



Barks 'n' Growls



BALLARD R-II SCHOOL
Fourth Edition December 17, 2020

From the Superintendent's Desk

Merry Christmas!

Christmas break is here already! Where has the year gone? It has been an interesting first half of the year to say the least. This COVID -19 pandemic has the world upside down it seems. I have had many learning experiences just as our students have. With the staff and students that we have, it makes things so much easier for everyone involved.

I want to remind everyone that there are several places to find out if school has been cancelled due to inclement weather. The local TV stations should display this information. KCTV5, KMBC-TV9, FOX4 - WDAF-TV and KSHB-TV on channel 41 are all included, as well as their affiliates. That means the following channels should have school closing information: 4, 5, 9, 38, and 41. There are also several radio stations that announce school closings, including KDKD Radio (95.3 FM, 1280 AM, and 104.9 FM) and KMOE (92.1 FM). A third location for Ballard School closing announcements is our school web site, which is www.ballardr2.net as well as the Ballard Facebook account. Also if you are included in the Remind celly account you will get a text stating the cancelation. Please keep in mind that whether school is cancelled or not, there are always disagreements on the decision. My philosophy on school closings due to weather is quite simple: when in doubt, error on the side of safety, which means cancel. The last thing we want is to risk the safety of the students or staff members here at Ballard. If you have any questions or concerns about this information, please contact me at any time.

Another item of interest that I believe the community needs to be aware of is the filing dates for the next School Board election. The filing dates for any individuals interested in running for a Board position are from December 15, 2020 through January 19, 2021. The two seats that will be up for election are currently held by Ian Meade and Nathaniel Wainscott. The election will be held on April 6, 2021. Filing information and paperwork can be acquired from and returned to Kerri Loyd during school hours (8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.) and up to 5:00 p.m. on January 19th. If interested, you may file during normal school business time. Feel free to contact me or Mrs. Loyd if you have any questions about this process. Wishing Everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

John Siebeneck
Superintendent

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From the Principal's Desk....

Dear Ballard Families,

In as much as the school year has been challenging with ups and downs of quarantine and we are still in the midst of COVID related issues in the community and throughout the United States, I believe that all of the students and staff are looking forward to celebrating the Holiday Season. Without the usual community gatherings such as the Christmas Concert and Breakfast with Santa the Holiday Spirit must go on and we must continue to be supportive of one another and appreciate the things we do have. In the spirit of giving during this time, give the gifts that are free: love, understanding, and compassion.

I am holding out hope that we will continue to have in-person school from now until our break, as well as into the new year and beyond. Our holiday break begins on Friday, December 18, 2020, with an early dismissal at 1:05 pm and school will resume on Tuesday, January 5, 2021. 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. Also, in the event we experience a bus issue, we want to be sure all the students are prepared with warm clothing.

It is likely that there will be snow/ice days coming and we need to be prepared. There are several places to find out if school has been cancelled due to inclement weather. The local TV stations should display this information. KCTV5, KMBC-TV9, FOX4-, WDAF-TV, and KSHB-TV 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 website and Facebook page, which is www.ballardr2.net. Cancellations will also be sent out on "Remind", as well as Mid America Live, (to enroll in "Remind" for the high school, please text @ballardhi to 81010, and for elementary Remind messages please text @67b2c2 to 81010).

As celebrations may be limited this holiday season within your extended family, simply remember to keep love in your heart with hugs at a distance. I wish you a healthy and wonderful holiday season!

See you in 2021!

Sincerely,
Stephanie Nold
Ballard K-12 Principal



Student of the Month

November

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 2020-21 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.

The Student of the Month for November is Eighth Grader Sam Setzer, the son of Andy and Heather Setzer.

Sam is active in Scholar Bowl and basketball. Outside of school, he enjoys playing baseball every spring for the Montrose team. Sam also enjoys doing flips and gymnastic moves.

Sam plans to stay strong in school so he can graduate and attend college. He has aspirations to become an animal geneticist, which could include testing animals' genes to determine susceptibility to disease or resistance to disease.

The Ballard staff has said: Sam always has a positive attitude and positive outlook on life. He is always willing to help out in any way he can. Sam is dependable and hardworking. He is a great role model for others.

Sam's advice to his peers is to stay true to yourself and follow your dreams.

For Sam'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: Sam Setzer and Principal Stephanie Nold

December

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 2020-21 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.

The Student of the Month for December is Freshman Zach Carpenter, the son of Jill and Jimmy Holteen and Mathew Carpenter.

Zach is active in basketball and hopes to play baseball in the spring. He also enjoys projects and activities in FFA

Outside of school, Zach likes to practice on his ukulele. He enjoys it, but he doesn't get much time to play on it. Zach likes to be outside practicing basketball and other activities.

Zach plans to attend a trade school and then move to further complete a four year degree in Ag Science that includes soil analysis.

The Ballard staff has said: Zach is always willing to help his fellow classmates. He works hard at every task he is given and is a great role model for his peers.

