



Wow, can't believe it is already December. The school year is quickly moving along as both staff and most students would agree. We all seem to have some type of an event going on nearly every day or night and we many times are simply caught up in the moment. During this holiday season I believe it is important that we all take a few minutes to reflect on our values on how we approach each day given to us. Below are few values to consider that I found from <http://www.thebridgemaker.com/>.

1. **Appreciation.** Taking a brief moment to say, "Thank You," or acknowledging the exceptional job the restaurant server did when waiting on you is not only encouraging for the beneficiary to hear; it fills your soul with more appreciation too.
2. **Belief in Others.** It can be your attitude; your resolve, that can lift someone up when they are down. Their doubt can be erased by your confidence. And something else amazing happens: belief is contagious- the more you believe in others; the more you will continue to believe in yourself.
3. **Caring.** Caring for others, as well as self-care, allows you to extend a helping hand and to pass along some unexpected

Values by Mr. Waagen

grace. When we take the time to demonstrate we care, we demonstrate the fact there are still plenty of good people left in this world.

4. **Commitment.** Commitment shows loyalty and it can show bravery and tenacity as well. A commitment is a promise made and an expectation we have created. Honoring our commitments can make the difference between achieving what's most important to us or feeling disappointed and defeated.
5. **Compassion.** We are all part of this thing called the human condition. No doubt we have different skin colors, religious preferences and political points-of-view, but at the end of the day, we still need to take care of one another.
6. **Cooperation.** Even the most complex tasks and assignments can be made simpler when we focus on the solutions-together.
7. **Courtesy.** The next time you are approaching a door and someone is ten steps or so behind you, wait just one second longer before walking through. Instead hold the door for that one second. It's amazing how something that can happen in a blink of an eye can carry so much lasting value.

8. **Dedication.** No matter how the circumstances may change, unless you are in a physically or emotionally abusive situation, stay the course and never give up. I would rather be called a failure than a loser. Losers give up when things become to difficult. Failures are folks who have just not found success-but will. So, call me a failure if you like, because it implies I haven't stop trying.
9. **Devotion.** Some days are just naturally better than others. It's the same way in our interpersonal relationships and in our faith. Things can get unstable at times, but staying the devoted to a cause or to a person through the uncertain times is our rock to grasp when our faith and our foundation is shaky.
10. **Effort.** No matter the outcome, there is always value in the effort when the effort is authentic and well-intended.

There were many more values listed but you get the main point. Despite what we hear every day on the news there is a lot of good in the world. Please take some time this holiday season to reach out to your loved ones, friends, co-workers, and your neighbors to let them know that you value what they add to your life and that you appreciate them. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Dates to Remember:

- *December 2: Early Release dismiss students 1:45*
- *December 17: School Christmas Concert*
- *December 10: Christmas Dinner deadline*
- *December 23: No School Christmas Vacation begins*
- *January 4: School Resumes*

Inside this issue:

Mr. Waagen	1
Mr. Bear	2
PTO News, Box Tops, Superpower Students	3
Santa, Tree Lighting, Honor Roll	4
Back Page	5
Activities Calendar	6
Lunch Menu	7



Christmas Celebration by Mr. Bear

Fun has never been my forte. There are a lot of things that people do of which I've never quite seen the value. All of the diversions of the modern world including things like video games, facebook, and online poker are pretty much lost on me. That's not because I'm old because the same is true of things kids did for fun when I was young like draw on cave walls.

Don't get me wrong. There are things I enjoy. I enjoy my family. I enjoy a good book. And I enjoy it when I see kids successful.

Ever since I started teaching in Montpelier in 1999, one thing that the school has done every year is talk about a Christmas party for the high school kids. There have been a variety of things that have been done such as going bowling, going to a movie, and playing volleyball.

I've never really been on board with these Christmas celebrations. We've got a limited number of days to spend with these kids and it seems a bit silly to take one of those days away from their education. There are arguments for it and if I weren't quite so much of a killjoy I think there is a distinct possibility I would agree.



Regardless, the teachers did convince me that we should have a celebration. We agreed that the day before Christmas break all of our kids will have the option of going to Jamestown and taking in a movie.

One of the things I really struggle with is that we do have some kids that have not been able to experience a lot of success in the classroom this year. A few of our students are failing classes. My initial reaction is that if a student is failing, we should most certainly have them stay back from the movie and get school work done.

