



Barks 'n' Growls



BALLARD R-II SCHOOL
Third Edition, March, 28, 2024

Senior Spotlight

Publications Staff

Senior Publicist
Mr. Gregory

Editors
Cade Callahan
Parker Hill

CADE CALLAHAN



Cade, 18, is the son of Trent and Melisa Callahan, and the brother of Sudie Callahan. Some of his favorite things include the color metallic black and eating fried chicken from Sam's Chicken in Butler. Cade's famous last words are "Bad Mr. Kitty!" inspired from South Park. His favorite class is Ag construction. Some of Cade's hobbies are playing basketball, riding dirt bikes and working on his trucks. His dream truck is a 2023 Chevy metallic black single cab dully 3500 on 24 inch Alcoa polished aluminum wheels. After graduating he plans on attending Hesston collage and earning his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering while also playing college basketball. Cade sees himself in 15 years designing tractors for John Deere and farming along side his dad and grandpa.

ALEXIS RAMIREZ-NUÑEZ



Alexis is son of Adán Ramirez Valladarez and Norma Elvia Nuñez Luna. He is the youngest of three siblings. Alexis's favorite things are, the colors green and gray, his favorite class is Novels, his favorite song is "Gone, Gone, Gone", his favorite foods are pizza and gorditas and his favorite restaurant is Golden Corral. Alexis's favorite car is a 1996 Chevy Impala sedan with hydraulic suspension. He loves to read in his spare time. His famous lasts words are "Money can't buy life." After graduation Alexis wants to be come a Biologist. In fifteen years he plans on having a stable job with a house, car, and a family.

ZACHARY CARPENTER



Zachary is 17. He is son of Jillian and Jimmy Holteen, and Mathew Carpenter. He's the youngest of four children. Some of his favorite things are the color blue and eating ribeyes cooked to perfection. His favorite class is gym, and his favorite hobbies are playing basketball and hanging out with his buddies on the weekends. Zach's dream truck is a white 2015 GMC Denali HD Duramax leveled sitting on 24x14 American Force wheels. Zach's inspired last words are the verse Psalms 73:26. After graduation Zach will be attending UCM for soil science. In 15 years, Zach plans to own his Denali and also be married and have kids and building a double wide mansion on ten acres with a shop.

Attendance Awards



We would like to congratulate Mrs. Winter's third grade class, and Mrs. Hathcock's fourth grade class for winning the attendance award for December!



Student of the Month December

Congratulations to our two elementary students, winners of December Student of the Month. Hadley Winter and Kinzley Winter are excellent examples of students demonstrating our character traits of "Empathy and Appreciation"! Their teachers had the following words of encouragement and kindness.

"Hadley does a wonderful job of showing both empathy and appreciation. Empathy is understanding and sharing the feelings of others around you. Hadley shows empathy daily, whether it is by noticing and including a friend who is being left out, to helping a friend who is struggling to read a word in class. She does an excellent job of extending extra kindness to those needing it. She also shows appreciation by always using her manners and being the first one to say "thank you". Hadley is a great friend and a joy to have in class." - Mrs. Hester

"Even though Kinzley was new to our school this year, she joined in and fit as if she had always been here. She is kind to everyone, diligent in her school work, and quick to help whenever needed. Our character words of the month are empathy and appreciation. I see both of these characteristics in Kinzley as she interacts with her peers. When someone is upset, I can often see her there to lend a listening ear or a pat on the back. When a community member was sick, Kinzley started a little business selling bracelets to help with hospital bills. I am so grateful to have her in this class as she is a joy to be around and a great example to her peers." - Mrs. Bergen

This year, our winners for Student of the Month from the elementary grades will receive a \$15.00 gift card

donated by Ian Meade in honor of his grandparents Charles and Nadine Meade and Ellen Wry. Nadine served the Ballard School district from 1966-1990 as a secretary. Charles served the Ballard School district from 1966-1974 as a building custodian. Ellen served the Ballard School district from 1979-1981 as a teacher's aide.

Thank you for the service to our community and the donation for our students.



Check it Out!!! That's amazing!

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 2023-24 school year.

