



Volume XLIV Issue 3
February 2023

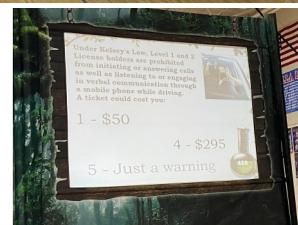
Mustang News

A PUBLICATION OF MONTABELLA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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Our high school students enjoyed an assembly by ThinkFast Interactive. A dance competition, team building, gold microphone, and Amazon gift cards had our students on the edge of their seats, intently engaged all while learning the importance of safe driving. Keeping approximately 300 students engaged while trying to raise awareness of driver safety is not an easy task, but ThinkFast Interactive made it effortless. Proof that learning is fun!



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb. 10**—Project Graduation Spaghetti Dinner 4:30-6:30 pm
- Feb. 15** — No School—Teacher PD
- Feb. 18** — Elementary PTO Carnival 1-4 pm
- March 15** — Student Dismissal 12:15pm—Teacher PD
- March 16** — Student Dismissal 12:15pm—Teacher Conferences
- March 27-31**— No School—Spring Break
- April 7**—Teacher PD—No school for students
- May 4**—Kindergarten Roundup 3:30-6:00 pm
- May 5**—Flex Day, snow day make up if needed



IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDANCE



Michigan State law requires that all children attend school regularly and as part of that law Montcalm County has developed a consistent truancy policy used across the county for those that have inconsistent attendance. Montabella's attendance policy follows along with the county attendance or truancy policy. Inconsistent attendance, specifically unexcused absences can lead to charges but our hope is to help families avoid that situation by having their children attend school on a regular basis.

Truancy can certainly be a motivator to having children attend school on a regular basis but there are many other reasons that attendance is important for not only our students but all children. Several studies have been conducted over the years to determine what has the biggest impact on students' learning. They have studied technology programs, intervention programs, after-school programs, and many other educational practices to see what impact these practices have on student learning. There are a number of things that showed a small impact on learning but one factor in just about every study had a huge impact over and over, the teacher. Having students attend school on a regular basis, allows them access to the teacher, and having access to that instruction has the biggest impact on their learning.

Another key factor of students attending school on a regular basis is the opportunity for face-to-face social interaction. Students and adults communicate a lot socially through technology (social media, email, texting) and the number of opportunities to have face-to-face conversations are dwindling. Montabella Community School's mission is to prepare our students for a changing global society, and one of the ways that we help prepare them is by providing opportunities where they have to work together and solve problems as a group, vocalize their opinions or frustrations in the correct manner, read facial expressions and build relationships. Some of these interactions can be replicated through technology but some of these important skills can only be achieved by students interacting with each other in person.

Our goal is to have as many students regularly attending school so we can have the biggest impact possible in preparing them for their next steps in life. We certainly understand that situations arise where absences are necessary and we know that students get sick. The school and families working together to stress the importance of regular attendance can strengthen the educational experience and potentially impact not only the students but our community as a whole.

Please see the handbook on Montabella's attendance policy. The Jr/Sr handbook can be found under the JR/SR Student Resources tab and the elementary handbook can be found under Elementary Resources tab at www.montabella.com. The attendance policy for Jr/Sr High School students can be found on page 23. For the elementary, the attendance policy is found starting on page 6. Feel free to contact if you have questions.

ONE BOOK ONE SCHOOL

Every year the One Book One School committee selects one book to be read by everyone at home. This year, students are reading, "I Survived the Children's Blizzard, 1888" by Lauren Tarshis. Students have a month of scheduled reading, theme days, trivia challenges, and will end with a fun closing assembly – that also includes prizes!





Kris Cancer Benefit

Saturday
February 11, 2023

Doors open at 2 pm—American Legion Hall
8803 SW County Line Rd, Blanchard, MI 49310

Come out and help us show Kris Martin, long time Blanchard resident, and Montabella school employee, that we stand with her as she fights cancer. All money raised will go towards medical bills and expenses.

- \$10/person—including Pulled Pork meal and water/pop.
- \$5 refillable solo cup while supply lasts.

Basket Raffle  Gun Raffle  Kris Strong T-shirts

Text (704)500-4252 for more information

Money raised from fundraiser will go towards Project Graduation



Spaghetti Dinner

Friday
February 10, 2023
4:30—6:30 PM

Free for children under 3
\$5 for ages 4-9
\$10 for ages 10 and up

Montabella Elementary Cafeteria

Fundraiser

Let us do the cooking & cleaning for you!



