

Martin News

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Traditions

Lutefisk and lefse, lutefisk and lefse, we are Norwegian you betcha, you betcha! Growing up in a Scandinavian family there were foods that we definitely had on our Christmas meal menu. Yes, we had the gelatinous mass called lutefisk and the smell of it would permeate the entire house and maybe even some of the neighborhood. We also had to have "Grandma's Green Salad" a unique combination of lime Jello, onions, carrots, Cool Whip, and the kicker, cottage cheese. I found both lutefisk and that unique salad are either loved or hated, for me it was the latter. No matter what you serve at your holiday meals I am pretty certain many of the foods are there because of tradition.

Traditions are important to us all as they provide some predictability during a time of the year when everything around seems to be whirlwind of activity. A tradition can help take away stress by bringing calm and joy to our hectic days. Family traditions are important for our children to feel they are an important part of the family and learning the traditions so they can continue. Below are five thoughts about tradition from Dr. Marie Hartwell-Walker from PsychCentral.com.

- Holidays are not an "extra." They are essential markers in the rhythm of life.
- Embrace holiday. There are never enough reasons to celebrate life.
- If you don't like the commercialism that's come surround some holiday, make up your own traditions.
- Be thoughtful about the values and traditions that you want to pass on to your children through your holiday activities.
- Include your children in the planning, creating, cooking, storytelling, gifting, visiting, etc. Kids who are part of it all know how to carry it on when it is their turn.

Traditions do matter, even if it is eating some fish soaked in lye or a salad that makes you wonder, 'what were they thinking when they made this?!"

I want to wish each and everyone of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

-Mr. Waagen



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Mr. Bear's Message– Mission, Vision, and Beliefs

Starting a couple of months ago, Mr. Waagen and I started talking about our school's mission, vision, and belief statements. I did send a couple of surveys out to teachers, parents, community members, and students. Our current mission statement is this: "*Montpelier School is an educational community working together towards the common goal of students obtaining academic and personal success in order to become productive and involved members of society.*" And really, there is very little wrong with that. It is true that as you read through it and interpret it, you can see that this is exactly what our school attempts to do. The problem is that we have to interpret it.

Especially in our modern world where everything comes to us in short 5 second blips, we need to have a mission statement that doesn't require a whole lot of cogitation. We want everybody to understand --even our youngest kids. We want to be able to put it on the wall and have everybody be able to recite it. When we do anything in our school day whether it is creating morning routines or calling school late due to weather or crafting AP curricula, when asked why we do it, we want to be able to say that we do it because it's part of our mission.

We do have 8 people all together on our committee. It consists of administration (Mr. Waagen and myself), teachers (Mr. Wright and Mrs. Hansen), a parent (Lucinda Lien), a board member (Abram Valenta), and two students (Logan Rich and Lane Froehlich). I'm looking forward to working with these individuals to create an answer to the question why. (Continued on pg. 4)

Pre-School

December, the month where winter officially starts and Santa comes for a visit! Each time I walk in to the pre-school classroom, they are busy cutting and gluing. So, it's no surprise that they said their favorite part of school so far is painting and cutting to make art projects! I bet class is really fun with Mrs. Williams because I love to cut and paint too. The next question I asked the preschoolers knew the answer right away. They didn't have to put any thought into it. Their favorite part of Christmas is opening presents! Some of the presents they hope to receive included a motorcycle, lots of toys, and an art supply case.

Student Council

Students are preparing for their trip to the State Student Council Convention December 8-10 in Bismarck.

Kindergarten

It's one of the happiest times of the year, Christmas! Kids love this time of year for many reasons. It is the time where you can spend time with your family and you get a break from school! Speaking of school, we asked the kindergarteners what their favorite part of school was so far. They love it when Mrs. Schrader lets them play on their iPads. They also had lots of fun at PTO Bingo and the carnival. They also love coloring and just working on school work! For Christmas break, some students said they are going to go swimming, spend time with family, open presents, and meet Santa! With Christmas, comes presents. The kids hope to get stuffed animals, a phone, tablet, hot wheels, and new crayons or a new pink marker!

