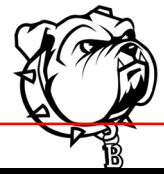


# Barks 'n' Growls



BALLARD R-II SCHOOL

Third Edition, December 20, 2021

## From the Superintendent's Desk....

"Twas the day before break and all through the school  
The students were beginning to get tired and drool  
The testing was done and the homework was too  
All students hoping to finally be through  
The children were ready to finally head home  
To begin the break and continue to roam  
With myself in my office, finishing up tasks  
The work was beginning to be wrapped up quite fast  
From out in the lot there arose such a clatter  
We thought the buses had something the matter  
They started up loudly as all buses do  
Getting ready for their run loaded down with their crew  
Once the students were boarded and pulling away  
The teacher smiled and turned to go play  
As they entered the school they began to shout  
The day is done, there's no need to pout  
We are finished for now, nothing more to do  
Merry Christmas to all, next semester we start anew.  
Have a wonderful and restful holiday break!

Sincerely,  
Dr. Hartley

### Publications Staff

#### **Editor-in-Chief**

Ms. Murchie

#### **Editor**

Lexie Ward

#### **Staff**

Alexis Hastings

Macie Morris



## From the Principal's Corner...

Dear Ballard Families,

Time flies for sure! It's hard to believe that we are at the end of the first semester and getting ready for holiday celebrations. I hope that your family is healthy, happy, and ready to celebrate this season!

I am enjoying the celebration of student of the month. We are continuing with our partnership with the Adrian Optimist Club on awarding a middle school or high school the monthly award centered on character words each month. Additionally, we are celebrating our elementary students. Teachers are working together each month to award a student in grade kindergarten through third grade and fourth grade through sixth grade. Students are focusing on character words each month and striving to meet those expectations. We are also focusing on good attendance and awarding two grade levels in elementary on their attendance. You can see pictures and the teacher's words of celebration on Facebook each month.

Weather is frequently a topic of conversation with my family and also here at school. The anticipation of a snow fall and possibly a snow day always gets the students excited. We have not had any threats that Mother Nature is going to give a heavy snow so far this season. It appears that the long term forecast will have us in school each day between now and winter break. However, as we move deeper into winter, especially during January and February please be prepared with a snow day plan as well as a way to keep yourself informed in the event of a closing due to weather.

You can find information on the following TV and radio news outlets: KCTV5, KMBC-TV9, FOX4, WDAF, and KSHB are all included as well as their affiliates. That means that 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 (92.1 FM). A third location for Ballard School closing announcements is our school Facebook page. Mid America Live often picks up our Facebook posts and will often run our announcement. Cancellations will also be sent out on "Remind", (to enroll in "Remind" for the high school, please text @ballardhi to 81010, and for elementary remind messages please text @67b2c2 to 81010). By signing up you will get a text message as soon as we know that a snow/weather day is happening.

As we get into the winter months and the cold weather sets in, please remember to send your children out the door with warm coats, gloves or mittens, a hat, and any other items that will keep them warm on the playground as weather permits. In the event we experience a bus issue, we want to be sure all the students are prepared with warm clothing.

In the spirit of giving during the holiday season remember the gifts that are free: love, understanding, and compassion. Our world can always use these gifts. Give them freely and give them often. I wish you, your family, friends, and neighbors a healthy and wonderful holiday season!

See you in 2022!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Nold  
Ballard K-12 Principal

# October Student of the Month

The Ballard R-2 School District is pleased to be working in conjunction with the Adrian Optimist Club to honor a Student of the Month for the 2021-22 school year.

Student of the Month is selected by the staff of the Ballard R-2 School District using the following criteria: attendance, attitude towards others and school, behavior, leadership, and improvement in or maintenance of good grades, and this month, self-control and responsibility.

The Student of the Month for October is Junior Lexie Ward, the daughter of the late Beverly Ward and Mike Ward.

At school, Lexie enjoys being a part of the volleyball and basketball teams.

Lexie's outside activities are; participating in the local 4-H, and hanging out with her friends.

After graduation, Lexie plans to go to Cosmetology school.

The Ballard staff has said: “

“Lexie is a captain on the volleyball team and shows daily how responsible she is with her captain duties. She always shows up to practice and games on time and is ready to go at all times. She also shows incredible self-control by not letting outside factors ever affect her on the court or even in school. She just shows up ready to do her job and puts in an immense amount of effort and tries to get her team to show self-control as well.”

“Lexie, given what I have observed during the volleyball season, consistently demonstrates self-control and responsibility on the court during games, as well as during practices that I have observed. I have seen her outside of volleyball too, and she continues to demonstrate those qualities.”

“Lexie has grown tremendously over the course of this volleyball season. She has become a key, positive (vocally and by example), leader for the HSVB team. In addition, she works very hard in conditioning which is probably the most intense class that I offer. She never gripes or complains, always giving her best effort. She is a solid ambassador for our school.”

“Lexie has really stepped up as the single editor of the publications class. She has a lot of responsibility, making sure



that she gets her articles done as well as putting the paper together each month. Lexie never complains about the workload she has to do. She usually has a smile on her face and is polite to everyone in the halls! She is a great role model for underclassmen as well as her fellow classmates.”

“I got to know her well last year during basketball season and realized her level of maturity from the way she took care of family members as well as with friends and teammates. This year while working volleyball games, she continues to be respectful, silly, caring, and a leader on the court. During basketball she played while hurt simply because she made a commitment. She still has that commitment this year. She is an all-around good person.”

Lexie's inspirational quote is; “If you want the rainbow, you must put up with the rain!”

For Lexie'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.”

# Senior Spotlight

## River Clark

River Clark is the son of the late Amanda Clark. He is the brother of Vivian and Harry Greer. River's favorite color is dark blue and his favorite class is work study. His dream car is a 2018 Denali. One of River's favorite songs is called, “E,” by Matt Mason. His favorite food is steak, and his favorite restaurant is Fazoli's. One of River's favorite hobbies is hunting. His biggest pet peeve is clutter. River's famous last words are, “I don't know.”

After graduating River plans on going to welding school. When asked, “Where do you see yourself in 15 years?” River answered, “Welding on pipelines.”