Zach's advice to his classmates is "The game isn't over until the final buzzer sounds, so don't give up!"

For Zach'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: Principal Stephanie Nold and Zach Carpenter

Formatted by Dylan Tippie



Mrs. Larcom

The students in FACS class have been busy sewing! They are working on masks, pillows, and t-shirt quilts!



Pictured to the Right: L-R Kailee Smith, Kayla Schmitt, Jacob Kepner.

Typed By: Serenity Morris

Senior Spotlight

Kayla Schmitt

Kayla, 18, is the Daughter of JD Wooster, Nicole Schmitt, and Mark Eagleson. She is also sister to Rylie Schmitt and Keith Schmitt. Some of her favorites include the color purple, spaghetti, and the song "Lucid Dreams" by Juice WRLD. Kayla's dream car is an SUV. Some of Kayla's hobbies are softball, volleyball, basketball, and working. Kayla's biggest pet peeve is when I'm talking to someone and someone answers for them. Her famous last words are, "I'm confused."

Kayla's extracurricular activities are volleyball, basketball, softball, and the Ballard Honor Society. Her plans for after High School are to go to Missouri Southern State University and become a Phlebotomist. When asked, "Where do you see yourself in 15 years?" Kayla answered, "In 15 years I see myself married, with kids and a job."



Written by: Sudie Callahan



"YES, VIRGINIA, THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS"

Eight-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon wrote a letter to the editor of New York's *Sun*, and the quick response was printed as an unsigned editorial Sept. 21, 1897. The work of veteran newsman Francis Pharcellus Church has since become history's most reprinted newspaper editorial, appearing in part or whole in dozens of languages in books, movies, and other editorials, and on posters and stamps.

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.
115 WEST NINETY-FIFTH STREET.



VIRGINIA, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe unless 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 eternal 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 they 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 may 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, fancy, 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 he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Krazy Kindergarten

Mrs. Hathcock

The Kindergarten class is getting really excited for Christmas! The Publications class came in and asked us what we wanted for Christmas, and this is what they answered...

Dear Santa,

This year I am five years old. This year I have tried really hard to be good. What I would like to have most this Christmas is a remote controlled bald eagle and a John Deer tractor. I promise to leave out chocolate ship cookies for you!



Merry Christmas Santa!

Love, Kyle Carpenter

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

Dear Santa,

This year I am five 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 baby bald eagle and a big bald eagle with a fish. I promise to leave out star shaped cookies and milk for you!



Merry Christmas Santa!

Love, Nolan Bogart

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

Dear Santa,

This year I am six years old. This year I have tried really hard to be good. What I would like to have most this Christmas is a Monster High doll and an American Girl doll. I promise to leave out cookies and milk for you!



Merry Christmas Santa!

Love, Arabella Fisher

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

Dear Santa,

This year I am five years old. This year I have been good some of the time. What I would like to have most this Christmas is a remote control eagle and a remote control racecar. I promise to leave out cookies for you!



Merry Christmas Santa!

Love, Waylon Hufferd

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

Written by: The Kindergarten Class

Typed by: Alexis Hastings

Silly Second

Mrs. West

The Second Grade class decided to write letters to Santa and this is what they wrote.

Dear Santa,

I have been very bad but I still want a present. I want a lot of Pokémon and I am 8 years old. I want a go cart and I just want to see my brother. He has served this country.



Your Friend, Noah Meade

Dear Santa,

I have been pretty good this year. Can you please make a Case combine, a Case pocket knife, and a Nintendo Switch? I am 8 years old.

Your Friend, Tucker Newkirk

Dear Santa,

I have been very good this year. I am 7 years old. I want a toy semi, and a camo deer skinning pocket knife. I also want an iPad and a toy combine.

Your Friend, Huntlee Myrtle

Dear Santa,

I have been very good this year. I have worked hard for you. I would like a remote control semi truck, and a remote control combine, and an OSMO. I am 7 years old.



From, Keenan Englehardt

Dear Santa,

I have been very good and I have worked hard. I was hoping you could give me a crafting kit and a twin Hatchimals.

Your Friend, Kyoko Smith



Dear Santa,

I have been very good this year. I have worked hard. I am Maxton, and I am 8 years old. I want a John Deere 9610 a remote control combine, and a go cart.

Your Friend, Maxton Wainscott

Dear Santa

I have been good this year. I would like a new jacket and a new doll. Also, I want a new jump rope and a new Hatchimals. I am 7 years old.

Your Friend, Jennifer Carpenter

Dear Santa,

I have been very good this year. I want a combine, a remote control semi, hunting stuff, and a hover board.

Your Friend, Charlie Fisher

Written by: The Second Grade class

Typed by: Alexis Hastings

Fearless First

With Christmas right around the corner the Publications class went in and helped the First graders write letters to Santa. Here is how they answered...

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 a bike and a puppy named Elle. I promise to leave out carrots for you!

Merry Christmas Santa!

