

Martin News

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

The holiday season is filled with many activities ranging from the dreaded “Black Friday”, holiday parades, and school Christmas concerts. The one activity I feel is most important is spending time with family as this may be the only time of the year when everyone is together.

Family gatherings and traditions vary greatly among families, but it is the time spent together that matters. I grew up in a small family with not a lot of relatives to meet during the holidays. I was in for a big change when I was introduced to my wife’s family during our first Christmas together. On Christmas day, at her parents’ home, people began filing in and I was wondering if it would ever end. When dinner was served people were literally spread throughout the entire house sitting wherever a seat could be found. Then came the time to hand out presents that seemed to take forever! It was total chaos, but I must admit it was fun being part of the spectacle.

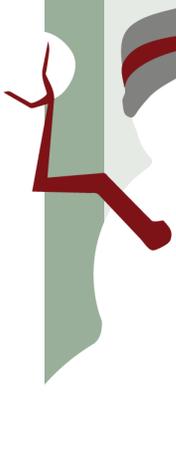
Yes, there was definitely a contrast between the two family celebrations but I enjoyed both types. I was obviously comfortable with my own family, but soon relaxed around my soon to be in-laws and was happy to be with them. Christmas is so much fun with the food, entertaining, and even the gifts but ultimately it comes down to family time. We may not get along perfectly with all our relatives but in the end, we understand how important we are to one another. Family matters!

I hope that this holiday season that your time with your friends and family is filled with happiness and laughter. Remember things may come and go but family will be there forever. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

-Mr. Waagen

Inside this issue:

Mr. Waagen	1
Mr. Bear	2&4
Pre-k, Student Co. ...	2
K, 1st, 2nd.....	3
Music News	4
3rd and 4th.....	5
JH Bball.....	5
5th and 6th.....	6
HS Bball	6
SH- Entao Xie.....	6
Calendars	7
Winter Weather	8



A Message from Mr. Bear- Options

I've had a lot of jobs in my life. Before I was of a legal age to work, I worked for the neighbor on his farm. In high school I washed cars at Jetstream, delivered appliances for Clink, and fixed lawn mowers at True Value. During my college years, I worked at M&H, the Rental Store, and was a custodian at a church. Then, I started teaching, but while teaching I have done a variety of jobs as well. I was a park ranger, I worked at K2S Engineering, and I became tech coordinator because I wanted something with which to occupy myself in the summer months. I even took a few years off from Montpelier and worked at the University of Jamestown. I've worked hard and done quite a few different things. Every one of those jobs I've had, however, has taught me something and has given me relationships that still exist. With that knowledge and those relationships, I have options.

A young man of about 16 sitting in my office asked me why I would want to run a high school. It would be an exaggeration of the truth if I would say I haven't asked myself the same thing at times. But as we were having that conversation, a much younger man of about 4 or 5 came up to my office with a cupcake. That, I told the 16-year-old, is why I would want to be a high school principal. And that is part of the story.

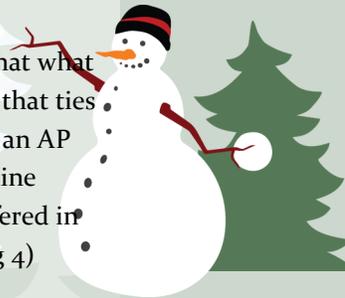
One thing I share with the majority of the human race is that what I value more than anything is my family. That is one thing that ties me to Montpelier School. Last year, my 11th grade son took an AP computer science class, an online English class, and an online cyber security class. All three of those were courses not offered in Montpelier School. He's been taking classes (Continued pg 4)

Pre-School

The Pre-School class was extra silly and lots of fun to interview! When asked if they were excited for the Christmas concert, they all yelled yes! But Willow is the most excited because she loves to conduct! Their favorite parts about Christmas are Santa, decorating the Christmas tree, presents, and putting up the mistletoe for mom and dad! They all wish to get something different for Christmas, Willow wants a dog, Jeremy wants a life savor, Ryleigh wants a princess camper, Silas wants a batman cave, Mercedes wants a unicorn, and Braydon wants a pet crocodile!

Student Council

This month, some of our members are attending the annual student council convention in Bismarck. The convention is the 9th-11th of December, and is a fairly large event with approximately 1200 students attending every year.