# November Student of the Month

The Ballard R-2 School District is pleased to be working in conjunction with the Adrian Optimist Club to honor a Student of the Month for the 2021-22 school year.

Student of the Month is selected by the staff of the Ballard R-2 School District using the following criteria: attendance, attitude towards others and school, behavior, leadership, and improvement in or maintenance of good grades, and this month, gratitude and generosity.

The Student of the Month for November is Senior Ashton Carullo, the daughter of John Carullo and Amanda Carullo

At school, Ashton enjoys being a part of the volleyball and scholar bowl teams. She is also a member of our Paw Pride organization.

Ashton's outside activities are; being a member of the Cass County Youth Court, and spending time with her family and friends.

After graduation, Ashton plans on going to either K-State or Crowder to get a degree in business.

The Ballard staff has said: "During the month of November, Ashton demonstrated her generosity. She could be found in the hallways running errands for teachers, with a smile on her face. Ashton is a young woman with a lot 'on her plate'. As her School Counselor, I have had the privilege of helping her find her footing in this big ol world. I can honestly say, 'Ashton, I am proud of the growth I have seen in you since late August.' Ashton is on the A honor roll and takes her attendance seriously. She has been taking the necessary steps toward being awarded Scholarships and has already been admitted to several Colleges and Universities. Ashton will graduate with the A+ Program Scholarship and enjoys the process of teaching young children."

"Ashton has a good and generous heart and will help anyone if asked. She is a strong leader among her classmates. Ashton's inspirational quote is; 'Accept situations for what they are and not every action needs a reaction.'"

For Ashton'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: Principal Stephanie Nold and Ashton Carullo



# Senior Spotlight

## Briana Arredondo

Briana Arredondo is the daughter of Yolanda and Armando Arredondo. Briana has two sisters, Yoli and Maribel and one brother Jesus. Briana's favorite color is red and her favorite class is Art. Her dream car is a hot pink Lamborghini. One of Briana's favorite songs is, "Better Days," by Dermot Kennedy. Her favorite food is sushi, and her favorite restaurants are Peniku, Chipotle, and Panda Express. One of Briana's favorite hobbies is to sleep. Outside of school, Briana plays volleyball, participates in scholar bowl, and goes to work. Her biggest pet peeves are Ashton and when Murchie doesn't bring her tablet to school. Briana's famous last words are, "You're Done!"

After graduating Briana just plans on working. When asked, "Where do you see yourself in 15 years?" Briana answered, "Hopefully alive."





# Something to Shout About.

## Elementary Student of the Month

Jennifer Carpenter

Jennifer Carpenter is in the 3rd Grade. She shows the traits of generosity and gratitude on a daily basis. She is helpful to me and all of the students in the classroom. She is always willing to give up her time and herself to help others. Jennifer is also generous with her school supplies, offering to loan hers to students who might need something. She regularly offers to help me with any tasks around the classroom. She is kind and caring to others consistently throughout the day. Jennifer truly is the picture of gratitude and generosity.



(L-R) Jennifer Carpenter and Principal Stephanie Nold

Addilynn Engelhardt

Addilynn Engelhardt is in the 6th grade. She has shown multiple times throughout this school year that she is able to show generosity in class and help others. Whether it's offering food to her classmates (and teacher), or sharing her school supplies, she is always willing to give a little. (I promise I wasn't bribed by food to give her this). She is also willing to even give her time to help a classmate with work.

Addilynn also shows gratitude throughout her everyday life. She is especially gracious for her friends, who she will often comment she misses when they are gone. She is also grateful for opportunities presented to improve herself, as she almost always takes them.

Throughout this month Addilynn has shown, multiple times, the aspects of gratitude and generosity.



(L-R) Addilynn Engelhardt and Principal Stephanie Nold

*Great job!*

## Best Class Attendance

We would also like to congratulate Mrs. Schmedding's kindergarten class and Miss McElwain's fourth grade class for winning the attendance award for the November.



First Row (L-R): Henry Crump, Ben Fisher, Clarabella Berman, Darly Jo Lovelace, and McKala Selfridge  
Second Row (L-R): Mrs. Schmedding



First Row (L-R): Summer Hastings, Ian Bergman, Nathaniel Fisher, Chandler Borland  
Second Row (L-R): Vivian Greer, Seth Menken, Callan Rotert, Delaney Furguson, and Miss McElwain



# Mrs. Chambers Wins Awards

On Monday, November 29, Jennifer Chambers, 7-12 grade science educator at Ballard R-II was awarded the Missouri Association Soil and Water Conservation Department (MASWCD) Area IV 2021 teacher of the year. Mrs. Chambers stated that this was "An extremely emotional and humbling experience to receive such an honor."

She expressed that "All I want to do is give my students the opportunity to grow into the adults that I know they can be." When students enter her room she uses a blend of hands-on, technology, and other resources to give her students a variety of ways to enjoy learning science.

Later on at the Awards banquet, Mrs. Chambers was surprised with another honor. She was awarded 2021 teacher of the year for the state of Missouri. Mrs. Chambers shared "I am so thankful and blessed to be doing something that I truly enjoy on a daily basis." She expressed "I would also like to thank everyone that has made this award possible and thank the Bates County SWCD for everything they do to help me in and outside the classroom."



Congratulations Mrs. Chambers! We are proud of you!!



Mrs. Trickey

We would like to thank you all for the support and understanding with the shipping delays for the fundraising items! We hope all has been delivered!

The FFA chapter will be doing the annual food drive this year to provide a Christmas dinner for 15 different families. The Christmas FFA chapter meeting was held on Friday, the 17th of December during bulldog time.

In the Ag classes, Ag 1 is deep into FFA leadership, knowledge, and importance of a SAE. Ag 2 is working on their proficiency record book. Shop class is wrapping up their woodworking projects and some have headed out the door! Livestock/ Communications is working on a commercial for livestock products, the video will be posted on Facebook. Merry Christmas to all and Happy New Year!



