



Volume XLIII Issue 3
February 2021

Mustang News

A PUBLICATION OF MONTABELLA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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MSAC League Champions

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 16—No school; Teacher PD

March 13— Project Graduation Pancake Breakfast 8am-1pm @ Masonic Lodge

March 16—Student dismissal 12:15pm; Teacher PD

March 17—Student dismissal 12:15 pm; Teacher PD

March 18—No school

March 28-April 1—No school; Spring Break

April 15—No school for students; Teacher PD

The Montabella Language Arts Team won the MSAC League this year in a dramatic come from behind victory. It is also noteworthy that the Mustangs were the only team to receive a score of 100% on a submission, and they received four scores of 100% this season. This is the first league title since the 2019 season.

Front Row: Keion Adams, Amber Friedrich, Peyton Webb, Sadie Quackenbush, Rebekah Mayer, Zoe Nicholson **Middle Row:** Riley Daily, Alyssa Walwark, Ella Kotenko, Hailee McElhaney, Emma Murray **Back Row:** Mr. Lehman and JT Smith

School Safety



Unfortunately, the concern around school safety has hit home for Montabella. Threats have been reported to a number of schools around the state and country over the past couple of months. This increase in the number of threats and the recent events in Oxford, Michigan has created an unsettling feeling for everyone.

Our goal is to try and keep our students and staff as safe as possible. In order to accomplish this Montabella has increased some of our security measures over the past couple of years. Here is a list of the current safety measures that are at the school.

- Security film on windows of classrooms that make it difficult for someone outside to see inside the classrooms.
- Security film at the entrances that make the glass more difficult to shatter and gain access to the building.
- Classroom door locks that are thumb turn so no key is needed to lock doors, allowing for a quick security of the room.
- Classroom lockdown devices for all classrooms that add a second layer of security beyond the door locks.
- Secure vestibules at all main entrances that force visitors to enter through the office prior to having access to the building (during school hours).
- Secondary exits were added to classrooms at the elementary which allows a way to get out of a room if the main entrance becomes breached or unavailable. Almost all classrooms within the facility now have this feature.
- Upgraded public address system that goes through the entire complex so that notification can be made with the entire district at once.

In addition to these features that are already in place we are having conversations about the addition of a school resource officer and other building enhancements that might help to keep our schools as secure as possible. We take the task of keeping your kids safe very seriously.

SPANISH CLUB CHRISTMAS DELIVERY

Montabella Spanish Club raised enough money to provide gifts to over 100 senior citizens at three local nursing homes. Students delivered the gifts before Christmas and they were well received by the residents. A part of the money they raised also helps cover their upcoming trip to Peru.





Recreation & Leisure

The Recreation and Leisure class is running weekly Young Athletes Special Olympics programs with our Mustang Preschoolers!



Pictured above: Kindergarteners and 5th graders worked together to build a snowman!

Below: Reading Buddies—Kindergarteners and 5th grade read together!



Gingerbread vs Frosted Animal Crackers

Mrs. Garvey read *The Gingerbread Girl Goes Animal Crackers* by Lisa Campbell Ernst and then held a cookie contest! Students had milk and were able to sample gingerbread cookies and frosted animal crackers. They then had to choose the best and write their opinion of why they chose that cookie. Frosted Christmas Animal Crackers was the overall winner!!



This is the beginning of anything you want.

MUSTANGS ON THE MOVE



Our varsity basketball teams traveled to Little Caesars Arena on New Years Day to play against Chippewa Hills. It was a day for the memory books! The girls played first, followed by the boys. They all played under the very same lights, on the very same court, with the very same hoops as the Detroit Pistons! Both teams played hard on that court and it is an experience that will forever resonate within. The evening ended with the Detroit Pistons playing against the San Antonio Spurs. Even though Covid left the Pistons short on players, they ended up securing a hard fought win that ended in overtime. The love for basketball, the spirit of team, and the pride of being a Mustang was all over Little Caesars Arena that day.