Kindergarten

We went around asking the kindergarten questions about Christmas. All of them screamed YESSS!!! that they're excited for the Christmas concert. **Chasen's** favorite part about Christmas are the elves, and he's not sure what he wants. **Casen's** favorite part is the elves too, and he wants a cop toy. **Avery Jo** likes and enjoys presents, and she wants a toy unicorn. **Coraline's** favorite part about Christmas is spending time with family, and she would like a doll house for Christmas. **Kynzlee** likes the elves going to her house, and she wants a shopkin. **Eva** enjoys unwrapping her toys, and she wants a baby doll. **Aubrie** enjoys unwrapping presents, and she said she wants family for Christmas.

1st Grade

The first grade is always fun to interview! A couple of them wish to get a puppy for Christmas, but the others wish for a bike, a dirt bike, and a hoverboard. Their favorite things about Christmas are when Santa comes, Christmas dinner, and Jesus! Most of them are excited for the Christmas concert coming up but a couple of them are still a little nervous.

2nd Grade

It's everyone's favorite time of year, Christmas! Around this time of year we all love to come together and be with our family and friends. Everyone has their own favorite part of the holiday, the second graders' favorite parts of Christmas include, opening presents, being with family, eating food, and putting up the Christmas tree! The second graders, just like the rest of us, are excited to see what they get for Christmas this year. We quickly asked them what they would like for Christmas, some of the main answers were; The Titanic, candy, everything, Nintendo switch, and a remote control airplane. We had one more quick and easy question for them, are they excited for the Christmas concert this year? Everyone said a very enthusiastic YES!



like that since I came back to Montpelier. This year, he is taking one class at Montpelier and the rest online or at the University of Jamestown. Because of the coursework he has been taking, he has options.

But there are also 104 other reasons in grades PK-12 that I love my job. I do care about these kids and I do want what is best for them. When I heard the principal from Oakes Public School speaking about his flex mod schedule at a meeting last year, my immediate thought was that this would be a way we could offer what I've been offering to my own son but to all of these kids.

In order for a student to be successful in an online course or any advanced course, however, that student needs to be self-motivated. They need to take responsibility for themselves and their own learning. My son hasn't always been self-motivated and I am certain there are some teachers at Montpelier School who can attest to that. But when his parents pushed him to be self-motivated and the school pushed in the very same manner, the result was a self-motivated kid.

I hate to put too much emphasis on the success of my own son. Recently, the two of us were having a discussion about what he was going to do after high school. He has been waffling between the University of Jamestown and Montana State University. Last night, he suggested he might just buy a van and drive it somewhere warm. I don't think he'll do that but even if he does, I can still feel good about the fact that we have given him as many options as we could while he was here and under our wing.

And that's what we want for every single one of these kids that come through the doors of Montpelier School. We want to give them options. The trick to that is that it's not really a gift. Opportunities only turn into options through hard work. Currently at Montpelier School we have the framework in place for every single one of our kids to be motivated and work hard. If they do, they will graduate with countless options. But, for each of these 104 kids, they also need to give of themselves and they need to start now. If they wait until their senior year, it will be too late and while they will still have more options if they don't do so, they will never have the options that would have been theirs if they had started when they first walked through our doors.



Music News

The Montpelier Music students have been very busy! Our bands have been working on new rhythms and tunes that you can all enjoy at our Christmas Concert on December 18th! The Choir students have been stretching their vocal ranges as well as dynamic ranges to also prepare their special gifts of song for the Concert.

We want to give a Special THANK YOU to all of you that bought Butter Braids during our fund raising activity. We profited a little over \$500. We are hoping to purchase a Marimba for the music room. The average price is \$1500 so we are about 1/3 there! Thank you!

Please join us at the Christmas Concert on December 18th at 7pm! We can't wait to share our talents with you!



3rd & 4th Grade

The 3rd and 4th graders are very excited for Christmas! They wish to get a variety of things such as a Nintendo Switch, sewing machine, Xbox, computer, phone, kittens, and a real polar bear! Their favorite things about Christmas are putting up the tree, decorating, the presents, seeing family, and eating the food! Some of them are super excited for the upcoming Christmas concert!



JH Bball

The JH girls basketball season has a couple of weeks left. Our lone girl, Amy Smith, has seemed to enjoy the season so far. She especially likes her coach.

The JH boys have begun practicing, but their first game isn't until January. We have four boys signed up to play this year: Matthew Stoppeworth, Cody Froehlich, Hayden Luck, and RyLee Kuhn.