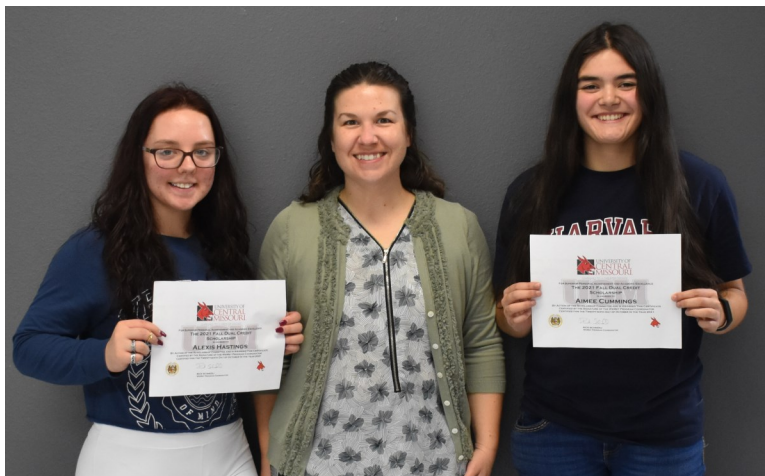
Written and Formatted by: Macie Morris

## Dual Credit Scholarship

This year Aimee Cummings and I have been taking College Algebra as a Dual Credit through the University of Central Missouri. The opportunity arose to fill out an application and apply for a scholarship to pay for most of the cost of this class. Aimee and I both took this opportunity and we worked really hard to write essays and get letters of recommendation from our teachers and counselor. In the end, we both earned the scholarship and Mrs. Lovelace was super proud of us!

Typed by: Alexis Hastings  
Formatted by: Alexis Hastings

**Pictured to the right (L-R):** Alexis Hastings,  
Stephanie Lovelace,  
Aimee Cummings



# Preschool Pups

Mrs. Cumpton

I helped the preschoolers write letters to Santa and these are their letters. I had fun doing this and the kids answers were really cute.

Dear Santa,

This year I am 3 years old. This year I have tried really hard to be good.

What I would like to have most this Christmas is a mermaid and a rain-bow.

I promise to leave out a present for you!

Merry Christmas Santa!

Love,  
Ellie Lovelace



Dear Santa,

This year I am 4 years old. This year I have tried really hard to be good.

What I would like most for Christmas is Elsa stuff and a pony for my American girl doll.

I don't know what I am going to leave out for you this year!

Merry Christmas Santa!

Love,  
Bristol Borland



Dear Santa,

This year I am 3 years old. This year I have tried really hard to be good.

What I would like most for Christmas is a camera and new clothes.

I promise to leave out a present for you!

Merry Christmas Santa!

Love,  
Charlotte Hastings



Dear Santa,

This year I am 5 years old. This year I have been good all of the time.

What I would like to have most this Christmas is a baby doll and Pika-chu pajamas.

I promise to leave out cookies and milk for you!

Merry Christmas Santa!

Love,  
Everlee Scott



Dear Santa,

This year I am 4 years old. This year I have tried really hard to be good.

What I would like to have most this Christmas is a guitar and a tractor set.

I don't know what I am going to leave out for you this year!

Merry Christmas Santa!

Love,  
Cody Fisher



Dear Santa,

This year I am 4 years old. This year I have been good some of the time.

What I would like to have most this Christmas is roller-skates and PJ Masks toys.

I promise to leave out one of my toys for you!

Merry Christmas Santa!

Love,  
Violet Hastings

Dear Santa,

This year I am 5 years old. This year I have been good some of the time.

What I would like to have most this Christmas is a tree trimmer and a Nintendo switch.

I promise to leave out cookies for you!

Merry Christmas Santa!

Love,  
Garrett Newkirk



Dear Santa,

I don't know how old I am this year. This year I have been good some of the time.

What I would like to have most this Christmas is a dinosaur and roller-skates.

I promise to leave out food for you!

Merry Christmas Santa!

Love,  
Curtis Selfridge



**First Row (L-R):** Charlotte Hastings, Cody Fisher, Ellie Lovelace, Curtis Selfridge

**Second Row (L-R):** Violet Hastings, Bristol Borland, Garrett Newkirk, Everlee Scott



# Krazy Kindergarten

Mrs. Schmedding

The Kindergarteners wrote letters to Santa Claus this year! The publications girls went to their classroom to help them write their letters and here they are.

Dear Santa,

This year I am 5 years old. This year I have tried really hard to be good.

What I would like to have most this Christmas is a remote control car and a remote control t-rex.

I promise to leave out cookies and milk for you!

Merry Christmas Santa!

Love,

Henry Crump

P.S. Please say "Hi" to the elves for me!



Dear Santa,

This year I am 6 years old. This year I have tried really hard to be good.

What I would like to have most this Christmas is a light up dinosaur and snow globe presents.

I promise to leave out cookies and milk for you!

Merry Christmas Santa!

Love,

Benjamin Fisher

P.S. I want the elves to tell Santa that I like cookies and milk!



Dear Santa,

This year I am 6 years old. This year I have tried really hard to be good.

What I would like most this Christmas is a pink tablet and a pink uniform pixie.

I promise to leave out cookies and milk for you!

Merry Christmas Santa!

Love,

Clarabella Bergman

P.S. Please say "Hi" to my mom and dad for me!



Dear Santa,

This year I am 6 years old. This year I have tried really hard to be good.

What I would like to have most this Christmas is a tablet and roller-skates

I promise to leave out milk and cookies for you!

Merry Christmas Santa!

Love,

McKala Selfridge

P.S. Please say "Hi" to my kitties for me!



Dear Santa,

This year I am 6 years old. This year I have been good some of the time.

What I would like to have most this Christmas is a mermaid and a toy microphone.

I promise to leave out cookies and milk for you!

Merry Christmas Santa!

Love,

DarlyJo Lovelace

P.S. Please say "Hi" to your elves for me.



Dear Santa,

This year I am 5 years old. This year I have tried really hard to be good.

What I would like to have most this Christmas is a robot and a face for my robot.

I promise to leave out cookies and milk for you!

Merry Christmas Santa!

Love,

Augustus Porter

P.S. Please say "Hi" to my grandma for me!