Another thing I struggle with, though, is that the reason kids struggle in classes is not usually because we haven't given them opportunity to be successful. Rather, the reason is usually because for whatever reason these students simply aren't motivated to achieve the goals which we set in front of them. Students that are successful are successful regardless of the incentives we offer them. It stands to reason, then, that if we go the other way and punish them for doing poorly our results

will be limited. I don't see having them stay back from the movie as a punishment because it is an opportunity for potential success.

Student success is reward enough for doing well and in fact it is a far better reward than any extrinsic motivators we might give like movies or lack thereof. Somewhere in our culture we need to figure out how to teach kids that this is true because a lot of them simply do not understand.

I do think a greater gift than a movie that we can give kids for Christmas is an opportunity for success. On the day before Christmas break, all kids will have the option of going to a movie. They will also have the option of staying back at the school with me and seeing what we can do about being successful in their classes. If parents think their child shouldn't go (for academic reasons or otherwise), they should contact me and let me know they don't want their kids going. I'm not sure, yet, what movie we will be seeing. As soon as I do know, I will send a message to the list-serv.

Also, every week between now and then if a student is failing a class, I will talk to them about this very thing giving them the option of staying at the school and working on their grades rather than going to a movie. I know which option I would take were I in their place, but, as I said, fun is not my forte.



Christmas Dinner

Carla would like to know how many parents/community members will be attending the noon meal on December 17. Please call the school at 489-3348 by December 11 to be placed on the list.

**FROM OUR FAMILY TO
YOURS....MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**



PTO Bingo

The PTO would like to thank everyone who attended the PTO Grocery Bingo on Friday, November 20th. We had an amazing turnout. The line of people waiting to be served Vange's amazing knoephla soup was to the stairs. When I looked out at the crowd I was so happy to see the tables filled to overflowing. This outrageous attendance brought in just over \$4000.00. This is our biggest BINGO yet and I am excited to try to top it next year!

Beyond the thank you's to the BINGO attendees I would like to thank the teachers that put in a long day on Friday and for bringing bars. I would like to thank the community and PTO members that brought bars. I would like to thank Carla and Sally for giving up their kitchen for an afternoon and evening and going so far as to seeing us overwhelmed with the amount of people needing to be served and stepping in and helping out. Thank you to the parents helping on the PTO. We worked hard that night and our efforts paid off.



Box Top News



The fall box top contest is complete. The third graders won with the most box tops collected for a total of 462! They will be having a pizza party sponsored by the PTO! The total collected was 1,938 box tops. The money will be going towards new purple mats in our gym. Please don't stop collecting the next submission date is March 1, 2016. You can send them in at anytime or keep them for the next contest in the

spring. You can also ask other family members not in our school to save them, too.

Thank You for your support of our school.

October Superpower Students



Montpelier Elementary School's October Superpower students are from left to right, back row Cheyenne Bowen, Cody Froehlich and Nate Kjellberg; front row Jalyssa DeBuck and Ian Lien.



Nurtured Heart

Last Wednesday those enrolled in the NHA Parent Class met for the last time. As we were wrapping up, sharing successes, and thinking about 'what next' I realized that I felt a kind of loss. I am not going to lie; it will be good to get home earlier on Wednesday evenings but I am really going to miss the time I spent with these committed parents. We learned a lot about each other and through it all I am struck at the amount of encouragement given to one another.

On the last day we gave each other the recognitions we have been learning about and using to build the inner wealth of our children. It was difficult for some but I really believe that everyone experienced being the giver and receiver of an authentic recognition.

Think of a blank piece of paper with one black dot. Our eyes are drawn to that dot. We fixate on it. Are we even aware of the amount of white space on the page? How often at the end of the day do we replay the day's events? Do we focus on the highlights of the day or the 'little black dots'? If we really determine what percentage of our day is 'black dots' compared to 'white space' we will find the 'black dot' time is minimal. The unfortunate reality is that what we give attention to and focus on will consume more of our time. Whatever we give our energy to, we get more of. Keeping this in mind, know that on any given day, we are in control of how we show up to the moments of life, what we respond



to, and how we respond. Each day is filled with 'white space'. Find it.

Heidi Bear

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Title I

Reading Fluency

Fluency means reading smoothly. Fluent reading sounds like someone talking, flows naturally, and is pleasant to listen to. Fluent reading is not reading as fast as you can.

