

Martin Messages

MONTPELIER SCHOOL DISTRICT AWARDED \$10,000 GRANT FOR ADVANCED AG SCIENCE PROGRAM

DATES TO REMEMBER

- January 4: Classes Resume
- January 8: End of 1st Semester

Montpelier School District has received a \$10,000 grant from America's Farmers Grow Rural Education, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund. The district will use the money to enhance agricultural education through new digital measure-

ment technology. "Today, there are a number of tools available to help farmers improve their productivity, including the use of scientific data," said Jerry Waagen, superintendent. "The items purchased with this grant give students the opportunity to use these same tools in the classroom. Once they are comfortable with the technology, they will venture to local farms to conduct their own experiments. While they work with and learn from local farmers, students will collect data, analyze it and share their results. Thanks to this grant from the Monsanto Fund, our students get to see the relationship between STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and a successful farming operation."

ter and places to lay eggs.

Since 2011, Grow Rural Education has awarded more than \$9 million to help keep rural public school districts growing. The program works with farmers to nominate public school districts to compete for math and science grants of \$10,000 or \$25,000. Grant applications are reviewed and finalists selected by a panel of teachers. Winning applications are chosen by an advisory council comprised of farmers from across the U.S.

Visit

www.GrowRuralEducation.com to see the full list of winners for this year.

These programs are part of the America's Farmers initiative. The America's Farmers campaign and programs have advocated on behalf of farmers and their efforts to meet society's needs through agriculture. Today, consumers are more interested than ever in agriculture and how food is grown. Farmers and others in the industry are joining in on the conversation to help raise awareness about agriculture and share their stories with their communities. Learn more at cfengage.org.

Article taken from the Litchville Bulletin

Middle and high school students will now have access to digital probes and sensors that connect to handheld computers for real-time data collection and analysis. One example of how this new technology will be incorporated into the classroom is studying soil pH levels. Students will take soil samples from local farms to determine pH levels and discover its effect on crop growth. In addition, software will be purchased for students to graph their findings and make connections with the data.

Farmers who nominated the school district and representatives from the school and the Monsanto Fund attended a check presentation to celebrate the grant during a school assembly on October 30.

This year the school district also received an educational starter kit from Monsanto Company to help establish a pollinator garden, which will give students first-hand knowledge of the critical role habitat plays in providing bees and butterflies with food, shel-



From left, Tony Roorda, Luke Rode, Meggan Smith and Montpelier Public School Superintendent Jerry Waagen celebrate the grant at the check presentation ceremony Oct. 30.

SHORTCUTS BY MR. WAAGEN

Shortcuts. Looking back at our childhoods we all had friends that we would go visit or play with nearly every day. It soon didn't take us long to figure the shortest way, aka shortcut, to get to their home. We could have taken the roads and streets but we wanted to get there in a hurry or maybe we were just a little lazy. No matter the reason we wanted to shorten the route to our friend's home so we could play.

Well in today's world we are still finding ways to shorten things up. A great example is when people text one another, where the English language may become difficult to recognize due to all the shortening of words. The teaching profession is no exception to the rule of shortening as there dozens and dozens of abbreviations related to the field. We throw around acronyms like, FERPA, DPI, IEP, NAEP, AYP, you get the idea. All of these abbreviations are important to know if you are a teacher but some of these as a parent.

One of the most commonly heard and seen educational acronym for the past fourteen years was NCLB standing for No Child Left Behind. This act was passed by Congress with the goal of improving

the education of all children in the United States. Although a very admirable goal, the realistic implementation and expectations were not always practical with states and schools struggling to reach its lofty goals. There have been countless discussions and debates over the last eight years about how to improve this bill.

Good news! On December 9 the Senate passed the Every Student Succeeds Act or ESSA. Although there are similarities between NCLB and ESSA the big difference is that the states have regained control of educating their students. States will have flexibility in how schools will be held accountable including standards and testing of students. State Superintendent Kirsten Baesler indicated that North Dakota will be reviewing the standards for Math, English, and Science to match the needs of our students. Who better to judge the needs of North Dakota students than the people working and living in North Dakota? Students will still be held to high standards and will be tested to assess their meeting of those standards. The bottom line is that North Dakota has regained control of the education process of our students and will work to

make certain all students have a chance to succeed.