Written by: The Kindergarteners  
Typed by: Alexis Hastings



# Fiesty First

Mrs. Smith

This has been a great year so far. We hope anyone had a great Thanksgiving and has a very Merry Christmas. This year the first graders wrote letters to Santa and this is what they wrote.

Dear Santa,

This year I am 6 years old. This year I have tried really hard to be good.

What I would like to have most this Christmas is a go-cart and a stuffed Santa doll.

I promise to leave out cookies and carrots for you!

Merry Christmas Santa!

Love,

Karson Gray

P.S. Please say "Hi" to my mom for me!

Dear Santa,

This year I am 6 years old. This year I have tried really hard to be good.

What I would like to have most this Christmas is a nerf gun and a white dinosaur.

I promise to leave out cookies and milk for you!

Merry Christmas Santa!

Love,

Nolan Bogart

P.S. Please say "Hi" to Santa and Rudolph for me!



Dear Santa,

This year I am 7 years old. This year I have been good all of the time.

What I would like to have most this Christmas is an American Girl Doll and an Elsa dress.

I promise to leave out 3 cookies for you!

Merry Christmas Santa!

Love,

Lynn Pitts

P.S. Please say "Hi" to Myra for me!

Dear Santa,

This year I am 6 years old. This year I have tried really hard to be good.

What I would like to have most this Christmas is toys and a sled.

I promise to leave out cookies and milk for you!

Merry Christmas Santa!

Love,

Kyle Carpenter

P.S. Please say "Hi" to my mom for me!



Dear Santa,

This year I am 7 years old. This year I have been good some of the time.

What I would like to have most this Christmas is an elf stuffed animal and a baby doll set with a crib.

I promise to leave out cookies and milk for you!

Merry Christmas Santa!

Love,

Arabella Fisher

P.S. Please say "Hi" to the elves for me!



Written by: The First Graders

Typed by: Alexis Hastings





# Silly Second

The second graders wrote letters to Santa all by themselves. They did so good. These are their letters.

Dear Santa,

I have been good. How is it up in the North Pole? I had fun this year, how about you Santa? I have a sister now. Can I have a new pet? That's a ferret. I want some normal mini figs. Have a good Christmas.

From,  
Nicholas Boston



Dear Santa,

Am I on the naughty list? I want a guitar, a real guitar. I also want ice skates, a sled, gifts, and more. I want a new dress, an Elsa one that drags the ground.

From,  
Molly Bergen

Dear Santa,

I have tried to be good. How's it like at the North Pole? What I want for Christmas is a phone, and makeup, and a necklace, and a pencil sharpener.

From,  
McKenzie Claiborne

Dear Santa,

I have been good for Christmas. I want a 100 pack of fidget spinners and pop its. I also want a new dress for Christmas. I hope you like the cookies. I want a puppy please.

From,  
Nichole Luper



Dear Santa,

I have been good. I want a violin and a iPad. And some make-up please. Oh and a new pet. Can I please have a new Husky? Thank you Santa.

From,  
Tapanga Eisenbeiss



Dear Santa,

I have tried to be good. How is your reindeer? I want a box of fidget toys. And a toy car, a bracelet set, and a paint set, a new dress, and a toy reindeer. And a nail set. Hi and a new mug for my mom. And new shoes and a pack of books too. Also a pack of cookies for my family.

From,  
Navi Quiroz



Dear Santa,

For Christmas I would makeup and dresses and shoes. I also would like an Elsa Sled. I was really good this year, so I hope I am on your nice list. Merry Christmas Santa.

From,  
Hailey Culver

Dear Santa,

How is Miss Clause? How is your reindeer? How is your elves? My mom would like a new watch. My dad would like a new tool kit. My sister would like a toy phone. My baby sister would like a baby doll. I would like a Barbie doll.

Your friend,  
Brynlee Wainscott

Dear Santa,

I have tried to be good. How have you been in the North Pole? I have been making cookies for you with my mom and I want earrings for Christmas. And a tablet, my own iPad, and a snowboard. Thank you Santa and I hope your reindeer are coming. Thank you

From,  
Melody Bergen

Dear Santa,

I want an American Girl Doll for Christmas. I have made you a gingerbread house and a gingerbread train. I would also like a new cat named cookie dough. How is Rudolph? I tried very hard to be good this year. Merry Christmas

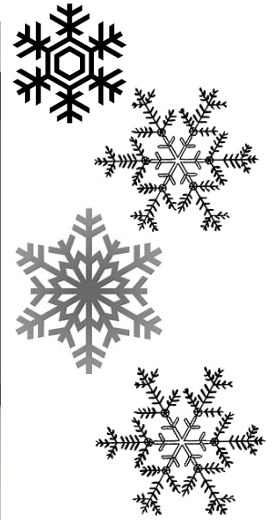
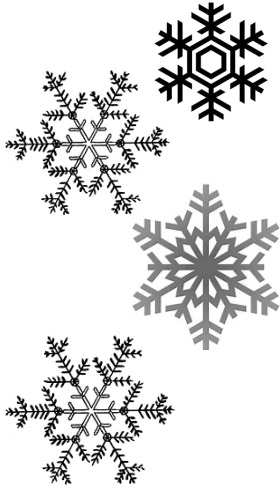
From,  
Dani Crump



# THRILLING THIRD

Dr. McElwain

The Third Grade Class were talking about how each snowflake is individual. They decided to write about how they are like a snowflake!



## **JENNIFER CARPENTER**

I am unique like a snowflake because:

I am nice.

I am as kind as a dog.

I am happy like me.

I am good at being nice.

I care about my mom, dad, and brother.

I'm funny when I tell funny jokes.

I try my best on math.

## **CHARLIE FISHER**

I am unique like a snowflake because:

I am as kind as a snowflake.

I am happy like a dog.

I am good at soccer.

I care about my mom.

I'm funny when I tell jokes.

I try my best to fish.

## **LOGAN FUERST**

I am unique like a snowflake because

I am as kind as a friend.

I am happy like a cat.

I am good at math.

I care about my mom.

I look funny when I laugh.

I try my best to use my manners.

## **NOAH MEADE**

I am unique like a snowflake because:

I am as kind as a puppy.