PBIS

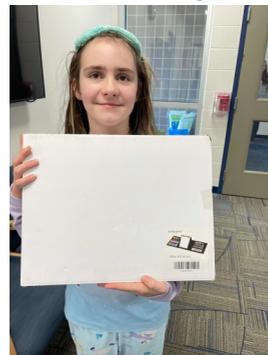
Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports

In order to understand how PBIS came about at Montabella we must first look at the main framework that PBIS is built from, which is MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Support) . A couple of years ago Montabella adopted the MTSS system that uses data to support every student as a whole (think academically, behaviorally, etc...). Not all students struggle the same, some may struggle with behavior, some may struggle with academics, and some may struggle with both. We have built a district team, as well as secondary teams, that continuously look at multiple forms of data to support our students at Montabella. To ensure that we continue to move forward, each team has set goals to ensure fidelity. Unfortunately, Covid did slow us down, but this year we have made great gains as we continue to implement the processes while being mindful that consistency, adaptability, and positivity are important for success. Earlier this school year, you may remember filling out the School Climate Survey online, we asked our students to fill out a climate survey as well. The data from these surveys is used to help guide our goals as we make decisions on behavior and reading at Montabella. Your voice matters, as well as all of our Mustangs! MTSS is meant to help us recognize students and to offer the appropriate interventions and supports. While MTSS supports both behavior and academics, PBIS is a system of supports that focuses on the behavior aspect.

At Montabella Community Schools we defined Mustang Pride as being **Respectful**, being **Responsible**, and being **Safe**. When we see students exhibiting any of those qualities we try to acknowledge the behavior. The elementary PBIS system includes a paper ticket that the student receives acknowledging their positive behavior. That ticket is then placed into a bin within their classroom. Each week, a student is drawn from every class to pick a prize. All tickets from every class are then poured into a larger school-wide bin. When the school reaches a designated line on the bin they all earn a prize. Their last prize they all agreed on was popcorn and a movie. At the end of the semester there are also names drawn from the big bin for BIG prizes such as: tablets, Big Joe chairs, craft sets, and much more! Students' faces light up when you hand them a PBIS ticket! At the MS/HS building teachers use an app to recognize students. Students earn points and with their points they are able to purchase items from the PBIS store every Friday. There are a lot of prizes to choose from such as: food, Mustang gear, craft supplies, sensory items, sports passes, echo dots, and the famous burrito blanket! The great thing about the app is that students can get on their account and see comments that teachers left them as to why they earned points. Before we introduced the app to the students, staff was using the app to reward points so when students logged in for the first time they were able to see comments left by staff. They were excited and/or shocked to see what positive feedback staff members left for them. We are seeing that this type of positive feedback encourages positive behavior. When we recognize students for representing Mustang Pride it encourages those around them to act in a positive manner.

Starting in January our bus drivers have been honoring one student each week on each bus who are respectful, responsible, and safe. These students are announced by the driver on Friday morning and given a certificate. At the end of the day on Friday the students use the certificate to get a reward from the office. Following our school rules of being respectful, responsible, and safe are equally important on the bus and we are proud to recognize our students who show these qualities. The Mustang Riders of the Week are also featured on our Facebook page. You can check out our Facebook page each week to see our winners!

Mustang Pride = Be Responsible, Be Respectful, Be Safe





Izabelle Wesseling



Bryer Wittig



Thea Eldred



Brayden Peterson



Cadence Snyder



Damien Finley



Emma Kieff



Logan Finley



Saleen Bott



Alana Gonzalez



Lance Crawford



Lily Brewington



Marshall Preston



Ella Scherzer



Trayton Ward



Taelyn Ross

Spotlight Students
November & December
 Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe



Ali Dood



David Gonzalez



Gunnar Preston



Clayton Shappee



Ms. Warner



Mrs. Garvey



Thomas Spencer



Jasper Wittig



Kristara Huguelet



Brenninn Crandell



Bailie Carlson



Elizabeth Nielsen



Chloe Decker



Johnathan Barber



Lawson Willis

JR/SR STUDENT OF THE MONTH RECIPIENTS



November: Logan McElhaney (6), Lydia Eldred (7), Keaton Francis (8), Trinity Painter (9), Emma Murray (10), Alexis Jordan (11)



October: Samantha McAllaster (6), Presley Storey-Dolan (7), Chase Keller (8), Jaylie Newcombe (9), Josselyn Porter (10), Payton Sheldon (11)