Montpelier School has always strived to meet the needs of its students no matter what standards have been given to it. Each student that enters the school is important and the staff understands this and will work hard to give each one a chance to experience success. There are no easy shortcuts for teachers, students, administration, and parents when it comes to education. Rest assured with all groups working and traveling down the same path every student will have the opportunity for success.

WHITE SPACE FROM MR. BEAR

As the semester winds down and we are seeing the results of a semester's worth of work by our teachers and students, I do see some very positive things. Because it's an area of necessary growth, what I monitor every week are student failing grades. We need those grades fixed.

As we leave the semester, though, I think it's good to look at the other end of this spectrum. It's true that this week there were 12 students with an F in a class in our school in grades 7-12. While I don't like that and their grades should be higher, I thought it might be uplifting to have a look at all of the students that have at least one A as opposed to looking at the kids with at least one F.

I am proud to announce that at the current time there are 56 of our students in grades 7-12 that have at least one A as a semester grade.

So, which number is more important? It is true that we do and always will emphasize those students that are failing classes because it is something that needs to be fixed.

I can steal a lesson my wife taught me from her Nurtured Heart training. When we have a piece of white paper and we put one black dot on it, what are we going to notice? Obviously we will notice that black dot.

It is important, however, when

that white space is so much bigger and arguably more important that we pay it a bit of attention as well.

That sounds good, but the black dot that represents failing grades is a black dot that does need to disappear. As a school we are going to continually scrub at that black dot because if we don't, it won't go away. It's okay, though, if we recognize every now and again that we like that white space, too.

I would encourage all parents to have a look at their student's grades and look for some A's — and congratulate them for being part of that white space.

WHY CAN'T WE SKIP READING TONIGHT?

Have you thought about New Year's Resolutions for you and your child? If you started the year off strong with an afternoon or evening routine including some reading time this may be a time to reflect on that. Perhaps with the business of the holidays, sports, or life you have neglected to maintain those routines. As you begin thinking about making time for reading each day consider the following.

Child A reads 20 minutes per night 5 times a week. In one week, Child A has read 100 minutes. In one month, Child A has read 400 minutes. In one year, Child A has spent a total of 4,800 minutes reading.

Child B reads only 4 minutes a night 5 times. In a week, Child B has read 20 minutes. In one month, Child B has read 80 minutes. In one year, Child B has spent 960 minutes reading.

There is a huge gap in the learning of these two children. The child that spends more time reading is going to be a better reader and writer. As a result of the time spent reading this child will have gained a better vocabulary. This child is setting themselves up to be successful in school and life.

If you have spent time building a reading routine into your child's day, maintain this routine into the New Year. You can make this fun in the

following ways. Take a trip to the library. See if you can find some fun books to read together. If you need suggestions ask your librarian, the child's classroom teacher or head to www.goodreads.com and check out reviews and book lists. Have a family reading night instead of family movie night- it is important for your child to see you enjoying a good book too!

Heidi Bear

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NOVEMBER SUPERPOWER STUDENTS

November Superpower Students: From left to right: Jordan Jensen, Kassidy Ford, Locklynn Steele, Gabbi Haakenson, and Kailey Van Enk



GREATNESS IS OUR SUPERPOWER

Firsthand experience is crucial to the Nurtured Heart Approach. In life, we may find ourselves relying on second hand experiences as our main teaching tool for children. If a child is being impolite we will take that time to remind them to say please or thank you or tell them they are being rude. This gives the child a firsthand experience of what it means to be rude. Our goal was not to teach them about how to be rude (and in the process, that being rude gets our time and attention) but how to be polite.

Instead of this, we want to capture or even create a firsthand experience on the value of politeness. This means we are actively seeking times our children are behaving in a way that shows the value or values we admire and appreciatively tell them they have this 'superpower' quality.

In our weekly greatness slideshow our children are seeing themselves actively living out their greatness. They see a picture of themselves being responsible, or kind, or focused and this gives them the firsthand experience of what that quality looks and feels like.

We can facilitate this experience for our children by practicing NHA recognition techniques. This can be as simple as stating what you see in the moment. There is a lot of information I could give you on the different types of recognitions but a good model to start with is "I see you...and that tells me you are..." When you see your child picking up their toys say to them, "I see you are picking up your toys and that tells me you are responsible." This is just one of the many ways you can help build inner wealth in your child while strength-

ening a positive relationship with them.

