



# Martin Messages

## Kids Be Kids Mr. Waagen

Here I go down memory lane again. I seem to be doing more and more of that as I get older. Perhaps, it is because my lane is getting longer and longer. Whatever the reason(s) may be it is fun to look back at the many experiences we have had during our lifetimes. Each one, both the good and bad, have helped mold us into the people we are today.

Growing up in the northwest part of Valley City I have many great memories, especially during the summer time when school was out. One activity we often did was the lost art of cardboard sliding down the hill in my backyard. Basically it is like sledding except you would use large pieces of cardboard as your sled. I can still feel the wind rushing into my face as I sped down the hill and whirring noise of the ridges of the cardboard sliding across the grass. We would become so good we would stand up and surf down the hillside showing our great skills. However, the best memories were when my friends and I would wander to the nearby appliance store and grab a washing machine or refrigerator box. Once home we quickly ran up to the top of the hill with our new "sleds". Taking one final look, we would

jump inside of the box and blindly begin flying down the hill at warp speed not knowing what the final outcome would be. Yes we sometimes hit rocks or our friends, and maybe even crash but we came to a stop the first words out of our mouths were. "Let's Do It Again!"

Summertime is a time for children to relax and do what kids do. Riding horse or bicycle, catching frogs, playing baseball, swimming, or any other of the wonderful summer activities make summertime so much fun. I appreciated that my parents never really made an effort to plan out each and every moment of the days of summer. The only rule I had to follow was get home as soon as the street lights come on. A simple summer was a great summer.

I would like to suggest to all parents to give their children their time and space to make choices of what they would like to do during the summer. Yes they need to be responsible and do their chores around the house and farm as that is an important part of growing up. But learning to find ways to relax and have fun is just as important as



we tend to lose that perspective when we become adults. Spend time with your children, take time to play, work, read, and laugh with one another. Remember, let kids be kids!

Wishing each and every one a spectacular and wonderful summer!

### Inside this issue:

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Mr. Waagen                | 1   |
| Mr. Bear, Baseball        | 2   |
| Building Update, Farewell | 3   |
| Title I                   | 4   |
| Title I                   | 5   |
| Senior Interviews         | 6-7 |
| Back Page                 | 8   |
| Activities Calendar       | 9   |
| Lunch Menu                | 10  |

### Dates to Remember

- May 5- Elementary Spring Concert 7pm
- May 7- 3 on 3 Tournament
- May 10- High School Spring Concert 7pm
- May 13- Last day of Preschool
- May 18- Kindergarten Graduation- 12:45pm, Elem Awards 2pm
- May 19- High School Awards 1:30pm
- May 21- Graduation 2pm

## Mr. Bear — Looking Toward the Future

Our school year is coming to an end. Before we know it a new year will start. At the end of the year, the feeling in the air isn't always calm. Some of our teacher and student personalities have started to clash. We've got testing that consumes a lot of our students' time. We've got teacher negotiations which seem to make everybody a little bit cranky. While the weather is nice and we are looking forward to spring, the tensions are high.

That tension is very real. As an educational institution, we are looking to the future. All of us in the school—teachers, administrators, cooks, janitors, and anybody else that walks in the door—are here for the purpose of making the future a better place for these kids. Hopefully, we do that by having an engaging classroom, but sometimes kids get bored. Often kids don't want to be here. And especially from a student perspective, what is more important than now? I understand when that student tells me he (or she) just doesn't want to do that essay for Mrs. Trouba's English class.

Having studied a bit of philosophy and religion, it has been drilled into my head over and over again that you can't dwell on the past. You can't worry about the future. Live in the present. Live in the now. Live the dash. But, if you spend

your time living the dash then what about that mutual fund? What about that PhD? What about that family and the house in the country?

It's been a good year for me at Montpelier School. I couldn't be happier anywhere else. That, to me, is living in the now. I am truly glad to be here. I do intend to be here at Montpelier for the rest of my career. There's a trick to be mastered in that, however, because how do you learn to be happy with what you have and at the same time be looking toward the future and potential change?