I am happy like a dog.

I am good at running.

I care about my mom and dad.

I'm funny when I am sleepy.

I try my best to do my math

## **HUNTLEE MYRTLE**

I am unique like a snowflake because

I am as kind as an angel.

I am happy like a dog.

I am good at hunting.

I care about friends and family.

I'm funny when I get hurt.

I will try my best to win.

## **TUCKER NEWKIRK**

I am unique like a snowflake because:

I am as kind as a friend.

I am happy like a dog.

I am good at running.

I care about my family.

I'm funny when I'm happy.

I try my best to do math.

## **ELLE SCOTT**

I am unique like a snowflake because:

I am as kind as a snowflake.

I am happy like my dog.

I am good at doing the splits.

I care about my family and friends.

I'm funny when my sister tells a joke.

I try my best to get good grades.

## **KYOKO SMITH**

I am unique like a snowflake because:

I am as kind as the kindest person on earth.

I am happy like a really happy dog .

I am good at math .

I care about my family.

I'm funny when I tell jokes.

I try my best to be a good friend.

## **MAXTON WAINSCOTT**

I am unique like a snowflake because:

I am as kind as a dog.

I am happy like a cat.

I am good at math.

I care about my family.

I'm funny when I get tickled.

I try my best to work.

## **KEENEN ENGELHARDT**

I am unique like a snowflake because:

I am kind as a friend.

I am happy like a snowflake.

I am good at building legos.

I care about my friends and my family.

I'm funny when I get tickled.

I try my best to finish my work on time.





# Funky Fourth

Miss McElwain



The Fourth Grade class did their article over what they would be if they were a gift!



If I were a gift I would be a Barbie, I would be a mom Barbie with a Barbie baby. I will be \$10.99 with a lot of Barbie clothes. I will have a big house with a lot of rooms and a baby Barbie crib. A little girl will buy me. It will be so much so fun I will love it so much.

- Delainey Ferguson



If I were a gift I would be an electric scooter. I would make a kid happy. I would love to have one and I would ride it all around the park. I would paint it a maroon color.

-Sofia Porter

If I were a gift I would be a giant panda baby. I will force dad to make me a beautiful bamboo garden. When I am fully grown I will give the babies panda back ride. I will help mom and dad when they get old.

-Summer Hastings

If I were a gift I would be a tablet. I am very expensive. I am for Nathaniel. I use a lot of electricity. I am very fun.

- Nathaniel Fischer

If I were a gift I would be a robot. I would be one of a kind. Callan would be my owner. People would like a lot. My abilities are to make weapons in case people are in danger and love.

-Seth Menken

If I were a gift. I would be a new kitten. A person named Macie Morris bought me. I am a gray kitten with a white dot on my head. I have the best life ever! Also, I got another sister that is a black cat.

-Chandler Borland

If I were a gift I would be two penguins in a Tesla. Jack would buy me. One would be a girl. One would be a boy. The penguins would have already have laid eggs, Jack will hopefully like me.

- Callan Rotert



If I were a gift I would be a red panda. I would be rented by Seth. I would play with him. When the rent was over he would have to give me back. He would be sad so would I but we had a fun time!

-Ian Bergman

If I were a gift I would be a fluffy kitten. Callan would buy me for \$2. He will name me Phoenix. Chandler put me into a box and then they took me out with catnip. Chandler will love me. Callan will give me to Chandler. Chandler would give me a neon pink collar.

-Vivian Greer



Written by: Fourth Grade Class

Formatted by: Macie Morris



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# Funny Fifth



Mrs. Bergen



The fifth grade decided to do an article over what they would be if they were a gift.

If I could give any gift to the world it would be to try and get real world peace. This is important to me because I do not want to live in a violent world. I see this stuff on the news and I am wishing we could have the world before Covid-19. Also our families can come together again.

Another reason is so that we can travel to different places. I have always liked going to new places so if we make world peace we could go to different places. I wrote because I do not want to live in a violent world.

-Aspyon Eidson



If I could give any gift to the world, it would be to give joy to the world. This is important to me because we need joy to others so we can be respectful. If the world has most joy it would be great.

Having joy is a great thing to have. If you don't have joy then you will be like the Grinch, with a small heart.

-Ian Campbell

If I could give any gift to the world, it would be a replenishing ocean. This is important because a lot more water to drink. When you scoop the water, it will replenish immediately. It stays the same level also. If the world had a replenishing ocean, it would be good because we would not have to worry about running out of water. The replenishing ocean would be the Pacific Ocean. Because I like the Pacific better than the Atlantic.

-Braydon Siebeneck



If I could give any gift to the world it would be more fresh water. This is important to me because we need water to live. If the world has more fresh water it would help us a lot.

We live on water so that's what we need the most. So we will start turning salt water into fresh water then we will need more salt water. But salt water is where the water animals are and we like water animals. They are very fun to play with and eat fish is very good. So we need a lot of both waters

-Waylon Chrisman

The gift that I would give to the world is happiness. No one would be alone anymore and people wouldn't be fighting any more. Everyone could be happy and living in peace. No more wars. And everyone would have a smile on their face. Now it would be okay to disagree once and a while but that's not what I want. With happiness around. No one would be in the shadows anymore. Everyone would live in sunlight.

When Christmas is here I think that is most wonderful time to have happiness. Or on birthdays, or holidays, and maybe even a vacation. Christmas is a wonderful time, especially when family comes over. What makes me the most happy is that Jesus was born. That's what I would like for Christmas, happiness.

-Lily Bergen

If I could give the world something it would be like more plants and animals. Like dragons and a plant that changes colors so red would be mad. Or a plant that tells the weather like red hot and white snow and blue cold and purple windy and nice. Orange warm.

So now you can tell the weather and have fun plant that shows if its mad or sad or happy. And dragons can be a new way to travel and also a fun pet. A water dragon can help get water and if you train it can be a life guard or a way to get food easier and a sky dragon can make it rain when we need rain. That is my present to the world.

-Emmalee Scott

If I could give any gift to the world it would be to spread the word of God. This is important to me because the more that is believe the better. If the world was covered in Christians the world would be so much better

IF the world had more Christians it would make more churches. And then more Churches the better. So that would be my gift to the world.