Love, Molly Bergin

P.S. Please say "Hi" to Mrs. Clause, the Reindeer, and the Elves 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 toy and a Barbie Doll. I promise to leave out cookies and milk for you!

Merry Christmas Santa!

Love, Hailey Culver

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

Dear Santa,

This year I am 7 years old. This year I have been good all the time. What I would like to have most this Christmas is a Barbie Doll and a new jewelry box. I promise to leave out milk and cookies for you!

Merry Christmas Santa!

Love, Brynlee Wainscott

P.S. Please say "Hi" to Mrs. Clause for me

Dear Santa,

This year I am 6 years old. I have been good all the time. What I would like to have most this Christmas is dinosaur toys and a new dog. I promise to leave out cookies and milk for you!

Merry Christmas Santa!

Love, Teddy Foster

P.S. Please say "Hi" to Rudolph 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 Pokémon cards and army stuff. I promise to leave out cookies and milk for you!

Merry Christmas Santa!

Love, Pinnett Quick

P.S. Please say "Hi" to Mrs. Clause 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 notebook and Barbies. I promise to leave out cookies for you!

Merry Christmas Santa!

Love, Dani Crump

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

Dear Santa,

This year I am 7 years old. This year I have tried really hard to be good. What I would like to have most this Christmas is a bike and a cat. I promise to leave out cookies and milk for you!

Merry Christmas Santa!

Love, Navi Quiroz

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

Dear Santa,

This year I am 7 years old. This year I have been good all the time. What I would like most this Christmas is a toy unicorn and Big Anna Elsa Dolls. I promise to leave out milk and cookies for you!

Merry Christmas Santa!

Love, Melody Bergen

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

Dear Santa,

This year I am 6 years old. This year I have been good all the time. What I would like to have most this Christmas is a Barbie Dream House and Barbie clothes. I promise to leave out milk and cookies for you!

Merry Christmas Santa!

Love, McKenzie Hartzell

P.S. Please say "Hi" to Melody and Teddy 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 a hover board and Fish For Goldsharks treasure. I promise to leave out milk and cookies for you!

Merry Christmas Santa!

Love, Zander Miller

P.S. Please say "Hi" to the Rudolph 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 Barbie Tree House and a puppy. I promise to leave out cookies and milk for you!

Merry Christmas Santa!

Love, Nichole Luper

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



Written by: First grade
Typed by: Dylan Tippie

Fantastic Fourth

Ms. McElwain

The 4th grade class chose to write Christmas haikus this year to show their Christmas spirit!

Lily Bergen

Gifts under the tree
Christmas cookies being baked
Christmas lights a blaze



Ian Campbell

I have a big hat
My colors are red and green
And I fly at night

Waylon Chrisman

Open the presents
I love the big Christmas tree
I like the snowmen

Aspyn Eidson

This year won't be great
The bells will still be ringing
We will still have fun

Lane Meade

Big, old, fat Santa
Had fun playing with his elves
He had too much fun

Zayden Miller

You may fear me lots
You name me different names
I fly in the night



Emmalee Scott

I love Christmas time
I like to make the cookies
I love the presents

Braydon Siebeneck

Christmas and magic
Presents and delicious food
Red and green flashing

Written by: The Fourth Grade Class
Formatted by: Lexie Ward



Thrilling Third

Mrs. Moore



The Third Grade class was asked to draw Christmas Raccoons and these are their creations.