1st Grade

As Christmas approaches, we all are getting more excited about Christmas vacation. The first graders are as excited as can be for it as well! Some of the things they look forward to are staying home, visiting grandparents, getting the tree and hanging up the Christmas decorations together, wrapping presents, and eating. Everyone's favorite part, though, is opening the presents! They said that they hope to get a dirt bike, earrings, books, an iPhone, or a go-cart for Christmas. Before we had to Christmas break, we wanted to hear what their favorite part of school has been. So far they say the best part is gym, work, making friends, recess, and reading.

2nd Grade

The second graders are eager to begin Christmas break! However, they do enjoy school too. So far, their favorite part of school has been gym, doing homework, making new friends, and reading. For Christmas vacation, some plan to stay at home for Christmas. Others are going to Texas, but they all look forward to seeing family and friends. Spending time with family, opening presents, and going to church are their favorite parts of Christmas. For Christmas one student hopes to have a new baby sister or brother. Other students hope to get an iPhone, Bison accessories, and Legos.

I do truly believe America is the greatest nation on the planet. It's not because our citizens are the most loyal or because our politicians are the brightest. It's because we've got freedom. Our lawmakers have been building freedom into our laws since the 18th century. All humans want some sort of autonomy, but the more humans that are gathered in one spot the less autonomy is possible because otherwise they start stepping on each others' toes. America, to our advantage, has a lot of space.

When we have more freedom, we have the ability to ask the question 'why'. We do not live in an autocratic state where we just do what we are told to do without ever questioning it. We have the right and perhaps even the obligation to ask why we are doing whatever it is we are asked to do.

Ever since I was in elementary school, we've been told that our nation is behind certain European or east Asian nations in terms of achievement. It's a bit disgruntling to see our test scores be lower than these nations year after year and even decade after decade. What we always need to remember, though, is that while it's true that our test scores are lower, it's also true that companies like Apple Computer, Microsoft, and Amazon don't start in those other nations. They start in places where people always ask why because if we didn't ask why, we would always just do things as they have always been done. And when you do things as they've always been done, no progress is ever made.

So the work our mission, vision, and beliefs committee is doing is very important. They are going to answer the question for us. We are going to look at the things that we believe and we are going to create a mission based on those beliefs. We are going to create a vision which will help guide us through future asking of the why. And they will ultimately create a mission statement for us. A mission that should always be the answer to the why.

Music News

Please come to our Christmas Concert on December 19 at 7 pm here at Montpelier Public School!



3rd Grade

The third-grade class is excited for the upcoming Christmas vacation! They plan on traveling, playing games, and opening presents. One student plans to go sledding as well. They all hope to get all kinds of things for Christmas! The different items discussed were: Beyblade a hoverboard, an Xbox 1, an American Girl Doll, a train, a saddle, a new phone, Guinea pigs, and squishies. In school, they have enjoyed spending time with friends. One student is really enjoying math, and another is enjoying science. Another student likes homework, while another one likes book reports. They all enjoy eating snacks at snack time too!

4th Grade

With the school year almost half over, we asked the 4th grade what they have been enjoying about school so far. They love hanging out with their friends, some love writing, and some even love everything about school! For their Christmas plans, they're going to be traveling, relaxing, and hanging out with family. Everyone loves Christmas, but the 4th graders favorite parts are: eating Christmas dinner, opening presents, celebrating Jesus, and celebrating with family. Some families have their own traditions. Some of the 4th graders family traditions are: having their family and pets wear matching sweaters, going to their different family members' houses to open presents, and opening presents youngest to oldest. When they open their presents this year, they're hoping for new headphones, a laptop, a new BB gun, and a phone. This will be an exciting holiday!

JH Bball

The JH girls basketball season has just entered the beginning of playing games. The 8th grade girls played their first game on November 25 in Jamestown. Amy Smith, an 8th grader, is our lone participant this year.

The JH boys basketball season begins on December 9. RyLee Kuhn, an 8th grader, is our lone participant this year.



