

Martin News

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Danke! Takk skal du ha! Grazie! Gracias! Merci! Thank you! No matter what language we use, telling someone thank you for something they have done for you is important. I was raised to have proper manners to say please, thank you, you're welcome, just as I am sure most you were. I believe that we all try to instill this simple but important life skill in all our children.

The holiday season is always a good time to reflect on what we are thankful for in our lives. The elementary hallway has a bulletin board with a tree and falling leaves that tell what the students are thankful for. A review of those leaves will find that nearly all say they are thankful for friends and/or family. It was refreshing for me to see those comments knowing that our students appreciate people and not things. Now I am not naïve enough to think that they don't appreciate their toys and pets, but it is the people in their lives that do matter.

I want to issue a few notes of thank as well. First, I want to thank my family, especially my wife who has supported me throughout my years in education. Thank you to my wonderful teachers and support staff for making our school a place where students feel safe and valued. Parents, thank you for the opportunity to educate your children and nurture them into becoming productive young men and women. Thank you to the school board and community for continued support of Montpelier School now and in the future. A big thank you to all of you for all that you do for our students and school!

I wish all of you a very happy holiday season and safe travels. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

-Mr. Waagen

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A Message from Mr. Bear- Failure

My wife and I bought our house in rural Montpelier in 2001 for \$19,200. As you can imagine, it needed a lot of work. I've never trained as a carpenter, but I also didn't have any money so the work that happened on my house was all done by me.

You can imagine that there were some failures along the way. One of my first steps was to remodel our main floor bathroom. I did that and right away I had some tiling failures. I ended up covering it with linoleum and then I was reasonably happy with the bathroom, but now, 15 years later, I'm realizing my other errors and so this winter my primary project is to build a new bathroom to replace the original main floor bathroom.

You could call my maiden bathroom building voyage a failure. But I learned. Ever since then I've been tiling everything from our kitchen counters to our dining room table to our window sills. And I've come to love tile. Tiling isn't the only thing I've learned from my construction projects. I think of myself as an accomplished electrician and I can even do some plumbing. I've gained many skills that I'm proud of. If it weren't for my failures, though, they would not be my possessions.

As human beings, though, we don't like failure. Students, though a different sort of creature, are human beings too. In school, we have come to equate an 'F' with failure. It is a failure, certainly, because that student has failed to pass the course. Kids are smart, though, and usually when a student gets an 'F' they don't see that failure as a failure to do anything other than meet the expectations of teachers or parents. (continued pg. 4)

Pre-School

The Pre-Schoolers are very excited for Christmas break. For Christmas they are going to their grandparents houses and playing with toys and their pets. Their favorite part about Christmas is opening presents and putting up their tree with their families. There were some kids asking for some pretty cool gifts like Braydon wants an elephant, Caroline wants a play-doe shape maker, Casen wants a monster truck, Aubrie wants a motorcycle, Averie Jo wants another baby alive since she lost her old one, Kynzlee wants a BIG pink kitchen set, and Asher wants a big King Kong. They all have big gifts they want this year, and I hope Santa will make their wishes come true.

Student Council

This month, some of our members are attending the annual student council convention in Bismarck. The convention is the 10th-12th of December, and is a fairly large event with approximately 1200 students attending every year.

We have recently been helping elementary students and teachers during the FAD period. We assist the first, second, and third grades by offering homework help, reading to students, and by helping teachers with various tasks they need performed.



Kindergarten

The Kindergarten loves Christmas! They all can't wait to open presents and see their family. Lily T wants a robot cat for her Christmas gift from Santa. She said she was very good this year, so she hopes she gets it. She is also going to her uncle's this year. Jaxon V wants a lot more Legos, so he can build more things. He can't wait to go to his grandma's and open presents and have pancakes on Christmas morning! Cora wants a remote control car, and she's going to Treazur's house this Christmas. She also loves seeing Santa at the mall every year. Kaihlynn wants a lot of flannel shirts, all sorts of colors to go with anything she wants to wear. She's going to her Grammy's and opening presents. Lily R wants a big doll house, and she can't wait to open presents and sitting at home with her family. Jaxon wants a toy semi for Christmas, and he's going to his Grandparents to open presents and eat some good food and have some fun. Trenton S. wants a Go-Kart that can go really fast, and his favorite thing about Christmas is decorating the tree!

1st Grade

The 1st Graders most favorite part about Christmas is getting presents, said Ella, Allison, Micha. Bristol and Leon's favorite part is giving presents to friends and family. Wyatt likes the candy and presents. Charlie's favorite part is helping out, like his dad with the chores or his mom with his baby sister. Johanna, Bristol, and Brindley want mermaids for Christmas. Charlie wants a nerf gun and a target. Micha wants a remote-controlled truck. Allison wants a Barbie doll. As for Ella, she wants a car to drive around. Leon wants a fidget spinner for Christmas. The 1st Graders are excited for Christmas break! Some of their plans are going to grandparents' houses and hanging out with their loved ones. Wyatt is ready for all the sled rides!