Callan Rotert



Vivian Greer



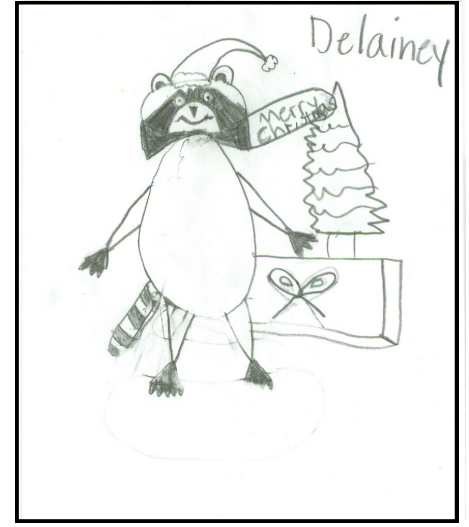
Sofia Porter



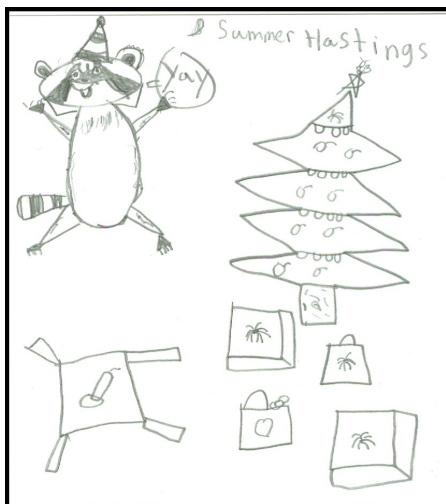
Ian Bergman



Seth Menken



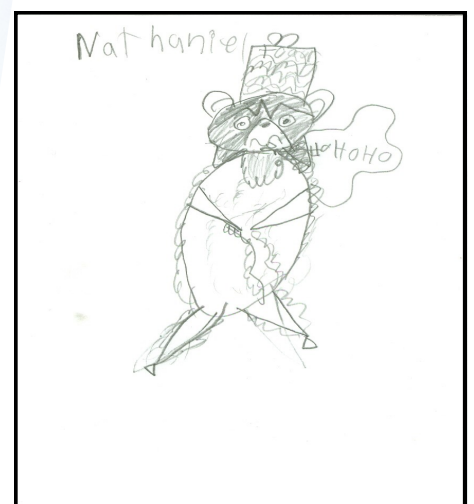
Delainey Ferguson



Summer Hastings



Chandler Borland



Nathaniel Fisher

Funky Fifth

Mrs. Bergen

The fifth grade students were asked to write something for the newspaper. They chose to write using the theme “My Gift to the World.”

My gift to the world is peace. It is peace because I want everyone to be happy and kind to each other. I think there should be no wars or arguments against others. Everyone should be able to have their own thoughts and believe what they want to believe in.


Owen Meade

My gift to the world is I would give homeless people a home because when its cold they can freeze to death and be very cold. I want them to have a home and food to live and a place to sleep.

Wyatt Maggard

My gift to the world is for there to be no more corona virus so the world can go back to normal. We can hang out together as families and so that we don't have to wear masks anymore. We can have fun together again and go to family parties and enjoy life.

Jaxon Larcom

 My gift to the world is to not have pollution. I wish people would not litter because the people that litter could go to prison for 6 months, a fine of \$1,000, or 8 to 40 hours of litter clean up. Littering is bad because it is bad for the environment. It can kill animals and plants.

Addilynn Engelhardt

My gift to the world is to have no sicknesses. The reason I picked no sicknesses is because a lot of people would not be suffering dying and having cancer right now. Also a lot of people would still be alive right now.

Nathan Bales

If I gave a gift to the world it would probably be a vaccine for Covid-19 to stop people from dying. I want to stop Covid-19 because we don't want to wear masks and social distance and quarantine anymore.

Gavin Schliem



My gift to the world would be a space craft that is extremely fast and large. The reason I chose that is so that we can see if our predictions about other planets are true, and so if something happens to Earth we can search for a new planet.

Jacob Eidson

My gift to the world is being kind. I don't litter and encourage others not to. I'm kind to the cops. People who aren't cops as well I am kind to. Whenever I am near someone I wear my mask.

Harry Greer

My gift to the world would be for no more sickness. Why? Because, who wants to be sick? No one does! And if no one was sick then no one would get Covid-19. So, no one would die of cancer, the flu, a cold, or any other kind of sickness. And people would live longer. Your grandma would not have to worry about Covid-19 anymore. That's my gift to the world.

Piper Goth

Written by: Fifth Grade
Typed by: Briana Arredondo



Sixth Grade Smarties

Mrs. Schmedding

The sixth grade class chose to do if I were a present and this is what they said...

If I were a present I would be a horse for my sister Averie. I want to be a horse because Averie has wanted one for years now, and it would make her happy. Averie would love it because she could ride me all day long.

When she would see me she would get really excited. And when she is done she would groom me and brush my hair. We would ride in the pasture all day long. When I get tired we would go home and go get my mane brushed. Then we would go to sleep.



Noah Bales

If I were a present I would be a box of beads. I would give this gift to my friend Rylee. I would give this gift to my friend Rylee because we hardly ever see each other since Covid started. Another reason I would give this gift is because before Covid started when we were able to see each other we would make each other friendship bracelets. Friendship bracelets are good because it shows someone you care and they can last you a long time. I hope this pandemic is over soon so I can see her again.

Abby Bergen

If I were a present I would be a cooking pot for my mom. The reason I would be a cooking pot is because my mom likes to cook fettuccine and mac-n-cheese and green beans. It could also help us to keep up cabinet space. It will also help my dad make gumbo, rice, and Ramen noodles.

The reason I want my mom to have that is because she can help my grandma, grandpa, sister, and dad cook. It will help my dad explain it to my grandparents and sister. Like what degrees to turn to make it just right for everybody.

Bradley Bergschneider

If I were a present I would easily choose to be a candy cane. Candy canes are great! They taste really good, and especially those fruity ones. The cane shape is so cool, which is great, and it's a super popular Christmas symbol.

I would absolutely NOT be an ordinary candy cane. How plain! How basic! How boring! I would surely be a fruity flavored one. Pink, blue, yellow and of course glitter (obviously). The pink is cherry, the blue is cotton candy, the yellow is banana, and the glitter is candy corn. Because I LOVE candy corn. Even though that's from Halloween and not Christmas.

