

# Martin News

## JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Growing up I remember one of my favorite shows to watch was Mission Impossible, which has since become a series of movies starring Tom Cruise. “Back in my day”, the show started with the head of the group listening to a taped message of mission that would self-destruct after it was listened to. The message included a line that to the effect if you choose to accept this mission, etc. Oh, how I loved watching that cassette tape go up in smoke.

Our school also has a mission that we have enthusiastically accepted and stated in the following mission statement. “Montpelier School is an educational community working together toward the common goal of students obtaining academic and personal success in order to become productive and involved members of society”. This statement has been recently updated to reflect the purpose of our school and what we want for the students of Montpelier School. I want to have a brief reflection of the statement means.

The first portion describes our school as being an educational community working together. Schools do not stand alone or were ever meant to as it is understood that children develop with everyone working together. There are many people in a child’s community starting with parents along with family members, friends, teachers, and other community members. The goal is to have students be successful academically while in school, but also develop personal traits needed to do well in society. We know it requires more than just being “smart” to do well when we get older. Individuals also need to have strong work ethic, be on time, have initiative, being able to work collaboratively with others, just to name a few. Our educational community must work to instill these behaviors in our youth, so they can experience success throughout their lives. Lastly, we want our students to contribute to society through the actions. Hopefully they will give back to those who helped them on their journey, as well as those that are just beginning theirs.

Our school’s mission statement is a continual work in progress and not set in stone forever. Society constantly changes and it will be necessary for our school to adjust to those changes so our students will be able to be successful today and in the future.

-Mr. Waagen

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## A Message from Mr. Bear- Why School?

In 1973, 13,000 kids were homeschooled in the United States of America. That number has risen steadily and today we see 2.3 million kids being homeschooled. I've always had respect for parents that homeschool their kids. The message they are bringing to the world is, "We want what's best for our kids and we know that we can provide a better education than the government." It's a bold statement and it puts a lot of responsibility on a parent's shoulders because there are several aspects of education and several why's that go along with the decision.

First and foremost, schools are there to provide an education. Especially at the high school level, parents are often-times not equipped to teach students what they need to know. I've got three separate degrees from three separate colleges, but if I were handed the task of teaching my kids Algebra II, I would be at a loss. In my opinion, though, the most important thing that a school does is improve kids' reading and writing skills simply because those skills are needed in every content area. I feel qualified to teach that, but a lot of parents don't. I do also believe it's true that the most important thing to implement in terms of reading and writing is getting kids to read and write. A parent can do that and in fact parental input into the task can have as much and more impact than anything the school can do.

Ultimately, though, that's why public schools came into existence. Parents and communities wanted their kids to learn what they needed to learn to be successful in the world of the day. But today, the world is different. There are so many different ways that kids can learn. They've got untold volumes of information at their fin-

### Pre-School

The Preschool class was full of energy when I interviewed them this morning! I believe they all enjoyed their winter break. Some things they did over the break included playing, eating chocolate and candy, playing with friends, going to grandmas, and playing with their new toys. Some goals or plans they have for this year are working on their letters, numbers, writing their names, making their portfolio and getting ready for kindergarten, although some kids said they want to stay in preschool!

## Student Council

Students really enjoyed their trip to State Student Council. Some of their favorite things were the guest speakers, meeting new people, learning how to be better leaders, going to the mall, and hanging out with friends.



## Kindergarten

I went around asking the kindergarten questions for the January Newsletter. **Chasen, Casen, and Eva** all said that they opened presents over Christmas break. **Kynzlee** went sledding. **Aubree** spent her Christmas Vacation spending time with her family and **Coraline** spent her vacation playing with her baby cousin. **Avery Jo** went to a hotel for Christmas break. When it came to what they're plans are for the new year, most of them didn't answer, **Coraline** says she wants to go ice skating this year, **Avery Jo** wants to build a snowman. **Eva and Aubree** I believe they said they want to do something for Valentine's Day.

## 1st Grade

The first graders were really eager to answer our questions when they were asked. Our first question was about what they did over break. They all talked about how fun opening presents were and how they all enjoyed their time at home. The second question was about what their plans or goals are that they have for the new year. Some want to be able to ice skate really well. Others are going to try to keep their room clean. Still others just want to get better at anything they can!

## 2nd Grade

It's the New Year, and the 2nd graders were eager to tell us about what they did over Christmas break! Some of them played outside, opened presents, spend time with friends, played with presents and much more! Everyone has something new they want to change or accomplish in the new year. Whether it's personal or school related, the 2nd graders told us that some of their new year's resolutions, included playing with friends, celebrating birthdays, wanting be an onion, and learn how to write in cursive, especially their name.



gertips on their cell phones. If they were motivated to do so, they could learn as much and more from their phones than they can and will ever learn from their teachers. But, again, they've got to be motivated to do so.

Today, it could be argued, schools are there to help guide students in what they should be learning and reading. The problem, of course, is that students need to buy into the idea that teachers can do this. Teachers can talk until they are blue in the face and if students and their parents don't believe what is being taught is valid, teachers won't get anywhere. Again, then, it's a matter of students being motivated to do so.

As I'm thinking about my own kids, though, and why I have them in school, really the answer is so that they have options. If they were to be homeschooled like the 2.3 million kids in America that are homeschooled today, they miss out on having that transcript at the end of high school. They miss out on getting that GPA. Both of those things are important for entry into college. It's true that colleges do regularly accept home-schooled kids into their midst, but it's also true that those kids miss out on any scholarship opportunities that are based on previous academics. But, if a student goes to high school and gets bad grades, it's all for naught. So, again, it's a matter of students being motivated to do so.