The Student of the Month for December is Senior, Zach Carpenter, the son of Jillian and Jimmy Holten, and Matt Carpenter. This month's special theme is "Empathy and Appreciation". Zach currently participates in Basketball, Track, and FFA, and in his free time, he also enjoys going to the gym, living free and going to work. His future plans are to go to UCM and study soil science. Zach would like to say, "Try to succeed in what you do, and make friends along the way, before you die."

The Ballard staff have said about Zach: "Ballard School is better because Zach is here. I know he has a bright future, and I look forward to seeing where he goes after High School. He is well deserving of Student of the Month for December. He has always shown appreciation to me and demonstrated empathy with both teachers and peers."

And, "I don't think I have ever seen Zach in a bad mood; perhaps down or not feeling well, but even in those times he has responded to my greeting or comment. Zach is quick witted and I often speak to him using sarcasm or something in a joking manner just to see what he will say next. I look forward to Zach's first chapter after high school, as his determination is gritty and he just doesn't have it in him to give up or quit. Zach is highly appreciative of what he has and works hard to maintain what he has worked for. We are all proud of you, Zach!"

For Zach's hard work in school, he has received a certificate of recognition from the Adrian Optimist Club and \$20.00 in Adrian Chamber of Commerce "Chamber Bucks."





Attendance Awards

We would like to congratulate Mrs. West's first grade class, Mrs. Hester's second grade, and Mrs. Hathcock's fourth grade class for winning the attendance award for January!



Student of the Month

January

Congratulations to our two elementary students, winners of January Student of the Month. Dakota Lippert and Nathaniel Fisher are excellent examples of students demonstrating our character traits of "Courage and Resilience"! Their teachers had the following words of encouragement and kindness.

"Dakota is always so kind and giving. He tries to include everyone! During our lessons, Dakota is a good listener and is always willing to help his friends. He is a perfectionist and always tries his best! He is such a hard worker in class. Dakota is extremely creative, and kind hearted! He is fun to have in class!! When you see him smile, you cannot help but smile back. His smile lights up the room. Dakota loves to play video games at home, and has mastered many sound effects. He is always making new noises in class. Keep up the great work Dakota!" -Ms. Strunk

"The aspects of courage and resilience are funny traits. When someone has everything go their way, they are rarely described as courageous or resilient. It is only when someone struggles and pushes through that they are allowed to be called courageous and resilient. I am proud to say that Nathaniel has earned the right to be called both of these traits. When he comes upon something he doesn't know, he doesn't give up, he looks for help and pushes through in order to get it done. He will always give something a good try, and isn't afraid to make mistakes. Out of all traits to have, I believe these can lead to the most success in life. The ability to adapt and overcome is present in Nathaniel, and I know that because of this he will find success in anything he sets his mind to! -Mr. Duncan and: "Last year we recognized Nathaniel for Courage and Resilience. It is no coincidence that he was again selected for displaying these characteristics. Nathaniel continues to rise above the challenge with a brave face. He learns from his failures and makes corrections the next time around. I am expecting these qualities to continue to shine in Nathaniel and his accomplishments." -Mrs. Scott



This year, our winners for Student of the Month from the elementary grades will receive a \$15.00 gift

Keep it up! card

donated by Ian Meade in honor of his grandparents Charles and Nadine Meade and Ellen Wry. Nadine served the Ballard School district from 1966-1990 as a secretary. Charles served the Ballard School district from 1966-1974 as a building custodian. Ellen served the Ballard School district from 1979-1981 as a teacher's aide. Thank you for the service to our community and the donation for our students.

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 2023-24 school year.

The Student of the Month for January is Junior, Zoie Wheeler, the daughter of JR and Rocky Wheeler. This month's special theme is "Courage and Resilience". Zoie currently participates in Softball and Basketball, and in her free time, she also enjoys practicing her skills in whatever sports she is playing. Her future plans are to forego college and go right to work. Zoie would like to say, "Always keep your head held high, no matter what."

The Ballard staff have said about Zoie: "I was shocked when I heard that this is the first time Zoie will be honored with Student of the Month (at least in recent memory). But, then I realized there has never been character words of the month being "Perfect Student". So, if there is anyone who just needs a new title of "Permanent and Lifetime Honorary Student of the Month" awarded, it would be Zoie. And if you think these words might be a little over the top, you should really get to know Zoie better. She is such a blessing!"