-Lane Meade

Written by: Fifth Grade Class  
Formatted by: Macie Morris







# Sizzling Sixth

Mr. Duncan



The sixth grade class decided to write letters to Santa this year. They had questions and requests!



To: Santa Claus  
North Pole  
Subject: Questions

Hello Mr. Claus, I am Jacob, as you probably already know. I have various questions, like do you live on the Geographic North Pole or Magnetic? Can the reindeer go supersonic? Are they aerodynamic? Do the elves have ranks? How tall is each elf? Have you gotten Covid-19 yet, or have any of your elves? Do you have Nuclear weapons? Can the reindeer talk? Does the North Pole have any form of defense?

I am asking these questions because I want to know the technological advancements of the North Pole, in case Nuclear War starts. I was also worried about how Covid-19 affected the North Pole. And I wanted to know how powerful your army is. This letter will be very helpful, if answered. Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,  
Jacob Eidson

To: Santa Claus  
The North Pole  
Santa Claus,

We have a problem. I have been quite naughty. I still want presents. I would like a VR headset. It is really cool because it is like I am in the games. I would also like a Nintendo Switch game called Super Smash Bros Ultimate. This is all I would like for Christmas, so will you please bring this to me?

Gavin Schliem



To: Santa Claus  
The North Pole  
Saint Nick,

Subject: Are you real?

If you are real then you will reply. However, I think you are not real. So, most likely you will not respond. If you do not respond then I will be right. This will mean I win.

So you are probably wondering why I said "I win." My family is seeing if Santa is real. I was not on the "real" team. So we will see who wins. Perhaps the "real" team will win. So thank you for reading this letter.

Sincerely,  
Piper Goth

To: Santa Claus  
The North Pole  
Saint Nick,  
Subject: The toys I would like for Christmas

I am requesting you look over this. I've been very good at my mom's. I got an advent calendar from my elf. I opened the first one today, December 1, 2021.

I would like tie-dye stuff. A hammock with a stand would be nice. I want a baby sister, a phone and a new 4-wheeler.

I love you,  
Addilynn Engerhardt

To: Santa Claus  
The North Pole  
Dear Santa,

I would love to pet your reindeer on Christmas Eve if that's okay with you? Just wake me up when you get to my house. Rudolph is the one I would most like to pet because he is funny to watch on TV.

I know you can't bring my mom back and my dad won't let have a phone, so for Christmas I would like a toy mail truck. I'm not old enough to drive yet.

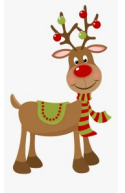
It would be the best Christmas ever if you would wake me up, so I could pet the reindeer!  
Happy Christmas and New Year!

Love you Santa,  
Harry Greer

To: Santa Clause  
The North Pole  
Saint Nick,  
Subject: I want a mini bike

I'm expecting you on Christmas Eve. I want a mini bike and a hover board. I am not sure if you are real. It's my parents that put the presents under the tree. So have a Merry Christmas. I still want a mini bike and a hover board though.

Sincerely,  
Your real friend Nathan Bales



# Sassy Seventh

Ms. Burgin

This year the seventh grade class decided to do what they are thankful for and what they would like for Christmas. Below are the items they stated!

Name	I am thankful for	What I would like for Christmas
Maribel Arredondo	My mom	Cow print blanket and an iPhone XR case
Noah Bales	That I am not quarantined anymore	A new gun
Abigail Bergen	Good food	Anything arts and crafts
Bradley Bergschneider	My parents, my girlfriend , my siblings, my dogs, food, and drinks	A PS5, a GameStop gift card, and a bass pro gift card.
Jordyn Blankenship	Food and my family	PS5 and a nice controller
Kennedy Borland	Friends and family	A handwriting necklace
Chrystal Evans	My dogs and my own room	Led lights and a colorful bracelet with rubber bands
Daxtyn Greer	My family	Xbox one and water bottle
Madison Gunter	My family and friends	A new blanket
Payson Hill	Friends	Basketball goal, hunting clothes and a new president
Luke Meade	My dogs and my horse	Pokémon and arrows
Xander Menken	Being able to eat Thanksgiving with Miss Missouri	Airhead candy
Keslyn Page	Mrs. Scott and her parents	Phone case, a new doll, and Luke to stop bothering her
Olivia Porter	My family and my life	A hover board and an iPad
Ashton Siebeneck	My family	Friends and Harry Potter things
Macie Wainscott	Spending time with my family	See BTS and to see the northern lights

# Elite Eighth

Mrs. Boston

This year for Christmas the Eighth Graders want a lot of different things. Christmas eve is coming very soon! Below is a list of things that the Eighth Graders wish to receive.

- \* Lilly Chrisman wants a blanket and food.
  - \* Valencia Landeros wants money and a Dr. Pepper.
  - \* Lucas Crump would like D&D handbooks.
  - \* Cash Anderson wants tons and tons of hunting stuff.
  - \* Dayne Greer wants fishing stuff and gas prices to go down.
  - \* Brenden Card would like a Jeep Wrangler.
  - \* Haley Pray wants volleyball stuff and no school.
  - \* Mrs. Boston would like lower gas prices (by at least a \$1.50) and a trip to Hawaii.
- Merry Christmas!



Written By: The Eighth Graders  
Formatted By: Lexie Ward

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# Fickle Freshmen

Mrs. Russel

This is what the Freshmen class would like for Christmas...

Katlin Blankenship- My hair done  
Nate Evans- Spirit Animal Book Series  
Bonnie Davenport- A Cow  
Ethan Kennedy- PlayStation 5  
Zoie Wheeler- Lime Green Rubicon Jeep lifted with big tires and lights underneath  
Mrs. Russel- A clean house full of family and friends



Written by: The Freshmen Class  
Formatted by: Macie Morris

# Jolly Juniors

Mr. Bergan and Mrs. Chambers



Christmas is coming quickly and we are excited to go on break! These are the things our class would like for Christmas

Brice Miller- Hoodie  
Jacob Kepner- Anything Spicy  
Lucas Whitaker- Duct Tape  
Lexie Ward- Jeep, money, and clothes  
Macie Morris- My high school diploma, clothes  
Alexis Hastings- New Clothes  
Sydney Claiborne- Sweatpants, leggings  
Averie Bales- New Car, Carhartt Jacket  
Tucker Roach- Duramax  
Jake Crawford- Cummins

Written by: Sydney Claiborne  
Formatted by: Macie Morris

# Salty Sophomores

Mrs. Gregory

This year for Christmas the Sophomores want....