I would give my gift to my younger 3-year-old sister, Bristol. She loves candy-cans (which is what she calls them) how cute!

The wrapping paper for it would be pink glitter, and on top. little golden, glittery hearts! She will love it! (Bristol is the cutest. Even though she's so ornery).

Kennedy Borland

If I were a present I would I would be a big bag of cotton candy. I would give this present to Olivia. I would give this to her because she is a sweet friend.

Keslyn Page

If I were a present, I would be a trip to Imagination Land. This gift would be given to my little sister Teddy.

I would give it to Teddy so that she could have lots and lots of fun. Also I would want her to go there so that she could burn off all of her energy. Believe me, she has a lot.

When she were to go to imagination land, I would sit on the couch and enjoy some peace and quiet and a clean house. For the few hours she's gone for. Then, I would go pick her up and hope she is asleep and enjoy the rest of my day.

I think my sister would love this gift. And obviously I would get declared best sister of the year.

Maggie Foster

If I was a present I would be a gift. To the whole entire world. To make everyone happy. I could be a true gift.

I would go all around the world. I would give so much. No one would know that I've shared joy. But at least they will be happy.

If I was a present I would spread joy. Through out the world. To see everyone happy makes me happy. So when I go house to house I will see happiness that I have created for the world.

Chrissy Evans

If I were a present I would be a pine tree air freshener for a car. I would give it to, my sister Briana because her car is stinky. Her car just really needs a lot of help.

I would be able to hear and see everything because I would be the air freshener. I think she knows her car needs help so she will be fine with it. If she's about to hit a deer I could tell her. That way she wont hit a deer.

Maribel Arredondo

If I were a present, I would be a brand new truck. I'd be a new truck for my grandpa because my grandpa deserves a new truck. His truck is starting to conk out on him.

I think he needs it because he's always put my grandma first on getting new cars, so I think he deserves a new truck. The truck it would be is a new Dodge or Chevy. Because Dodge and Chevy are his favorite looking trucks. With his new job he has to have a truck. His job is plumbing around Adrian.

Payson Hill

If I were a present I would be a lot of money. My parents and family members would get the money to pay bills, buy houses and donate to charity for kids that need help. They would want to have a normal life as one big happy family. My family would never have to worry about going bankrupt. My little brother would make his dream come true, he wants to become a YouTube star. My big brothers dream is to be rich, have a big truck, a fast car, have a nice wife, and kids!

Xander Menken



Continued from previous page

If I were a present I would be a new phone. I would be a phone so I could deliver it to my mom. My mom needs a new phone to take pictures, to call, and to have more storage.

My mom deserves it also, I would have to pay for it of course. I would work for anybody that needs help. I would work so hard. On Christmas morning she would open the new phone, she would love it! Then I would transfer back to my real body.

Madison Gunter

If I was a present I would be a hawk. I would give the hawk to Payson. Then I can catch squirrels and rabbits. Payson can train me to hunt animals, and catch fish out of water. Payson could feed me chicken.

Payson can cut down a little tree so I can go to sleep in the tree. Payson can take me places with him so I can get stuff for him. It would take him some time to train me. It should take at least 1 or 2 weeks to train me. Payson has had me for like as long as I can remember.

Payson should give me food in the morning and at night. Payson has a container for me to drink from. I go to bed when it gets dark, and I wake up at sun rise.

Luke Meade

If I were a present I would be a truck. I would also be black. I would be a big truck. I would have enough room to fit four people and maybe a couple dogs.

I would be for my dad. Except the whole family would use it, including our dogs. My dad would use it to go everywhere, especially work.

I would be a truck for my dad because he has wanted one since forever. Also, because my dad needs a new car because he has a really old one, so he needs a new one. Also, since they are old cars, the mileage is getting worse so we need a truck.

Lucas Larcom

If I were a present I would be a car for my dad because his is breaking down. I would be a white Ram truck. I would go anywhere with him. Go through mud, water, dirt, and wood.

My dad would be so happy. I would never breakdown. I would be happy, too. I kind of want to be a truck.

It would be cool to be a truck. And my dad would not have to any money. Just gas money. It would be cool to go anywhere my dad goes to.

Daxtyn Greer

If I were a present... I would be a black and white horse. I choose this animal because I love horses! Horses can be fun, you ride them, feed them, brush them, oh and my favorite part, if you have cattle, you can round them up to get into a trailer for the sale barn!

I would also give this gift to my friend Chrystal. She is very sweet to me. Her parents are a little poor so she deserves this horse. I want to help her out in any way that I can.

Olivia Porter



If I were a present I would be a heart shaped necklace and I would give it to my grandma. The necklace would be heart shaped because it resembles love and I love her very much. It would be a heart with all of her grandchildren's initials because we all love her and it would be even more special.

I chose my grandma because I love her so much. She is a big role model in my life and I look up to her. She has done everything for me and I would do everything for her. I don't get to see her that often but when I do I love every minute of it. She loves jewelry and I would love to get her a necklace because she wears one every day.

