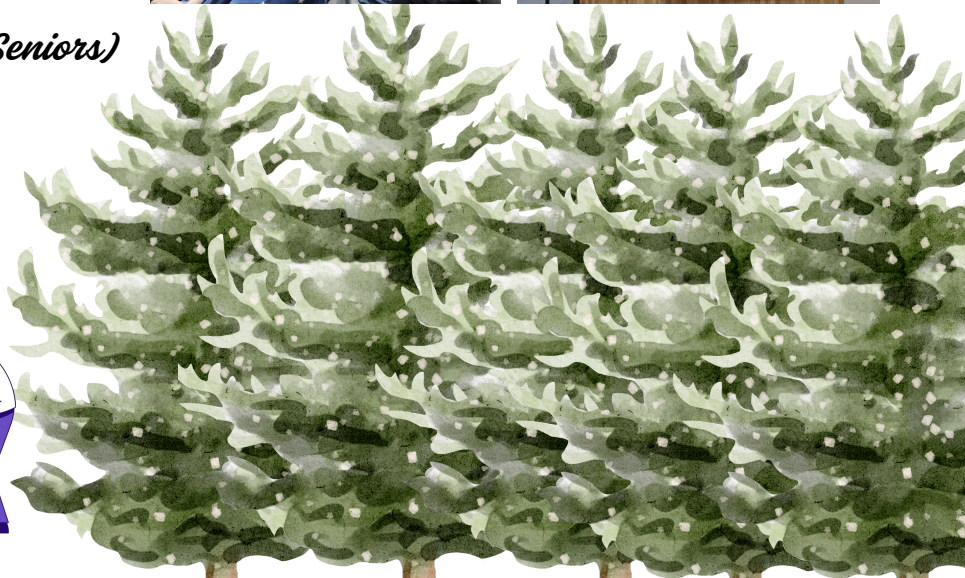
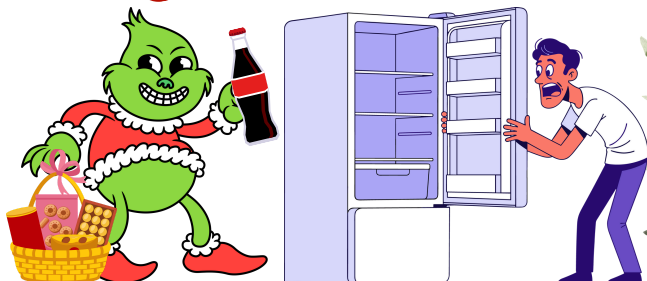


### **Slaying Seniors**

*Mr. Bergen will not let us refill the snack closet with candy and pop until all of us Seniors have a whole list of stuff done, so sorry that we are a bunch of "Grinches", taking away all the Christmas cheer, but "Scrooge" Bergen says "Bah-Humbug!" and we're just going to have to starve and go broke. (Publications Seniors)*



**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**



## A cheerful cartoon snowman with a white round body and face. It wears a red knit beanie with a large red pom-pom on top. Its eyes are simple black arcs, and it has a wide, smiling mouth. A large orange carrot serves as its nose. Two small pink circles on its cheeks represent rosy cheeks. Its arms are made of brown sticks, raised in a 'V' shape. A red and green striped scarf is wrapped around its neck, with fringed ends hanging down. The snowman is set against a plain white background.