As a school, then, our job is to prepare kids for college both academically and on paper. But, it would seem, in order to be able to do that our job is to motivate the kids to want to learn. I've heard parents tell me that kids are simply unmotivated. And that's right, but they're not lazy as is the implication. When we say kids are unmotivated, it should always be followed by a 'to'. Kids are unmotivated to learn what the teacher is trying to teach. That's sometimes true.

So, our job as teachers and parents is try to motivate kids to 'do school'. It's so easy to see the change in students once that happens. For whatever reason, some kids have it right away in kindergarten. But some don't. What I would ask of parents and teachers is that you help. Talk to your kids. Try to get them to understand why they should do well in school. Try to motivate them to be prepared for their future in order that they can have as many options as possible.

## Music News

Thank you for all coming out and supporting our music program at the Christmas Concert!



## 3rd Grade

Only half of the 3rd grade was in school the day I interviewed them but I still got a lot of responses! The things they did over break were play with their friends and siblings, open presents, go sledding, and play games. Their goals or plans this year include reading more, getting faster at math, and practice their cursive more.

## 4th Grade

The 4th grade did a bunch of things over winter break. Some visited their family from out of town, some played Fortnite or other video games, and one started crocheting a baby blanket. They have many plans or goals this year! Some things they mentioned they wanted to do include kill lots of pheasants, get 350 hearts on tik tok, read 100 books, read 200 books, and shoot their first deer!



## JH Bball

The JH girls basketball season ended in December. Our lone girl, Amy Smith, seemed to enjoy the season. She especially liked her coach, and she thinks she will play again.

The JH boys have had their first game. It was against Ellendale. They were ahead for most of the game, but they lost by two points right at the end. Their next game is against LLM in Marion. We have three boys playing this year: Cody Froehlich, Hayden Luck, and RyLee Kuhn.

## 5th Grade & 6th Grade

Over the break, the 5th and 6th graders opened lots of presents, and they enjoyed playing with them too! Fallon played his video games, and Alex got to go hunting! Max enjoyed spending time with his family, and Chloe enjoyed relaxing!

As far as new year resolutions, most are still unsure of what they want to do. However, one person mentioned they plan to join gymnastics, and another person plans to complete their competitions .

## High School Bball

Hobie, Lucas, Tao, and Lane are our four boys playing this season. Hobie is playing on the Varsity team, and Lane, Tao, and Lucas are primarily on the C-Squad.

The varsity team is off to a solid start! They just finished second in the Stutsman County Tournament, and they have only lost one game. Hobie has worked his way into the starting lineup too!

Tao, Lucas, and Lane have had one C-squad game so far, which they won by almost 20 points!

## Student Highlight- Wyatt Luck



Wyatt Luck knows that he wants to weld when he graduates, but he has yet to decide how he plans to get into a welding career. He has some different options that he is currently analyzing. His favorite memory from going to school here is having fun conversations with Randy. His advice to the underclassmen is to just “mind your own business” and not worry about others problems.

**LUNCH**

**JANUARY 2019**  
Montpelier Public School

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2019	No School	Pizza	Broccoli Ham Hotdish	Sloppy Joes
Subs	Chicken Alfredo	Super Nachos	Hot ham & cheese	Chef Salad
Spaghetti & Meatballs	Hamburgers	Teriyaki Chicken	Scalloped Potatoes & Ham	Pulled Pork
Corn Dogs	Chicken Enchilada	Biscuits & Gravy	Fish Wish Sandwich	Hot dogs
Country Fried Steak	Chicken Noodle Soup	Tater Tot Hotdish	Philly Cheese Steak Sandwich	

Play for Hot Lunch on our website: <http://www.montpelier.k12.nd.us>



## Important Dates

- Jan. 12– School Board Retreat
- Jan. 15– Bookmobile
- Jan. 15- HS BBB @BCN
- Jan. 17- JH BBB vs. Leola-Frederick
- Jan. 18- JH & HS BBB vs. Oakes
- Jan. 19- HS BBB vs. Wyndmere
- Jan. 21– JH BBB @Ashley
- Jan. 22– HS BBB vs. Linton
- Jan. 24– HS BBB @Ashley
- Jan. 25 & 26- JH BBB Jamboree
- Jan. 26- HS BBB vs Midkota
- Jan. 28- JH BBB vs LLM @Kulm
- Jan. 29-Bookmobile
- Jan. 29- HS BBB @Ellendale
- Jan. 31 & Feb 1- B-Squad Tourney @Kulm
- Jan. 31- JH BBB @Jamestown

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 will have four teams: Teacher team, Student team, Community Team, and an Alumni team.

There will be concessions available, Raffle drawings, Montpelier gear for sale, and FREE Donkey Rides for 12 and under.

We hope to see you all there!



## Counseling News

To start the New Year we are going to be exploring kindness and its impact on our school community in our elementary guidance time . We particularly want to explore the power of kindness as we share it with others.

### **Kindness Reduces Bullying**

- When you are kind to others, it increases internal happiness. The empathic and compassionate students are the less likely they are to bully others.
- Students who are kind experience the helper's high, which results when their brain releases endorphins. This results in higher self-esteem.
- Children who are kind will have an easier time making and keeping friends. Kindness builds connections.
- The feel good effects of kindness can help improve student's performance in school. Concentration and memory seem especially improved by kindness.
- Finally, mental health increases serotonin, which is the brain chemical that helps mood. It can really help students see a world outside of their own perspective.

I am really looking forward to watching our students respond to this unit. And see the changes in our school community. For more information, check out the article below:

<http://www.edutopia.org/blog/teaching-kindness-essential-reduce-bullying-lisa-currie>