2nd Grade

The second graders are definitely ready for the Christmas concert! They all have plans for Christmas break too. Maycee is going to buy carrots for the reindeer, Kailey is going to see grandma and grandpa, Louis is going to sleep and open gifts, Aveahya is going to her aunt's house, and Mayson is going to see his mom. They are all excited for Christmas break to start. Mayson is excited to go see his mom, Louis opening presents, Kailey celebrating God, Connor and Maycee seeing friends and family. When it comes to specific presents the second graders share the same gift ideas. Kailey, Louis, and Mayson want either a four-wheeler or a remote-control car.



This is one area in which school falls short. Our job and our goal as a school is to give the skills necessary to be successful in life. We do that through a variety of assignments and tests. Kids don't always get the connection, though, and as a result they fail because they don't get the connection and aren't willing to oftentimes to do the work just because they were told to do so.

In Montpelier with our small staff size, it is easier for us than a lot of schools to give the students one-on-one attention. With these students that are experiencing 'failure', that typically means we are giving them encouragement. We are explaining to them the value of doing what is asked of them. Frankly, by the time they fail to the extent that they will realize their mistake and fix it, oftentimes it is too late. And so we encourage.

Really, though, when we discuss failure with kids, we are approaching it from the wrong angle. If we already know how to do something, we will be successful in our attempts to do it (whether it is tiling or pre-calculus) but if we don't know it we will fail. And that's where the opportunity to learn arrives. We should want to put ourselves in a position whereas we are risking failure. If we don't, we are not putting ourselves in a position whereas we can learn. But that failure isn't primarily about grades. That failure is about the things that students do on a day-to-day basis in the classroom. A student that gets a B in trigonometry likely learned more than the student that got an A in prealgebra. Those little failures that created the B in trigonometry created the success of the student that now knows trig.

When asked, "Should we let this kid fail?" The answer is "Of course. How else will he learn?" That is an entirely different question, though, than the question, "This student won't do his homework. How can I make him?" The answer to that question is simply, "You cannot. You can encourage. You can try everything under the sun to motivate until he decides to do it. But no, you cannot make him do his school work and there is a chance he will not pass the class."

I do hate to see a student getting a non-passing grade in any course. Oftentimes, though, it's not about failure to learn (though that is a side-effect). Usually, it is simply about the student not willing to accept that what the teacher is teaching is valuable. That's where parents, teachers, friends, and the entire school community need to encourage. Because that's how we make the world a better place.



Music News

We will be having our Christmas concert on December 19 at 7 pm. Please bring all of your family and friends to get into the Christmas spirit with the talents of our students as they sing and play their instruments for you!



3rd Grade

The Third Graders are ready for Christmas break! They can't wait to leave school for a while and hangout with family and do some Christmas baking. Isabella is going to Bismarck to see family. She can't wait to see them! She said she misses them so much. Ian is staying home for Christmas, but he can't wait to spend some good times with his family and play some games, and he can't wait to open presents (hopefully a Nintendo). Brayden is going to sky zone to be with his family and open presents. He also looks forward to drinking hot coco while opening presents, and he wants a WWE Title. Jordan is going to the Gladstone to see family, and she wants a pet spider. Jakolby is going to Jamestown with family, and he hopes for an Xbox one. Kalli is staying home this Christmas because her family is coming to her house this year.

4th Grade

The month of December is an exciting time for the fourth graders. The girls are especially excited for the school concert. All of them have plans for Christmas break. Donte is going to Florida on the 22nd, Kaden is excited to get a bunch of guns (not fake!), Fallon is going to take a video camera to try to prove that Santa isn't real, and Chloe is going to hide behind the Christmas tree from her sister and is excited to see her lamb get fat. Everyone said that their favorite part about Christmas is to see family, get presents, and eat a bunch of food. When it comes to the time for Christmas to come around the fourth graders are thrilled to get their favorite presents. Kaden is getting a Nintendo switch and a dirt bike, Fallon is getting a ps4 and a dragon pocketknife, and Chloe is getting a stuffed sheep.