"When I think of courage and resilience, I think of Zoie Wheeler. She remains calm and quiet during the school day and then slays giants on the field for softball and on the court for basketball. Zoie shows up to school and keeps her head held high, she is an excellent role model to all the other students. Zoie is kind and polite, she gets her work done well, and she does what is expected of her. She is dependable and devoted."

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



Awesome Job!!



Attendance Awards

We would like to congratulate Mrs. West's first grade class and Mr. Duncan's sixth grade class for winning the attendance award for February!



Student of the Month

February

Congratulations to our two elementary students, winners of February Student of the Month. Kyle Carpenter (3rd grade) and Cayson Hester (4th grade) are excellent examples of students demonstrating our character traits of "Kindness and Dependability"! Their teachers had the following words of encouragement and kindness.

Kyle is such an amazing student! Our words for February were kindness and dependability, and Kyle definitely shows both of these character traits daily. Kyle is always showing kindness to his classmates and friends at school. He includes everyone, is always saying "Please" and "Thank you", lends a helping hand, and has a smile on his face. Kyle works very hard in class, and he never gives up! He always congratulates his classmates and encourages them in everything they do. Kyle is also very dependable. I can trust Kyle to do what I have asked him to do the first time. He always gets his work done efficiently and has a great attitude and mind set. When something spills on the floor, Kyle is the first to offer to clean it up. When I need help passing papers out, or need something from the office, Kyle is the first one to lend a helping hand. He definitely sets a high standard on how a student should be and is a great example to the younger grades. The younger kids just love him! I could go on and on about Kyle as he is an exceptional student. I am so grateful that I have him in my class this year, and I know that he will do amazing things in life! No one is more deserving than him. I am so very proud of you Kyle!!! Keep up the good work, and always let your light shine for those around you!" - Mrs. Winter



Regarding Cayson Hester..."I have had the privilege of having Cayson in my class this year. He is a great addition to our class and school. He is quiet and shy at first but once you get to know him you know that he is a "one of a kind kid". He is a friend to everyone in our class and I know he has made friends with others. He is cooperative and easy to talk to. When someone is dependable they are trustworthy and reliable. Cayson displays both of these qualities and more! I know that I can rely on him to help and get things done. He is trustworthy and responsible and I know that he is true to his word. Cayson is a team player and does whatever is asked of him. He is kind to his peers and does not complain even when others might. Cayson is respectful and he does what he is expected to do. Cayson is a well rounded individual and I am so glad that he is a part of Ballard School!!" - Mrs. Hathcock



This year, our winners for Student of the Month from the elementary grades will receive a \$15.00 gift card donated by Ian Meade in honor of his grandparents Charles and Nadine Meade and Ellen Wry. Nadine served the Ballard School district from 1966-1990 as a secretary. Charles served the Ballard School district from 1966-1974 as a building custodian. Ellen served the Ballard School district from 1979-1981 as a teacher's aide.

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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 2023-24 school year.

The Student of the Month for February is Freshman, Keslyn Page, the daughter of Kent and Lori Page. This month's special theme is "Kindness and Dependability". Keslyn currently participates in Volleyball and FFA, and in her free time, she also enjoys spending time with family. Her future plans are to work in clothing and fashion. Keslyn would like to say, "Smiling is just my thing."

The Ballard staff have said about Keslyn: "Kindness is so much more than being "nice." Keslyn is always smiling. She can tell me she's having a bad day...and then will immediately smile. It's in-ferocious. She gives out compliments that will make you feel like a million bucks. She's generous and cares deeply for those around her. Wherever she goes, joy is her companion.

Keslyn very rarely misses school. When she is absent, I know it is for good reason. I can depend on her to be at school. Keslyn is unwaveringly honest and is led by her conscience. (Remember that little cricket that tells you to do the right thing?) I can depend on her to always do the right thing. Keslyn is determined to perform well at whatever she does. I can depend on her to give her best effort. I can ALWAYS depend on Keslyn.

I come to school every day, looking forward to the time I will get to spend with Keslyn. She is so valuable. You'll not find another like her. She is very much deserving of her time in the spotlight."

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

Awesome Job!!



FEARLESS First



I AM LUCKY BECAUSE...

(Grace) "I got sum chix!"

(Amelia) "I have a babby Brothre."