**Lindy Gunter** - cartoon themed shoes, money, gray sweatpants, purple hoodie, someone to love me, someone to do my homework, and good grades

**Parker Hill** - Wheels and tires

**Gretchen Bramell**- a blanket with my name on it and gift cards

**Lilly Rotert**- money, blue Jordan 1 retro high OGs, clothes, and blankets

**Zachary Carpenter**- Boots, Ariat wallet, and truck parts

**Cade Callahan**- \$1,000,000,000, a billy goat, and a XL cake feeder

**Mrs. Gregory** - peace on earth and for everyone to study their vocabulary words

**Aimee Cummings**- Jaeger bands, shovel, and red tape



Written by: The Sophomores  
Formatted by: Lexie Ward



# Just Enough Seniors

Mrs. Murchie

This year everyone was asked what they wanted for Christmas and these are the Seniors' answers.

Kale Oerke wants jeans and ammo.  
Nathan Menken wants to just be happy and stress-free.  
Ashton Carullo wants new jeans, and tickets to a Morgan Wallen concert.  
Briana Arredondo would like a jeep and a corgi.  
Alex Ramirez- Nunez wants clothes and shoes for Christmas.  
River Clark wants new boots and new headlights.  
Payton Miller would like a new fishing pole and lure.  
Ms. Murchie would like to have a two week paid vacation with my children and grandchildren!  
We can't wait for Christmas break, Thank You! Have a day!



Written by: The Senior Class  
Typed by: Alexis Hastings

# Volleyball Awards

Lexie Ward received First Team All-Conference and All-District Honorable Mention.  
Ashton Carullo received Honorable Mention All-Conference and All-District Honorable Mention.  
Congratulations ladies!



**Pictured Above: L-R:** Lexie Ward, Ashton Carullo , and Coach Marissa McElwain

# Volleyball Senior Night

Ballard R-2 School would like to take this time to recognize the volleyball seniors for their hard work and dedication throughout their high school career. Thank you seniors!



**Pictured above:**

Briana Arredondo daughter of Armando and Yolanda Arredondo  
Ashton Carullo daughter of John and Amanda Carullo

# Congratulations!

# Junior High GVVC Tournament

On October 30, the Ballard Junior High basketball team played NEVC Knights in the GVVC tournament for first and second place. The Bulldogs fell just short 14-32 to bring home second place! Great job Bulldogs!



**First Row (L-R):** Haley Pray, Gavin Schliem, Payson Hill

**Second Row (L-R):** Coach John Siebeneck, Cash Anderson, Ashton Siebeneck, Bradley Bergschneider, Lucas Crump, Luke Meade, Asst. Coach Nathaniel Wainscott



# Junior High Basketball

## GVVC Tournament

Ballard Bulldogs vs. Miami Eagles October 26, 2021	
<b>Ballard</b>	<b>Miami</b>
44	29
Ballard Wins	

Ballard Bulldogs vs. Sheldon Panthers October 28, 2021	
<b>Ballard</b>	<b>Sheldon</b>
34	22
Ballard Wins	

Ballard Bulldogs vs. NEVC Knights October 30, 2021	
<b>Ballard</b>	<b>NEVC</b>
14	32
NEVC Wins	

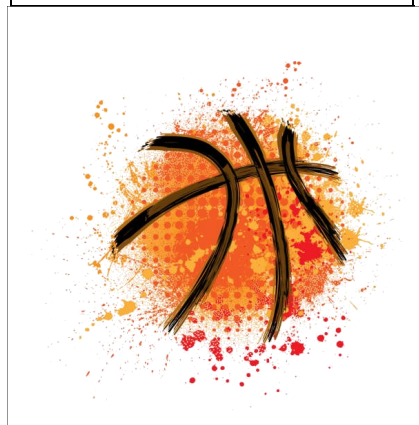
## Hume Tournament

Ballard Bulldogs vs. Drexel Bobcats November 2, 2021	
<b>Ballard</b>	<b>Drexel</b>
31	46
Drexel Wins	

Ballard Bulldogs vs. Miami Eagles November 4, 2021	
<b>Ballard</b>	<b>Miami</b>
25	24
Ballard Wins	

Ballard Bulldogs vs. Bronaugh Wildcats November 5, 2021	
<b>Ballard</b>	<b>Bronaugh</b>
41	33
Ballard Wins	

Ballard Bulldogs vs. Kingsville Tigers October 22, 2021	
<b>Ballard</b>	<b>Kingsville</b>
41	33
Ballard Wins	



Ballard Bulldogs vs. Montrose Blue Jays November 9, 2021	
<b>Ballard</b>	<b>Montrose</b>
38	29
Ballard Wins	



Ballard Bulldogs vs. Montrose Blue Jays November 11, 2021	
<b>Ballard</b>	<b>Montrose</b>
26	28
Montrose Wins	





# Introducing the High School Basketball Teams



**First Row (L-R):** Bonnie Davenport, and Katlin Blankenship

**Second Row (L-R):** Coach Robby Mossman, Zoie Wheeler, Lexie Ward, Lillian Rotert, Sydney Claiborne, and Aimee Cummings

**Not Pictured:** Asst. Coach Russ Bergman



**First Row (L-R):** Alexander Rameriz-Nunez, and Payton Miller

**Second Row (L-R):** Asst. Coach Robby Mossman, Cade Callahan, Kale Oerke, Nathan Menken, Tucker Roach, and Zachary Carpenter