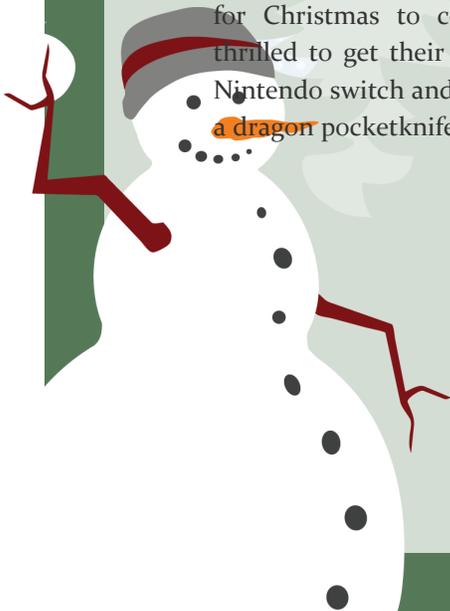


JH Bball

The JH girls basketball season has wrapped up. Our four girls all seemed to enjoy the season. Megan and Nevaeh's favorite parts were playing in the games. Nora and Cheyana really liked being around the girls on the team. Megan's favorite game was against Ashley because she had a good game. Cheyana really liked scoring two layups in one game! Nevaeh said she liked playing defense and made some nice steals. Lynkin...

The 8th grade only lost 2 games this year, whereas the 7th grade only won once. Regardless, they all seemed to have a good attitude and plan to play again next year.

The JH boys have begun practicing, but their first game isn't until January.



5th Grade

The fifth grade is ready for Christmas break. All of them said that their favorite part of Christmas was food, presents, and family. When it comes to presents, Cece wants a filter water bottle and Locklynn wants a new horse, new motor, and a new iPod. All of them are making food, partying, watching movies, and making more food!

6th Grade

Some of the sixth graders plans for Christmas break are staying home, spending time with grandparents and seeing their families, and of course opening presents! Some presents they said they wanted was money, a new bed, a new ipod, and a Beta. But besides presents, their favorite part of Christmas is the food they eat!

High School Bball

Ryleigh is our loan girl playing this year. She is on the JV team, which has won all but one game this year! The varsity is also doing well. They won the Stutsman County Tournament and are currently ranked in the State! Ryleigh enjoys being around the girls, and she said her best moment was a free throw she made in the game.

Hobie and Lucas are our two boys playing. Hobie loves playing as much as he can. This year he is in a great situation where he gets to play a lot on JV and quite a bit more on V than last year too. Lucas is primarily on the JV team, and he is enjoying the guys on the team. He said his best moment so far was making both of his free throws in the first game.

Senior Highlight- Jamie Bertsch

After high school, I plan to attend NDSCS for Diesel Mechanics and then go work for Green Iron Equipment in Lamoure.

My advice for the younger students, is to take school real. Make it like it's your job because what you do here really can have a big impact on your decisions of what you want to do after high school.

One of my favorite memories was setting up prom last year with Mr. Schnaubert and his face blowing up like a balloon! Prom is also my favorite part of school. The dancing is just too much fun!



2017

December

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
27	28	29	30	01 CountryFried Steak/Mashed Potatoes
04 Terriyaki Chicken	05 Ham & Cheese sub	06 Chef Salad	07 Fish Sticks & Spud Bites	08 Tacos
11 Pizza Burger	12 Beef Stew	13 Chilli Dogs	14 X-mas Dinner	15 Sloppy Joes
18 Chinese Orange Chicken	19 Meatballs & Mashed potatoes	20 Mc Rib	21 Chili	22 Cooks choice



Important Dates

Dec. 15– HS BBall Double Header@4:30 @Edgeley

Dec. 19– Christmas Concert in Monty 7 pm

Dec. 20- School Board Meeting @6 pm

Dec. 21- Bookmobile

Dec. 21- HS Girls @Oakes @4:30

Dec. 22- HS Boys @Strasburg @6

Dec. 22– Last day of School for 2017!

Dec. 29– HS Boys BBall @Jamestown @1:30

Dec. 30– HS Girls BBall @Jamestown @4:30

Jan. 2- HS Girls Bball@Edgeley@4:30

Jan 4-6-HS Boys Stutsman County Tourney

Jan 5- End of 1st Semester



Winter Weather

The winter weather season is here and all the challenges it can bring. Many of our students ride the bus to and from school each day and there will be days when the weather is extremely cold, snowy or both. It is essential the students dress appropriately when riding the bus in the winter time. Students should wear warm winter coats (not just sweatshirts), gloves or mittens, and some head wear such as a stocking cap.

The safety of students is a priority and when weather conditions may cause a change in the normal routine please watch for a notification from the school. Notifications coming directly from the school will

come to you by email, voice mail, and/or text message depending on what method(s) you have selected. If you receive a phone call, there is typically a 10 to 15 second delay before the message actually begins to play, so please be patient. You may also be notified through the school's listserv. If you have "liked" Montpelier School on Facebook you may also find weather related updates there. Notices will also be on local television and radio stations. These notices will be sent out as early as possible so everyone may plan appropriately.



Grade 7:
Eddie Harms

Grade 8:
Lane Froehlich

Grade 9:
Lucas Rich

Grade 10:
Kenzie Knight

Grade 11:
Hobie Bear

Grade 12:
Morgan Smith