The following are strategies you and your child can practice at home to improve reading fluency. Take turns reading alternating words with your child. This strategy forces the eyes to move quickly to the next word. Model fluent reading by having your child read each sentence after you read it with instructions to 'read it just as I did'. Show the child to stop at periods, pause at commas, and use expression while oral reading. Read short paragraphs or sentences together using the 'I do, we do, you do' method. First, read aloud as the child points to each word. Then you and your child read aloud together while your child tracks each word. On the final reading, the child reads alone while you point to the words. You can move your finger a little faster encourage faster tracking.

As your child's fluency increases it is natural that reading comprehension will follow suit.

Mrs. Bear



SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN

December 12th, from 10am—12noon Santa Claus will be at the Marion Community Hall. Come visit with Santa, enjoy Christmas treats and family drawings for hams and turkeys.



Tree Lighting

December 2nd from 5:30pm-7:30pm.... Come one come all to the Tree lighting on the newly planted evergreen across from the community hall in Marion with chili and hot cocoa being served. Instead of a free will offering please bring a non perishable food item for the LaMoure Food Pantry.

Honor Roll

Here is the first quarter Honor Roll for the Elementary Students

Second Grade

"A" Honor Roll- Cheyanne Bowe, Kade Tornabene

"B" Honor Roll- Max Schrader, Chloe Smith

Third Grade

"A" Honor Roll- CeCe Bear, August Harms,

"B" Honor Roll- Kaden Mostad

Fourth Grade

"A" Honor Roll- Nate Kjellberg, Jozee Vondal

"B" Honor Roll- Gage Rode, Amy Smith, Austyn Stoppleworth

Fifth Grade

"A" Honor Roll- Zachary Dally, Cassidy Ford, Eddie Harms, Nora Smith, Ashlyn Walz

"B" Honor Roll- Gabrielle Haakenson, Leah Peckham, Cheyanna Smith

Sixth Grade

"A" Honor Roll- Lane Froehlich, Megan Witcraft

"B" Honor Roll- Bryce Anderson, Cassidy Boom, Lance Kjellberg, Alexi Kline, Logan Rich, Ahnalisa Sundby

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MONTPELIER MISSION STATEMENT

*TO BE A COMMUNITY-BASED INSTITUTION
WITH COMMUNITY BASED COOPERATION. TO
ENHANCE INDIVIDUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTU-
NITIES IN A QUALITY-LEARNING ENVIRON-
MENT*

We're on the web!
www.Montpelier.k12.nd.us

LOST AND FOUND

We have a lost and found box in the school office. This box will be gone through every month. Any items that are left in there at the end of the month will be taken to the Good Will in Jamestown. Please remind your child(ren) if they are missing something to check the lost and found box.





December 2015

Activities Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 GBB vs South Border @ Ashley 6pm	2 Early Release/ Students dismiss at 1:45	3 JHGBB Edgeley Jamboree	4	5 JHGBB Edgeley Jamboree JVGBB Tourney in Ellendale
6	7 JHBBB Practice Starts JHGBB vs LLM @ Marion 4:30pm JVGBB Tourney in Ellendale	8 School Board Meeting 6pm	9	10 JHGBB vs Ellendale @ Edgeley 4:30pm GBB Stutsman County Tourney	11 GBB Stutsman County Tourney	12 GBB Stutsman County Tourney
13 State Student Council– Bismarck	14 BBB vs Napoleon @ Kulm 6pm State Student Council	15 JHGBB @ Oakes 4pm GBB @ Oakes 6pm State Student Council	16	17 X-mas Concert 7pm	18 Double Header vs Kidder County @ Edgeley 4:30pm	19
20	21	22 GBB @ Linton 4pm BBB Northern Classic– Aberdeen	23 No School X-mas Vacation begins	24 	25	26
27	28	29 Dakota Holiday Tournament	30 Dakota Holiday Tournament	31 Dakota Holiday Tournament		Jan 4 School Resumes



December 2015

Lunch Menu

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Pizza Brats	2 Kindergarten Day Spaghetti	3 BBQ Chicken Drumsticks	4 Beef Stew	5
6	7 BBQ Ribs	8 Chef Salad	9 5th Grade Day Baked Chicken & Potatoes	10 Tuna Hotdish	11 Pork Chops	12
13	14 Pita Pockets	15 2nd Grade Day Super Nachos	16 Chicken Nuggets	17 Christmas Dinner	18 Cook's Choice	19
20	21 Eagle Pizza (tostada)	22 Hamburgers & French Fries	23 No School X-mas Vacation Starts	24 	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		Jan 4 School Re-sumes