November: Caleb Theisen (12)
December: Gracie Rasmussen (12)

Nominations

Temperance Wilson
Sidney Jaquays
Marly Lumbert
Gage Fleck
Nate Voorhees

Justin James
Brooklyn Welch
Hayley Reffitt
Kylei Shaner
Emma Peterson

Dak Ely
Kody Dalrymple
Isabell Darling
Damien Stoneham
Jamison Stockwell

Sandra Anderson
Ryan Binge
Kaitlynn Miller
Ethan Smyth
Ella Bjelke

December Mustang of the Month Tristin Almanza Wrestling



Grade: 12

Age: 18

Stats:

9-3 with all nine wins by pin.



In the month of December, T wrestled twelve matches going 9-3 with 9 pins. Two of his losses were against top ten ranked wrestlers with one being a division 3 school. He is also one of the team Captains. He is developing technique and incorporating new moves into his matches, which is translating into quality wins. He is focused and determined to be a state qualifier in his senior season. Great work T!

December Mustang of the Month Emma Peterson Basketball



Grade: 7

Age: 13

Stats:

She averaged 9.6 points per game for the month of December.



Emma made great strides as a basketball player this year. In her first year of basketball she worked hard to become a good shooter and a strong rebounder. Her improved skill as a shooter led her to a team high 16 points against Carson City. In the same game she also collected 14 rebounds. Great job Emma!



Last year, due to Covid, Solo & Ensemble was canceled. This year we had quite a few middle school band students travel to participate in Solo & Ensemble (due to different scheduled times, not all participants are in picture). All participants did a wonderful job representing Montabella!

Meetings held Third Monday of the Month
JR/SR High School Cafeteria
1390 North County Line Rd. Blanchard, MI 49310
989-427-5148 (p) 989-427-3828 (f)

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Scott Parks.....*President*
Eylie Foster.....*Vice President*
Ivan Renne.....*Secretary*
Mike Rasmussen.....*Treasurer*
Anna Jensen.....*Trustee*
Jared Simon.....*Trustee*
Erica Vincent.....*Trustee*



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As always, we thank the Sons of the American Legion Post 240, from Blanchard, for making sure we have flags to fly at the Central Office, Jr/Sr High and our Elementary.

School Closing Information

In the event that school is closed or delayed due to inclement weather, the information will be broadcast to the following television and radio stations.

TV Stations

WOOD TV8 Grand Rapids
WWTV 9&10 Cadillac
WJRT TV12 Flint
WZZM TV13 Grand Rapids

Radio Station

WCFX 95.3FM Mt. Pleasant
WGLM 106.3FM Greenville
WCUZ 1230AM/105.7FM Grand Rapids

DON'T LOSE YOUR BUS RIDING PRIVILIGES

Follow these rules:

1. Observe same conduct as in the classroom
2. Be courteous, use no profane language
3. Do not eat or drink on the bus
4. Keep the bus clean.
5. Cooperate with the bus driver.
6. Do not smoke.
7. Do not be destructive.
8. Stay in your seat.
9. Keep head, hands and feet inside the bus.
10. The bus driver is authorized to assign seats.



Send in your Coca-Cola caps and Box Tops to help us earn cash for our school.



SEE THIS...
CLIP IT



SEE THIS...
SCAN YOUR RECEIPT

chartwells
serving up happy & healthy

Please remember that **ALL** Montabella students are welcome to **FREE** breakfast and lunch while at school.

We are hiring coaches!

We are adding to the Mustang family! If you have a desire to make a positive impact on students and a willingness to adapt to today's dynamic environment, then we have a spot for you! We strive to be a team who values the core components of collaboration, acceptance, and growth. Contact the school at (989)427-5148, or check out our Employment Opportunities at www.montabella.com under the 'District' tab .

Some positions have immediate availability! Make Montabella your home today!

BUS NEWS

Please give the bus garage a call if your child will not be riding the bus.

BUS DRIVERS NEEDED

We will train. Please call 989-427-5024 ext. 631 to learn more.

Be Responsible

Be Respectful

Be Safe



www.montabella.com
www.montabellamustangs.com (Athletics)



Montabella Community Schools
Montabella Elementary



Mpride_stampede (Mr. Riley)

Find Us