With the necklace we would do everything together it won't get in the way of stuff. We love to bake together and especially make cinnamon rolls. We also like to go up to Branson and go mini golfing, go carting, go eat out, and sometimes go to Silver Dollar City. I love her so much and can't wait to see her this weekend.

Ashton Seibeneck

If I were a gift I would be a bow for hunting, for my dad. He really needs a new one. He would be so happy. He needs a new one because he has a really old one. I would be one because I'm thankful for my dad.

So, I would make him happy. Then I would have lights on me when you would shoot, I would light up. I would also have good neon lights. I would have good sight too. So, I would be a black bow.

Then I would be at least \$100. I would have a dark neon green for the strings. I would be put in a box. Then the wrapping paper would have dots on it. Then he would get the bow.

Jordyn Blankenship

If I were a present I would be a present for orphans or the sick. I would want to make the children happy and special. I would be any kind of toy. I wanted to pick that because I want the kids to be happy and not to be scared.

I could be any toy you would imagine! I would be wrapped in beautiful sparkling green-blue paper with a black bow on top. It would also have lines everywhere on it. It could also have other colors on it like pink, yellow, purple, white, black, or any color you could think of!

I would love to make children happy. It makes me feel good about myself. I hope that all children are happy with themselves. I also hope that one day the world will be at peace and that is if I were a present.

Macie Wainscott



Spectacular Seventh

We asked the Seventh Grade Class what they wanted for Christmas and here is what they said.

- Dayne Greer- . 22 Bullets for hunting.
- Lucas Crump- Assassins Creed Valhalla video game.
- Valencia Landeros- Volleyball to start again with the same coach and team.
- Autumn Hastings- Chocolate chip cookies.
- Lilly Chrisman- A new sister.
- Celia Campbell- Scrunchies and bracelets.
- Cash Anderson- Targets for hunting.
- Haley Pray- Fluffy Socks, scrunchies, iPhone 12.
- Ms. Burgin- Continued health and happiness for my family for 2021.



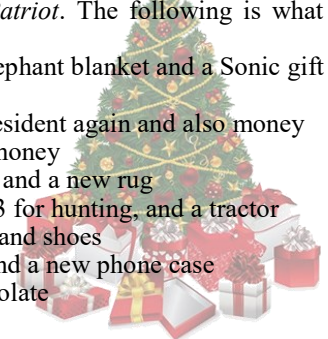
Written by: Seventh Grade Class
Typed by: Madi McArthur

Elite Eighth

Ms. Murchie

We are all excited for Christmas break. We know it's coming soon but until then we still have school to enjoy. For example, in Ag we are doing a Christmas shop. In English we are finishing a book, *To Catch A Killer*. In History we just finished *The Patriot*. The following is what we would like for Christmas:

- Katlin Blankenship**- An elephant blanket and a Sonic gift card
- Jon Setzer**- Trump to be president again and also money
- Zoie Wheeler**- Mirror and money
- Sam Setzer**- Sonic gift card and a new rug
- Audrey Foster**- A new . 243 for hunting, and a tractor
- Isaiah Maggard**- Bike part and shoes
- Ethan Kennedy**- Speaker and a new phone case
- Murchie**- Candles and chocolate



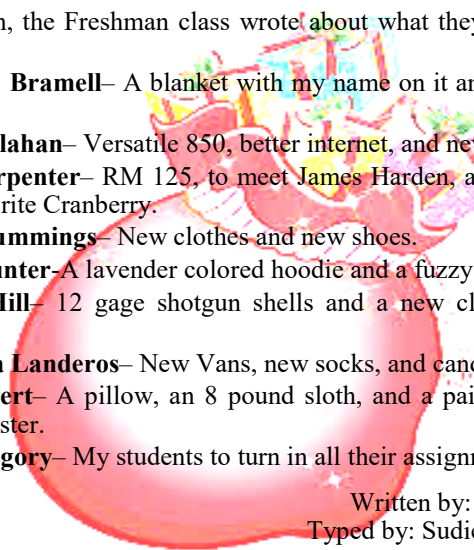
Written by: The Eighth Grade Class
Typed by: Lexie Ward

Fickle Freshman

Mrs. Gregory

For this month, the Freshman class wrote about what they want for Christmas.

- Gretchen Bramell**- A blanket with my name on it and a coloring set.
- Cade Callahan**- Versatile 850, better internet, and new rode's.
- Zach Carpenter**- RM 125, to meet James Harden, and Winter Spiced Sprite Cranberry.
- Aimee Cummings**- New clothes and new shoes.
- Lindy Gunter**- A lavender colored hoodie and a fuzzy blanket.
- Parker Hill**- 12 gage shotgun shells and a new clay pigeon thrower.
- Valentina Landeros**- New Vans, new socks, and candy
- Lilly Rotert**- A pillow, an 8 pound sloth, and a pair of pliers with a holster.
- Mrs. Gregory**- My students to turn in all their assignments, and coffee.