We're going to watch 6 young men and women graduate on May 21st at Montpelier School. This is an exciting time because these students are on the edge of something. They are being pushed into a world that is different than what they have. We are asking them to do more and to be more.

It's not limited to our graduates, however. All of us are in the same boat. All of us need to look toward the future but at the same time appreciate what we have. These graduates have a tremendous amount of freedom which most adults will never have again because what they have is about to change and they can make it as they want it without worrying about all those things that as adults bind us — and at the same time make life worth living.

A person could argue that this gamut of options is wasted on these kids. They don't yet have life experience to guide them on their paths. So, as they sit at this crossroads wondering what to do next, they don't have the experience to make good choices.

I disagree. Today's kids live in a unique world. There are many questionable statistics about the future's job market, but one thing that can be witnessed in our world is that what people do for a living is vastly different than what it was when people of my generation were growing up. Chances are very good that our kids today will go out into a world and work in a job the likes of which our older folk have never even conceived.

Our world is changing in a multitude of ways. Whether those changes are good or bad, what we did yesterday might not work for our kids. They've got to make their own paths. It's an exciting time for them and I don't know how they could possibly be stuck focusing on today when the future has so many exciting possibilities.



## Spring Baseball

It's baseball season once again. Look for a letter in May for sign up. This year we are looking for a Tee-ball coach and parents to maintain the ball field. Shane and I have been participating with this activity since Seth was in kindergarten and this year he is finishing up 11th grade. It's time to start phasing out. Nate has three years left and then I'll be done.



So this year Seth and I will do pee-wee and let other parents start to phase in. It's a very exciting and fun after school program for kids to participate in. If you're interested please call Tonia Kjellberg at 489-3696 so we can be ready to start in the middle of May.

Jodi would also like to have someone to start phasing in the food hut responsibility. Please call Jodi at 320-6492 if you're interested.

## School Building Addition Update

Earlier this year in March's newsletter I discussed the proposal of a possible addition to our school. A review of the proposed addition follows. The building will be located east of the gym, where the trailers currently sit and will be approximately 4,900 square feet. Two key rooms to be housed in the building will be a music room, eliminating the need for students to cross the parking lot for class and a counselor's office for increased privacy. Drawings for the proposed addition can be found on the trophy cases across from the main office.

The school board committee met several times defining the details for the construction of the addition. The committee provided a recommendation to the full board at the April 12<sup>th</sup> school board meeting with the board approving to advertise for bids for the project. The advertisement

for bids was placed in our official newspaper the *Jamestown Sun*, and in the Fargo-Moorhead Builder Exchange. Official bids are to be delivered to the school by May 12 at 4:00 pm. The bids will be opened at the May 12, 2016 school board meeting with all bids to be reviewed by the board. No bids will be officially approved until there has been a public meeting. A public meeting will be held only if the proposed bids fall into the budget proposed by the school board. Following the public meeting the school board will determine if the project will move forward or if it needs to be tabled.

The school board fully understands the importance of the decision to build or not to build the addition. They have weighed out the benefits for the students while continually keeping in mind budget restraints. The budget for the project relies on the funds

currently in the general fund reserves and the building fund, no new taxes are proposed to be used to fund the addition. Our school continues to maintain its student population of approximately 110 students and trends show this should continue into the future. It is important that the students be provided with all items needed to succeed including a facility to properly meet their needs. The proposed new addition will give our current and future students an environment to strengthen their academic experiences at Montpelier School. If you have any questions please contact Mr. Waagen at 489-3348.

## Thank You and Farewell

It is with great sadness that I write in this newsletter that I have resigned as Physical Education teacher at Montpelier Public School. I have accepted a job teaching 4th—7th grade Physical Education at Central Cass High School in my hometown of Casselton, ND. These last two years have been a great opportunity for me to grow as a teacher and I have the students and staff to thank for it. Coming out of college I had no idea what to expect and during my days here I have learned to expect the unexpected.

I have had many great experiences in my two years and I will forever value the relationships that I have formed with many in the school. To Mr. Waagen, thank you for taking a chance on a new teacher with no experience and really no idea what he was doing. You gave me a chance to grow as an educator and I will be forever grateful for the opportunity. To the teachers and staff members, you provided so much support and help along the way that I cannot thank you enough. To the students, thank you for stepping out

of your comfort zone and trying something new. Hopefully I have shown you things that can be used throughout your lifetime.