(Everlee) "I did not get pecht."

(Blaise) "I cut my foot and It hallt I was gona need stichis' but I didn't."

(Chevi) "Tee bone is the best and he is cute dog"

(Charley) "I got a dog on that day and her name is Blueey."

(Bristol) "I hav a famule. I am lucky cus I hav a home."

(Garrett) "I find pennes!"

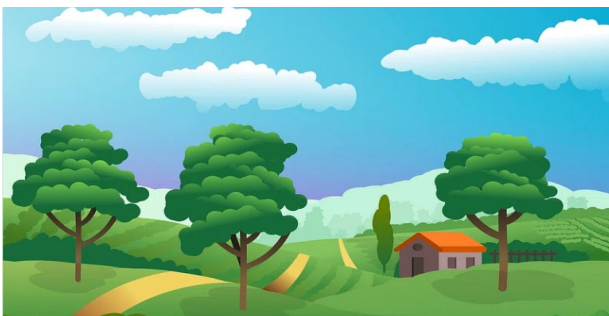
(Violet) "On mI brthay I got ice crem"

(Mrs. West) "I work in such a wonderful school."



Envirothon

The Envirothon team has spent the year preparing for their competitions and their hard work paid off! The Ballard Bulldogs placed third in their Region! They will proudly move on to state competitions on May 1st.



GVVC Math Relay Competitions



This year our best and brightest number crunchers gave it all they got at the GVVC Math Relay Competitions at NEVC. Ballard finished 3rd overall in conference! Lucas Crump (10th grade) placed 1st in Geometry Individual. Owen Meade (8th grade) placed 1st in 8th grade Individual. 7th grade team (Lily Bergen, Lane Meade, Braydon Siebeneck, and Bentley Winters) placed 1st in 7th Grade Group. 8th grade team (Jacob Eidson, Addilynn Engelhardt, Oliver Hon, and Owen Meade) placed 1st in 8th grade Group. Algebra 1 team (Kennedy Borland, Xander Menken, Ashton Siebeneck, and Macie Wainstock) placed 3rd in Algebra 1 Group. Geometry team (Cash Anderson, Lucas Crump, Jay Hastings, and Lynn Landeros) placed 3rd in Geometry Group. Awesome Job!



Math can be fun! Who knew?



Savage Sixth

6th grade has been finishing up our anatomy unit. Pictured here, we attempted to recreate our urinary system given a set amount of materials. They learned about how our kidneys filter out our blood and what we do with the waste.—Mr. Duncan



Counselor's Corner

Exploring Career Opportunities!

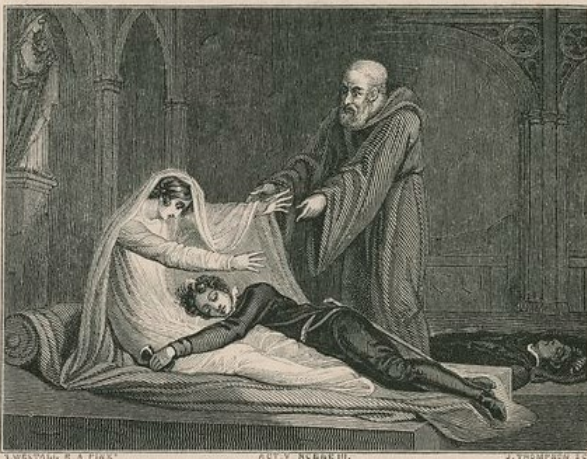
On 2/8, Ballard's 6 sophomores and two of our juniors attended Clinton Technical School's orientation where they were introduced to welding, auto mechanics, machine tools, nursing, EMT, and computer programming.



On 2/9, six of the same students traveled to State Fair Community College to see the world of technology on the college level. Both days were well worth the while as ideas were exchanged and new endeavors blossomed. (picture below)



ROMEO AND JULIET.



FRIAR.—COME, GO, GOOD JULIET, I DARE STAY NO LONGER.
JULIET.—GO, GET THEE HENCE, FOR I WILL NOT AWAY.