5th Grade

I asked the 5th grade what their favorite thing about Christmas is. Chloe's is having family come over. Cheyenne's is being with family and the presents. Mylehe's is being with family and the presents. Fallon's is spending time with people. Mylee's is the food. Alex's is the food and presents. The 5th grade is excited for the upcoming concert. Chloe, Cheyenne, Fallon, Mylee, and Alex like band the most. Mylehe enjoys singing the most! The 5th grade seems to know what they want for Christmas! Chloe's is ears pierced. However, Cheyenne doesn't know yet. Mylehe likes art stuff. Fallon wants 5 nights of Freddy's stuff. Mylee hopes to receive a hover board. Alex would like a new hunting rifle.

6th Grade

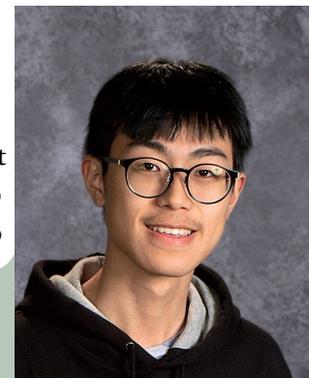
Today, we interviewed the six grade some questions about Christmas. They expressed some different things they want for Christmas: Caden said he would like stuff for his dirt bike, piston, and carburetors, Floyd wants a shifter for his bike. Cecelia wants to play in the snow. They all agreed the best part of Christmas is the snow. Caden said he's excited for the band portion of the concert. Floyd likes some of the songs too. Cece is looking forward to some of the songs they're going to sing and, she like the teacher. August says he looks forward to the good food at the concert!

High School Bball

Hobie, Lucas, Tao, and Lane are our four boys playing this season. Their first game is scheduled for December 10 in Napoleon.

Student Highlight- Entao Xie

Hello, guys! My name is Tao, a foreign exchange student from China. I am from a big city in the southeast part of China. It is much warmer than here; we don't have snow every year back home. Anyway, as growing up in a big city, I have a quite different lifestyle. We live in an apartment instead of a house, and we use a lot of public transport like bus, subway, taxi, and a bicycle sharing system. In my mind we live a more fast lifestyle, most of the people go to work or school every weekday on a certain time, so people have a more fixed schedule, not so flexible compare to here. To talk about myself, I am not sure if I am outgoing or not, since sometimes I talk a lot and sometimes I prefer to stay alone. Also sometime, I would like to play sports for several hours or hang out with me, but on the other side, I might prefer to stay at home and stick in my own stuff. However, I really like to meet new people especially from a different country, although I may seem somewhat passive sometimes.



LUNCH **DECEMBER-2018**
Montpelier-Public-School

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sloppy-Joes 13	Chili-Crispito & Spanish-Rice 14	Meat-Loaf & Baked-Potato 15	Chicken-Strips & Tater-tots 16	Tacos 17
Hamburger & Hot-dish 18	Drumstick & Mashed-potato 19	Lasagna 20	Christmas-Dinner 21	Cook's-Choice 22
Chili 23	Knephla-Soup 24	Chinese & Orange-Chicken 25	McRib 26	Hot-Dogs 27
No School Today 28	No School Merry Christmas 29	No School Today 30	No School Today 31	No School Today 31



Important Dates

- Dec. 9-11– State Student Council
- Dec. 10– JH GBB@Jamestown
- Dec. 10- HS BBB@Napoleon
- Dec. 11- Bookmobile
- Dec. 11- JH GBB vs. Oakes
- Dec. 13- JH GBB@Medina
- Dec. 14– HS BBB@Kidder County
- Dec. 18– Christmas Concert @7pm
- Dec. 19– School Board Meeting
- Dec. 21- Book Mobile
- Dec. 21- HS BBB vs S-Z @Kulm
- Dec. 29- HS BBB vs Enderlin@Jamestown
- Jan 3-5-HS Boys Stutsman County Tourney
- Jan 4- End of 1st Semester

We will be hosting a Donkey Basketball fundraiser on January 17 at 7 pm here at the school! All proceeds will go towards extra-curricular activities. We are mostly in need of people willing to ride the donkeys! We will have four teams: Teacher team, Junior/Senior team, Community Team, and an Alumni team. If you know of anyone over the age of 16 and less than 225 lbs, encourage them to sign up as a rider! Please contact the school if you are interested in riding! Other details of the event will be made available closer to the date of the event. We hope to see you all there!



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.