**Not Pictured:** Coach Russ Bergman





# High School Basketball



## GVVC Tournament

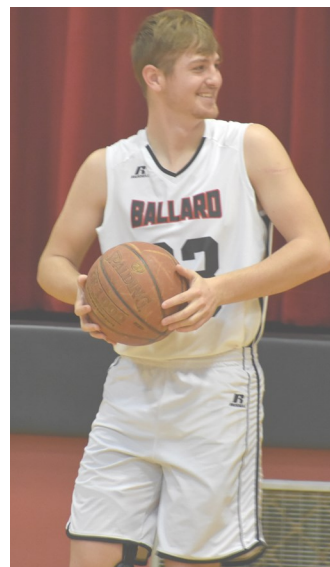
Lady Bulldogs vs. Hume Hornets November 30, 2021	
<b>Ballard</b>	<b>Hume</b>
13	29
Hume Wins	

Lady Bulldogs vs. Miami Eagles December 1, 2021	
<b>Ballard</b>	<b>Miami</b>
32	25
Ballard Wins	

Lady Bulldogs vs. Sheldon Panthers December 3, 2021	
<b>Ballard</b>	<b>Sheldon</b>
35	40
Sheldon Wins	

Ballard Bulldogs vs. Bronaugh Wildcats December 1, 2021	
<b>Ballard</b>	<b>Bronaugh</b>
46	38
Ballard Wins	

Ballard Bulldogs vs. Montrose Blue jays December 3, 2021	
<b>Ballard</b>	<b>Montrose</b>
38	40
Montrose Wins	



Lady Bulldogs vs. Drexel Bobcats December 7, 2021		Ballard Bulldogs vs. Drexel Bobcats December 7, 2021	
<b>Ballard</b>	<b>Drexel</b>	<b>Ballard</b>	<b>Drexel</b>
17	49	35	55
Drexel Wins		Drexel Wins	



Lady Bulldogs vs. Appleton City Bulldogs December 9, 2021		Ballard Bulldogs vs. Appleton City Bulldogs December 9, 2021	
<b>Ballard</b>	<b>Appleton City</b>	<b>Ballard</b>	<b>Appleton City</b>
32	50	45	57
Appleton City Wins		Appleton City Wins	

Lady Bulldogs vs. Kingsville Tigers December 10, 2021		Ballard Bulldogs vs. Kingsville Tigers December 10, 2021	
<b>Ballard</b>	<b>Kingsville</b>	<b>Ballard</b>	<b>Kingsville</b>
50	39	28	40
Ballard Wins		Kingsville Wins	



# Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus

Many, 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

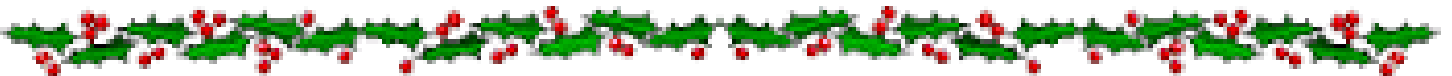
Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great 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

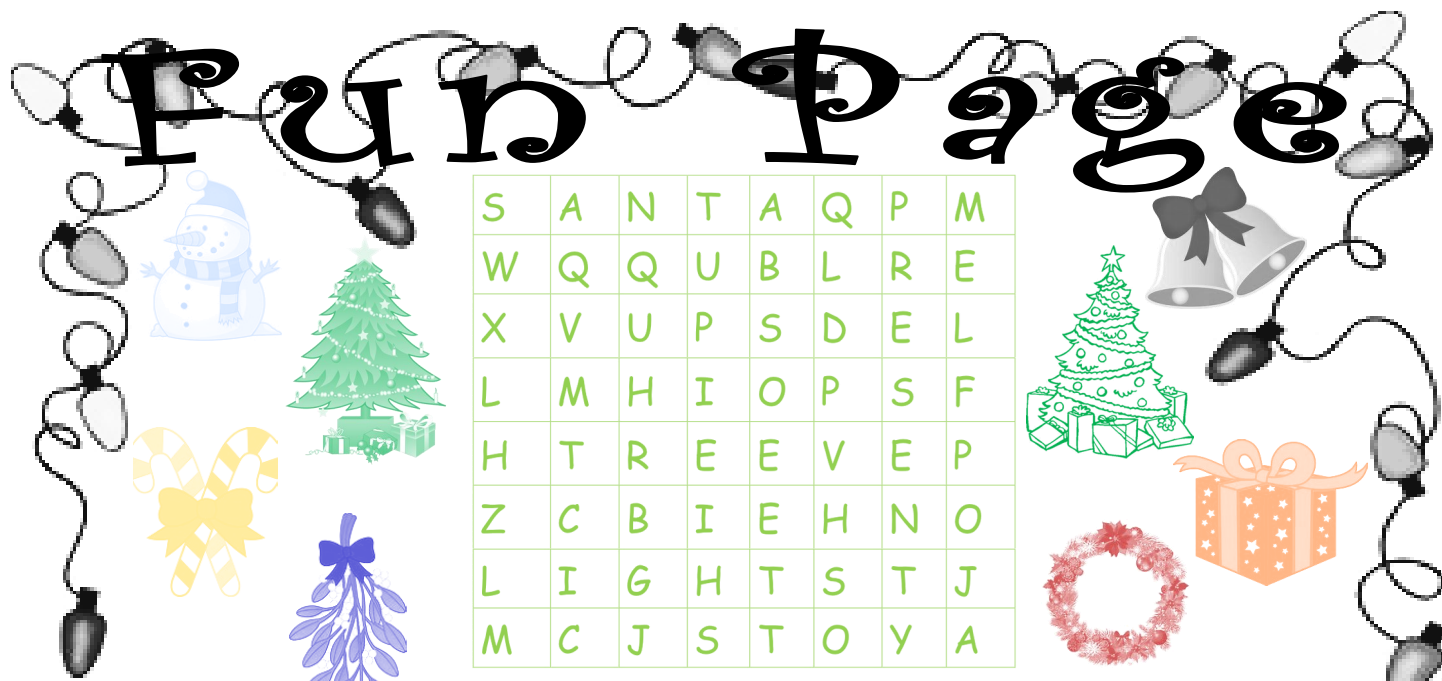
see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they 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!





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



toy



present



lights



elf



Santa



tree