I look forward to keeping in touch with many people and students I have been here with. Thanks for a great two years!!

Please feel free to contact me at [brent.nelson@k12.nd.us](mailto:brent.nelson@k12.nd.us)

Brent Nelson

## Preventing the Summer Slide by Mrs. Bear

As a mom of school aged kids and now a teacher, beating the summer slide has been on the agenda May through August for some years. Research shows that an average of 2 months' worth of learning can be lost during the summer months. Your kids have worked hard in school this year and losing that much learning can have a significant effect on being able to master new skills in the coming year. Here are some quick tips for summer learning.

**Make reading fun and make it a priority.** Schedule reading time for right away in the morning. That is when your elementary aged children are used to having reading class. Their brains are fresh and ready to absorb knowledge and it ensures reading time doesn't get lost in the business of the day. Bring books with on car rides, to the beach, and to the park. Are you catching up on appointments this summer? Make sure your child has a book along to read in the waiting room.

**Utilize the library.** Did you know the James River Valley Library System has numerous activities scheduled throughout the summer? Head to [jamesriverlibrary.org](http://jamesriverlibrary.org) to view their events calendar. Your family can enjoy story time, crafts for all ages, Lego club, and family movie night. Sign your child up for the summer reading pro-

gram for that extra incentive to keep reading all summer long.

**Work on writing this summer.** Encourage your child to keep a journal during a family vacation or help them personalize a writer's notebook. Bring the notebook everywhere and don't be afraid to include anything that can inspire writing; movie ticket stubs, quotes, doodles, photos, questions, and facts. Encourage your children to share what they write—but only if they want to. These journals and notebooks will become something to cherish for years to come.

**What about math?** One way to practice math and following directions is by cooking with your children. Use flashcards (addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division) to play quick, fun games like Math War and Concentration. Yahtzee and Bunco are two popular dice games that promote critical thinking and sequencing but any board game with 2 two die is a fun and easy way to reinforce simple addition facts.

**Limit screen time.** The more time your child spends watching TV and playing video games the less time they spend engaging in learning activities, creative play, and physical activity. When your child is using a screen try to make it relevant and educational.

Watch a movie based on a book your family has read and then discuss differences and similarities. PBS Kids has a variety of educational shows for preschool through elementary aged children focusing on math, reading, vocabulary, science, and social skills. If your child has access to a tablet seek out apps that will encourage learning all summer long.

**Don't forget about your high school aged students!** Of course trips to the library and plenty of time spent reading is important for all ages. Summer is also a good time to discuss financial aid and other college preparations. The Office of Federal Student Aid has checklists for students of all ages on their website ([www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov)) to aid in the planning process. If your child has a summer job, or plans on getting one, talk about the importance of smart spending and saving. Volunteering looks good on college applications and is also valuable for personal development.

By keeping these tips in mind the lazy days of summer will also be fun and enriching. Your child will return to school with skills retained from the previous year and perhaps some new skills as well!

## 10 Ways to Become a Great Reader

1. Read every day.
2. Read about things you like.
3. Read out loud with someone else.
4. Try different kinds of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry.
5. Read everything you can, like maps, menus, signs, and magazines.
6. Try to learn new words.
7. Talk about what you have read.
8. Keep a log of what you've read.
9. Take a book along wherever you go.
10. Be PROUD of your reading accomplishments!