5th Grade

With Christmas right around the corner, the 5th grade class is looking forward to it! They all have plans, hopes, and goals for their vacation, and they all have been enjoying school for different reasons. One of those reasons is getting improved grades, thanks to the help of various teachers. Another student was happy to learn about bones. Other like school for various events, like the carnival and PTO Bingo. Eating waffles on the first day of school was another happy memory. For Christmas break, some of the student plans are: going to visit their grandparents and getting to enjoy the delicious food of Christmas with family. An interesting tradition of one of the students' families is the launching of the used Christmas tree off of the back porch! They hope to open presents that contain tablets,

Legos, and video game systems, like the Nintendo switch. A cat house is also wanted, along with an apple pencil.

6th Grade

The 6th graders have been enjoying this school year so far. Some of the things they enjoy include lunch, recess, the bus ride home, and having a new teacher. Christmas is right around the corner and the 6th grade class can't wait! Many of them plan on going to their grandparents' house for Christmas. Their favorite part of Christmas is seeing their cousins and obviously opening the presents! They hope to get a few different things this year, such as a new phone, money, and a bike. One student really wants some king crab legs!

High School Bball

Lucas Rich is our lone high schooler playing this season. His first practice is on December 2.

Senior Highlight- Will Peckham

Will plans to farm with his dad and hopefully expand the farm when he graduates this Spring. His favorite memories from attending Montpelier Public School are definitely all of the archery trips, especially the time he traveled to compete at the national event. His advice to younger students is to remember to take time to enjoy your time in high school because it goes by very quickly. Also, prioritize things important to you, whatever they might be.



LUNCH

DECEMBER 2019
Montpelier Public School

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Country fried steak & mashed potatoes	3 Orange Chicken	4 Spaghetti	5 Chicken Patty	6 Kneephla Soup
9 Subs	10 Chili	11 Christmas Dinner (call if you would like to eat with your child)	12 Hot dogs	13 Tacos
16 Diced chicken w/gravy & mashed potatoes	17 McRib	18 Meat loaf & Baked potato	19 Tater tot hotdish	20 Pizza
23 NO SCHOOL	24 NO SCHOOL	25 NO SCHOOL MERRY CHRISTMAS!!	26 NO SCHOOL	27 NO SCHOOL
30 NO SCHOOL	31 NO SCHOOL			

Thank you to all who made the PTO Bingo fund-raiser a big success!

Important Dates

- Dec. 5– JH GBB @Edgeley Jamboree
- Dec. 7– JH GBB@Edgeley Jamboree
- Dec. 7- HS BBB@Tower City
- Dec. 8-10– State Student Council
- Dec. 9- JH BBB Starts
- Dec. 10- Book Mobile
- Dec. 10– JH GBB@MPB
- Dec. 11– School Board Meeting
- Dec. 12– JH GBBvsEllendale @Kulm
- Dec. 16– HS BBB vs. Napoleon @Kulm
- Dec. 17– JH GBB vs Oakes
- Dec. 19– Christmas Concert
- Dec. 20– Book Mobile/Last Day of School
- Dec. 20– HS BBB vs. Kidder County
- Dec. 27– HS BBB vs. Solen @Jamestown
- Jan 3-HS BBB @Zeeland
- Jan 9-11– HS Boys Stutsman Co. Tourney

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.

Elementary Boys Bball

Fallon, Alex, Brayden, and Ian all said they enjoyed playing basketball this season. Ian and Brayden both like being competitive and playing in their games the best. Alex really enjoyed the jamborees, and Fallon enjoyed honing his skills in practice the best. They all said they plan to play again next year!

Senior Highlight– Treazur Williamson

Treazur has thought about going into law enforcement, but really doesn't know what she wants to do yet when she graduates. Her plan right now is to find a job to work and save up for school so she has more money to afford it and have a better understanding of what career she wants to pursue. Her favorite part of going to school here is the people. Her favorite memories all happened while being in archery with Mr. Nelson. She talked about the time she accidentally poked herself in the eye with an arrow at practice. There was the time Mr. Nelson spit into the wind, and it accidentally blew into her face as she was walking behind him. Lastly, she will never forget the time Mr. Nelson threw up on the bus! Her advice to underclassmen is to not try to act too grown up. "You have the rest of your life to be an adult. Enjoy being a kid as long as you can!"