Written by: The Class
Typed by: Sudie Callahan

Salty Sophomores

Mrs. Larcom

All I want for Christmas is...

- Alexis Hastings wants to sleep all day.
- Lexie Ward wants a new phone.
- Tucker Roach wants parts for his truck.
- Lucas Whitaker wants a new backpack.
- Jacob Crawford wants guns for hunting.
- Macie Morris wants lots of clothes.
- Averie Bales wants a camera and money.
- Sydney Claiborne wants a letter board.
- Jacob Kepner wants a Play Station 5.
- Madi McArthur wants a hair straightener.
- Brice Miller wants a truck.
- Mrs. Larcom wants snow and to spend time with her family.



The Sophomore class wishes you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Written by: Mrs. Larcom
Typed by: Alexis Hastings

Just Enough Juniors

We hope you all had a great Thanksgiving break! We're all ready for Christmas break, so we decided to do what we want for Christmas.

- Briana Arredondo**: My Mustang back, Dylan to love me more, and money
 - Ashton Carullo**: Money, sleep, and hoodies
 - Kale Oerke**: Hoodies, truck parts, and candy
 - River Clark**: New boots, Ariat jeans, and 30-30 shells
 - Nathan Menken**: Money, hoodies, and friendship
 - Payton Miller**: Fishing stuff, hunting stuff, and Dt. Mtn Dew
- Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Written and typed
by: Ashton Carullo





SASSY SENIORS



Mrs. Chambers & Mr. Bergen

This month we asked the seniors and their sponsors three things that they would like for Christmas and they answered...

Wyatt Blair— money, welder, and a truck.

Sudie Callahan— curling/straightening irons, jean, and a bed spread.

Rachel Evans— laptop, Ballard hoodie, and a blanket.

Sierra Ferguson— sketch books, laptop, and to spend time with my family.

Serenity Morris— clothes, shoes, and a Corgi.

Lizbeth Ramirez— leggings, phone, and to see my family.

Kayla Schmitt— Vehicle, leggings, and a computer.

Kailee Smith— laptop, phone case, and a YETI cup.

Dylan Tippie— Apple Watch, hoodies, and my college tuition paid for.

Mrs. Chambers— sleep, a clean house, and to win the lottery.

Mr. Bergen— To see my new baby niece and nephews, gift cards to my favorite restaurants, and a date night with Kelsi.

Typed by: Serenity Morris

Science Department Red Cabbage Indicator

Mrs. Chambers

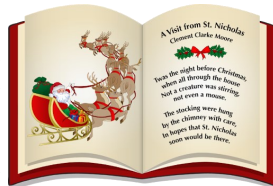
In our Physical Science class, we are learning about the pH scales, acids, bases, and neutrals. We did an experiment to test the pH of different fluids. First, we made an indicator solution by steeping red cabbage in water. It started out blue, but slowly turned purple. Then, we brought in different solutions to test their pH, such as coffee, pickle juice, dish soap, and milk. We then filled test tubes with the indicator solution. Afterwards, we added the testing fluid into each tube. Based on the color the indicator solution changed to, we were able to determine the pH. Pickle juice is around a 1-2 and is an acid. Milk is about an 11 and is a base. This experiment taught us a lot about the pH scale and determining acids and bases.



Written by: Aimee Cummings
Formatted by: Sudie Callahan

Library News

I want to thank the entire Ballard community for your continued support. Our book fair did well last week! We made a total of \$1441. We will get half of that back in Scholastic Dollars which will allow me to get new books through the Scholastic company! I could not do this without each one of you and your support for our school library. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for making this event successful for our school.



Written by: Ms. Burgin
Typed by: Madi McArthur

Humbled History

Mr. Dunkin

In Geography right now we are working on our Ballard 2050 project and city planning. In 8th grade U.S. History we are reading about the Constitution and the New Republic. In 7th grade Geography we are studying the history and geography of Western Europe. In Government we are learning about where Congress got its power. In World History we are looking into the decline of Rome. In 9th grade U.S. History we are learning about the 1920s and World War 1. Have a great Christmas Break! We look forward to seeing everyone when we come back!



Written & Typed by: Ashton Carullo



Mr. Bergen's Math Corner

Hello fellow mathematicians,

The answers to the last edition of Math Corner are at the end of this edition.

Elementary Riddle (K-4):

Q. I found a box of ornaments in my basement. When I opened it up, all of them were blue except for six, and all of them were green, except for six, and all of them were red, except for six. How many of each color ornament were in the box?

Middle School Riddle (5-8):

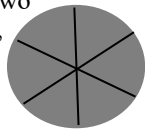
Q. Santa has 9 reindeer (if you count Rudolph). If Santa, the sleigh, and all the presents weigh a literal ton, how much weight does each reindeer need to pull to distribute the weight evenly?