We are continuing with our weekly greatness words though I apologize for not sharing on the website and Facebook page as often as I should. I do intend to catch up in the coming weeks and bombard you with picture evidence of the greatness of our children.

To your greatness,

Heidi Bear

Title I Coordinator

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CARLA'S KITCHEN CORNER

I can't believe half the year is over!

I still don't remember everyone's name but I'm getting much better every day. I'm sure they are sick of me asking "What is your name again?"

Christmas dinner has come and gone. The first without Vangie's wonderful cooking in over 40 years. I had a legend to step up and follow. I think it went well. We had a touch of her cooking with Lazy Cheese Buttons. They went over well— after all it was her recipe!!!

All this couldn't have been done without the help of Sally Dick (who is there every day for me!) and my mom Carol Jacobs! I thank you from the bottom (and top) of my heart! You helped keep tradition alive. I couldn't have done it without the two of you!!

I want to send out a couple more BIG thankyou's. This fall we received 2 very large bags of fresh potatoes from Charles and Glenda Block. We enjoyed potato salad and Scalloped potatoes with ham.

The school does participate in Farm to School program. This means we can accept any fresh vegetables or fruit from the gardens. Please keep that in mind in the spring or fall if you have an abundance of garden items. We love to eat fresh fruits and vegetables.

And second to Daron Scobee for the 3 cases of fries. They were great!

Finally to The Dally Up and Knights of Columbus gaming money to purchase the new warming cabinet/bread proof-er. This makes life a million times easier for me. It keeps the foot hot and helps with my version of fresh homemade buns. Yep — frozen dough.

We also received \$200 from the Operation Round Up and Dakota Valley Electric Co-op to help with this big purchase. So thank you to all those who are in the DVE service area.

Carla



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MONTPELIER MISSION STATEMENT

***TO BE A COMMUNITY-BASED INSTITUTION WITH
COMMUNITY BASED COOPERATION TO ENHANCE
INDIVIDUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN A
QUALITY-LEARNING ENVIRONMENT***

WE'RE ON THE WEB!!!

WWW.MONTPELIER.K12.ND.US

PTO NEWS

Our upcoming event for our Parent Teacher Organization is Pizza Corner Pizza sales. We will begin selling pizzas the end of January.

Keep saving those boxtops! We will have another class contest next semester.





January 2016

Activities Calendar

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat



						1	2
						Happy New Year!	
3	4 School Re- sumes	5 GBB vs Car- rington @ Kulm 6pm	6	7 BBB Stutsman	8 County End of 1st Se- mester	9 Tournament @ Jamestown	
10	11 GBB vs MPB @ Edgeley 6pm	12 JH BBB vs El- lendale @ Kulm 4:30pm	13	14 GBB vs Ellen- dale @ Kulm 6pm	15 JH BBB vs LLM @ Marion 4:30pm	16 BBB vs South Border @ Kulm 6pm	
17	18	19 Double Header vs BCN @ Edge- ley 4:30pm	20	21 GBB @ LaM- oure 6pm	22 BBB @ Oakes 6pm	23 GBB vs Lisbon @ Edgeley 2pm	
24	25	26 BBB vs Linton @ Hazelton 6pm	27	28 Double Header vs Midkota @ Kensal 6pm Var- sity Only	29 JHBBB vs Oak- es @ Edgeley 4:30pm	30 BBB vs Sargent Central @ Edgeley 6pm	
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January 2016

Lunch Menu

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat



1 2
New Year's
Day

3 4 5 6 7 8 9
Chili Chicken Meatloaf Pulled Pork & Creamy Chick-
Pasta Bake Fajitas Potatoes en Noodle
Soup

10 11 12 13 14 15 16
Hot Ham & Breakfast Scalloped Po- BBQ Rib Patty Chicken Terri-
Cheese tatoes & Ham yaki

17 18 19 20 21 22 23
Corn Dogs Tacos 6th Grade Day Chicken Alfrefe- BBQ Pork
FF Subs do

24 25 26 27 28 29 30
Tator Tot Vangie's En- Knephla Roast Beef & Chili Cheese
Hotdish chalada Mashed Pota- Wrap
toes FF

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