**SIX**  
WEEKS

IN THE FALL ARE SPENT **RE-LEARNING**  
**OLD MATERIAL** TO MAKE UP FOR  
SUMMER LEARNING LOSS



**TWO**  
MONTHS

OF READING SKILLS ARE **LOST** OVER  
THE SUMMER

**2-3**  
HOURS  
PER WEEK

DURING **SUMMER** IS NEEDED TO PREVENT  
ANY  
**VACATION** LEARNING LOSS



AS EARLY AS  
— GRADE —  
**ONE**

SUMMER LEARNING  
LOSS CAN BE RECOGNIZED

# Montpelier Public School

## Class of 2016



**Name:** Colten Ford  
**Nickname:** Colt Ford  
**Parents:** Luciana Ford  
**Likes:** Games, Fishing & building things  
**Hero:** Dean Ford  
**Favorite Pastime:** Gaming  
**Dislikes/Pet peeve:** Stupidity/lack of common sense  
**Most Prized Possession:** Sword Collection  
**Favorite Memory at MHS:** Running outside with Cody trying to catch all the butterflies with only jars.  
**Classes or activities you enjoyed at MHS:** Business classes & Envirothon  
**Future Plans:** Become an Entrepreneur

**Name:** Cody Henne  
**Nickname:** Codster  
**Parents:** Randy and Angie Henne  
**Favorite Pastime:** Video games  
**Dislikes/Pet peeve:** Talking with food in your mouth  
**Most Prized Possession:** My 1968 Grand Torino  
**Favorite Memory at MHS:** Spirit week activities  
**Class or Activities you enjoyed in your years at MSH:** Basketball, Archery, Envirothon  
**Future Plans:** Go to NDSU and get my Engineering degree



**Name: Seth Jansen**

**Nickname: Big Cat/ Jethro**

**Parents: David and Julie Jansen**

**Likes: Sports, Fishing, Long walks**

**Hero: David Jansen**

**Favorite Pastime: Hanging out with friends**

**Dislikes/Pet peeves: Chewing with mouth open and lying**

**Most Prized Possession: Marathon medals and track ribbons/medals**

**Favorite Memory at MHS: Spirit week competitions and different dress up days**

**Classes or Activities you enjoyed in your years at MHS: Marathon crew, track, non and morning basketball**

**Future Plans: Go to college and study Criminal Justice and start a new part of this adventure we call life.**



**Name: Whitney Widmer**

**Nickname: Whitty poo**

**Parents: Brenda Widmer and Kenneth Widmer**

**Likes: Working, hanging with friends**

**Hero: My Mother**

**Favorite Pastime: Valley Fair**

**Dislikes/Pet peeve: Slow drivers**

**Most Prized Possession: Prom Queen**

**Favorite Memory at MHS: Prom**

**Classes or activities you enjoyed in your years at MHS: Science and English**

**Future Plans: Undecided**

**Graduation: May 21, 2016 2:00 PM**

**Montpelier High School Gymnasium**

**Class Colors: Black, Purple and Gold**



**Montpelier Public  
School**

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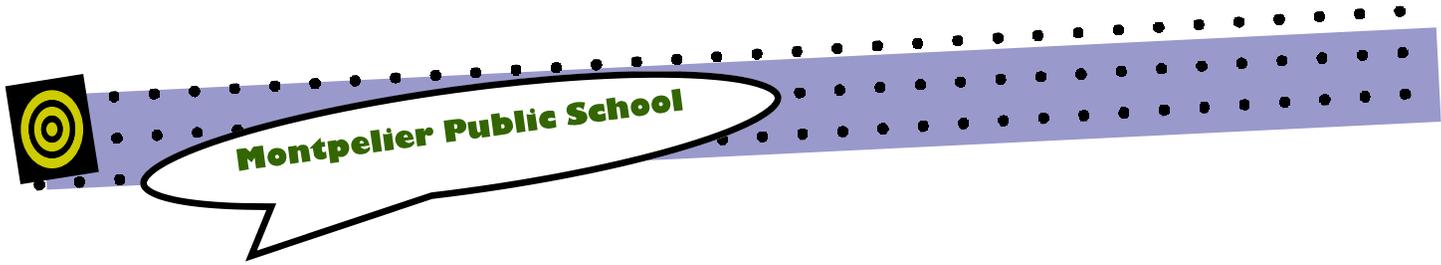
We're on the web!  
[www.montpelier.k12.nd.us](http://www.montpelier.k12.nd.us)