High School Riddle (9-12):

Q. The distance from pole to pole around the world is 24,901 miles. At what average rate would Santa need to fly to go from pole to pole in one night (assume "night" is defined as 10 PM to 5 AM)

Elementary Riddle (K-4):

Q. Imagine you are at Thanksgiving dinner with two other people. A fresh pie just came out of the oven, and you want to share it equally between the three of you. How can you cut it using straight across lines so that you all get equal amounts of pie?



A. Cut the pie into six equal slices, and each person gets two slices.

Middle School Riddle (5-8):

Q. You are traveling for Thanksgiving to visit your Gran Gran in Texas. On a map from your house to hers, is 5cm. The map has a scale of 1cm = 135mi.

Part 1: how far is it to Gran Gran's house from your house?

Part 2: If you drive an average speed of 75mi/hr, and leave at 6:00AM, when will you arrive at her house?

A. If 1cm = 135mi, and you measure 5cm, just take $5 \times 135 \text{ mile} = 675$ miles. To find the time you will get there, first determine how long it takes to drive 675 miles going 75mi/hr. To do this, just divide 675 by 75, which equals 9 hours. So 9 hours from 6:00AM would be 3:00PM.

High School Riddle (9-12):

Q. Same question as Middle School, but I want to add: your car gets 20mpg and has an 18 gallon gas tank. If gasoline is \$1.72/gal, and you are on empty, how much will it cost in gas to drive to Gran Gran's house and back?

A. First of all, the miles to and from Gran Gran's house are 1,350 miles. 20mpg means that my car travels 20 miles per gallon of gas, so I take 1,350 divided by 20 to find how many gallons of gas I need, which results in 67.5 gallons of gas. The size of the tank doesn't matter, all that matters is that we are starting at 0 gallons and having to purchase enough to go 1,350 miles. To find the cost of 67.5 gallons at \$1.72/gal, we just multiply 67.5 times 1.72, which results in \$116.10. Small price to pay to see Gran Gran, I'm sure.

Written by: Mr. Bergen
Formatted by: Lexie Ward



Language Arts

Mrs. Gregory

Well the end of the semester is almost here. Our first semester classes are wrapping up with novels finishing *Fahrenheit 451* and the speech class finishing their persuasive and extemporaneous speeches. In ELA I we are writing short stories, in ELA II we are learning about figurative language techniques, in Advanced ELA we are learning about and reading Edgar Allen Poe, and in College prep we are writing research papers. I know we are all looking forward to Christmas break and a little bit of cheer and rest. Have a Happy New Year!



Written by: Mrs. Gregory
Typed by: Dylan Tippie

ART

Mrs. Larcom

Elementary Art Classes are doing all things Christmas this month! Kindergarten is making paper Santa's, first grade made paper reindeer, second grade made Santa's with yarn beards, third grade made paper cut Santa's and drew a folk art reindeer, fourth grade drew folk art Santa's, fifth and sixth grade drew



pop art Santa's. All classes also made ornaments! Check out the Ballard Art Facebook page for more pictures!

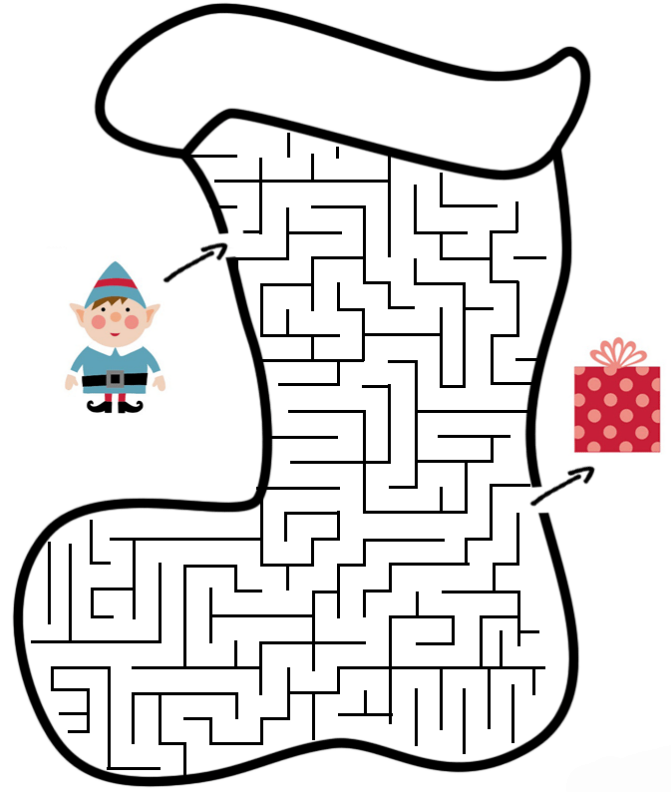
Pictured: L-R
Lily Bergen
Braydon Siebeneck
Ian Campbell.

Written by: Mrs. Larcom
Typed by: Serenity Morris

Fun Page

Reindeer Word Search

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



- Blitzen
- Comet
- Cupid
- Dancer
- Dasher
- Donner
- Prancer
- reindeer
- Rudolph
- Vixen