Everything English

It's hard to believe the end of the year is fast upon us. In the core English classes we have finished most of our dramatic studies of Romeo and Juliet, Taming of the Shrew, and The Crucible. The College Prep class wrote research papers and are starting Macbeth. The novel's class read The Princess Bride, and all agree it is an amazing book. We also watched the super fun movie that is based on the book. We will be studying grammar and improving our writing skills in the final quarter of the year. The novels class is tackling The Good Earth. I hope the 4th quarter doesn't go by too fast. We have a lot to get done! - Mrs. Gregory

Sports Pages

By Cade Callahan/Parker Hill

Meet the Junior High and High School Track Teams



(L-R) Coach Jackson Duncan, Aspyn Eidson, Lily Bergen, Mason Buckman, Vivian Greer, Braydon Siebeneck, Nathaniel Fisher, Emmalee Scott, Ian Bergman



(L-R) Back row: Asst. Coach Jennifer Chambers, Cash Anderson, Cade Callahan, Lucas Crump, Kennedy Borland, Noah Bales, Coach Curtis Gwinn. Kneeling: Haley Pray, Ashton Siebeneck, Zachary Carpenter, Valencia Landeros. Sitting: Lily Bergen.





Huntlee Myrtle has been showing lots of success in taking home wins in wrestling competitions. Some of the numbers for this season that started in November include:

- For weight class 10u 55lb,
- ◇ Record is 50-2 (same kid beat him twice)
 - ◇ 12 gold medals, 1 silver, and 1 bronze
 - ◇ Second Missouri nationals
 - ◇ Third Missouri state championship
 - ◇ 38 pins
 - ◇ District champion 3 years in a row

- At weight class 12u 60lb,
- ◇ Record 7-2
 - ◇ 1 gold medal, 2 silvers

Way to go Huntlee, keep it up!



Lucas Crump went to state for archery. He finished the season breaking his record from last year.

As the season comes to a close, I am really proud of all the accomplishments that Lucas achieved this season. - Mrs. Chambers

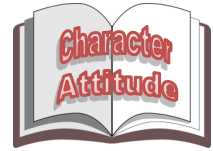


(L-R) Advisor Jennifer Chambers, Lucas Crump

Archery



Heart-to-Hearts from the Student Handbook



This new section of the newspaper will contain a portion of the student handbook. The full handbook can be found on the school's website at www.ballardr2.net.

BULLYING POLICY

The Ballard R-II Board of Education prohibits acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying. The board of education has determined that a safe and civil environment in school is necessary for the health, safety, and welfare of students, and to learn and achieve high academic standards. Harassment, intimidation or bullying, like other disruptive or violent behaviors, is conduct that disrupts both a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate its students in a safe environment.

The board of education establishes that "harassment, intimidation, or bullying" means any gesture or written, verbal, or physical act that takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, or on a school bus that:

- A) is motivated by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical, or sensory disability; or,
- B) by any other distinguishing characteristic; and
- C) a reasonable person should know, under the circumstances, that the act(s) will have the effect of harming a student or damaging the student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to his person or damage to his property; or
- D) has the effect of insulting or demeaning any student or group of students in such a way as to cause substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school.

The board of education expects students to conduct themselves in keeping with their level of development, maturity, and demonstrated capabilities with a proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students and school staff, the educational purpose underlying all school activities and the care of school facilities and equipment.

The board of education believes that standards for student behavior must be set cooperatively through interaction among the students, parents and guardians, staff and community members of the school district, producing an atmosphere that encourages students to grow in self-discipline. The development of this atmosphere requires respect for self and others, as well as for district and community property on the part of students, staff, and community members.

The board of education believes that the best discipline is self-imposed, and that it is the responsibility of staff to use disciplinary situations as opportunities for helping students learn to assume and accept responsibility for their behavior and the consequences of their behavior. Staff members who interact with students shall apply best practices designed to prevent discipline problems and encourage students' abilities to grow in self-discipline.

The board of education requires its school administrators to develop and implement procedures that ensure the appropriate consequences to a student or staff member who commits one or more acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying (see discipline matrix in handbook p. 34 for high school and p. 37 for elementary).

The Ballard R-II Board of Education requires the principal and/or the principal's designee to be responsible for determining whether an alleged act constitutes a violation of this policy. In so doing, the principal and/or the principal's designee shall conduct a prompt, thorough, and complete investigation of each alleged incident. The investigation is to be completed within three school days after a report or complaint is made.