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

**One morning a man  
walked along a beach  
covered with thousands of  
starfish that had washed up  
during a storm.  
Now they lay dying in the sun.  
He saw a young girl  
picking up the starfish  
one by one and  
tossing them into the sea.  
As he approached her  
he couldn't help but ask,  
"Why bother? There are  
too many of them. You won't  
make much of a difference."  
She picked up another starfish  
and tossed it into the water.  
Then she turned to the man  
and said, "I made a difference  
to that one."**

**Thanks for Making a Difference Every Day**

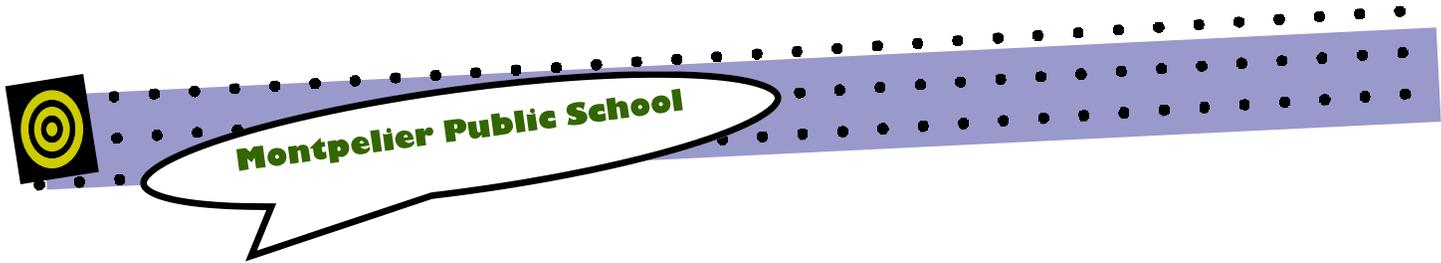




# May 2016

## Activities Calendar

| Sun | Mon   | Tue                                    | Wed   | Thu  | Fri                            | Sat   |
|-----|---|--|---|--|--------------------------------|---|
| 1   | 2   | 3<br>Track Meet-<br>Carrington<br>11am | 4   | 5<br>Elem Spring<br>Concert 7pm                        | 6                              | 7<br>3 on 3 Tour-<br>nament<br><br>Track Meet-<br>Carrington<br>11am  |
| 8   | 9   | 10<br>HS Spring<br>Concert 7pm         | 11  | 12<br>School Board<br>Meeting 6pm                      | 13<br>Last Day of<br>Preschool | 14<br>Track Meet-<br>Jamestown<br>10am  |
| 15  | 16  | 17                                     | 18<br>Kindergarten<br>Graduation<br>12:45pm<br><br>Elementary<br>Awards 2pm | 19<br>HS Awards<br>1:30pm<br><br>Last Day of<br>School | 20<br>No School-<br>Storm Day  | 21<br>HS Gradua-<br>tion<br>2pm<br><br>Regional<br>Track-<br>Kindred |
| 22  | 23  | 24                                     | 25  | 26   | 27                             | 28  |
| 29  | 30<br><br>Memorial Day | 31                                     |   |  |                                |   |



# May 2016

## Lunch Calendar

| Sun | Mon  | Tue                        | Wed                        | Thu   | Fri   | Sat   |
|-----|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|---|
| 1   | 2<br>Hot Ham & Cheese  | 3<br>Lasagna               | 4<br>BBQ Pork Pita Pockets | 5<br>Christina's Day<br>Chicken Rice Enchilada                              | 6<br>School Lunch Hero Day<br>Super Hero Super Nachos | 7   |
| 8   | 9<br>Hamburgers  | 10<br>Ham Broccoli Hotdish | 11<br>Chicken Nuggets      | 12<br>Pork Chops  | 13<br>Hot Dogs & Brats                                | 14  |
| 15  | 16<br>Cook's Choice  | 17<br>Cook's Choice        | 18<br>Cook's Choice        | 19<br>Cook's Choice   | 20<br>No School                                       | 21<br> |
| 22  | 23   | 24                         | 25                         | 26  | 27  | 28  |
| 29  | 30<br><i>Memorial Day</i><br> | 31                         |                            | Watch the white board by kitchen for meal updates during week of May 16-19! |   |   |