PRIZES

FOOD, GAMES & INFLATABLES

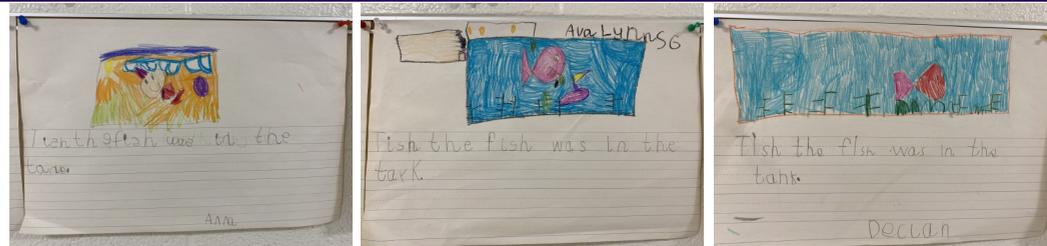
MONTABELLA ELEMENTARY PTO CARNIVAL

FEBRUARY 18, 2023 1PM-4PM

WRISTBANDS - \$5 EACH
★ **FAMILY - \$20** ★

RAFFLE

1st Prize: Whole Processed Pig & Small Chest Freezer
2nd Prize: One night @ Soaring Eagle Water Park
3rd Prize: \$250 Visa Gift Card



Above: Mrs. Garner's kindergarten students are working on sentence structure and re-telling the story.

Right: Montabella Elementary PTO sponsored a team bonding, Create and Take, event for elementary staff. Montabella Elementary Social Worker, Lisa Mortensen, prepared everything to make the event fun for all!



Mustang Language Arts Team Keep Their League Championship Title



They did it again! Our Mustang Language Arts team won the MSAC League Championship! They had some setbacks along the way that could have slowed them down and take them out of the running, but they made it a point to work harder to pull off the championship! When sickness took out three of their players the others stepped up to fill some big shoes. Your determination and dedication is an exemplary display of Mustang PRIDE!

Way to Go Mustangs!



(Above) Captains: JT Smith, Ella Kotenko, and Sadie Quackenbush



Friendly Competition: Varsity Basketball vs Competitive Cheer

The girls met up for some team bonding and a little friendly competition over Christmas break. It was decided that the team with the lowest score would have to join the other team for one practice.

The basketball team won, so they decided they wanted to have the Cheer team join one of their post-game practices that they did not perform their best...where they knew there would be a lot of running!





MUSTANG ART

Montabella Jr/Sr High School 2022-2023 1st Semester Honor Roll

Highest Honors: 3.78-4.00

12th Grade: Grayson Austin*, Ryan Binge*, Dakota Dykhuis*, Alexis Jordan*, Drew Kelsey*, Shaylee Larsen*, Lily Lober*, Kaitlynn Miller, Logan Peterson, Sadie Quackenbush*

11th Grade: Kaydenn Aggas, Cooper Bolton, Sydney Boyer, Brady Carlson*, Erika Esch, Austin Foster*, Mersadies Geister, Ella Harris*, Rebekah Mayer*, Kiana Nickerson*, Brooklynn Welch

10th Grade: Keion Adams, Tyler Koons, Jaylie Newcombe, Gavin Willis

9th Grade: Ashlyn Binge, Isabell Darling, Hayden Helmer*, Kenzie Karcher*, Mason White

8th Grade: Ryann Ball*, Allison Cook, Brayden Foster, Braleigh Fulk, Gabriel Kauffman, Raelynn Koehn*, Emma Peterson*, Brayden Snyder, Bryson Williamson, Bryce Willis

7th Grade: Joshua Arganbright, Kirstyn Cummings, Lewis Davidson*, Mason Davidson, Lia Dood*, Tucker Evans, Kain Karcher, Bailey Kauffman, Cooper Kieff, Alexander Kohn*, Maxie Ludwig, James Rodriguez*, Bryton Strohl, Alivia Thompson, Temperance Wilson, Makaylynn Wood*

6th Grade: Colton Eldred, Elsa Koop*, Kolton Mayer

*Student Received a 4.00 for the 1st semester

High Honors: 3.40-3.77

12th Grade: Sydney Adgate, Bralynn Clark, Stanley Fitzgerald, Jonathon Hubble, Kase Jerome, Evan Judge, Ella Kottenko, Alizah Langlois, Jac Papendick, Dalton Rice, Payton Sheldon

11th Grade: Kaylee Cook, Josephine Houghton, Emma Murray, Kylie Pifer, Josselyn Porter, Savannah White

10th Grade: Alayna Foster, Zoe Nicholson, Javon Perkins, Addyson Strohl, Peyton Webb

9th Grade: Conner Cluley, LeeAnn Duncan, Lillian Fuller, Chase Keller, Brady Kieff, Natalie Ludwig, Zaidan Myers, Leia Webb, Bryce White, Landon Wymer

8th Grade: Grant Cook, Kody Dalrymple, Lydia Eldred, Wade Hanshue, Austin Jensen, Kaitlyn Kade, Bailey Kelsey, Marly Lumbert, Sierra Pranger, Presley Storey-Dolan, Leah Stratton

7th Grade: Gabriella Arguijo, Marley Demmick, Russell Duncan, Kenneth Graham, Alana Hill, Seth Jordan, Owen Maybee, Carson Mayer, Skyler Miller, Leah Sissell, Fenno Whitney

6th Grade: Noah Barber, Bowdie Blanz, Chloe Decker, Matthew Gonzalez, Cody Keller, Brooklyn Kieff, Annika Marr, Chase Miller, Ella Scherzer, Trayton Ward

Honors: 3.00-3.39

12th Grade: Sara Ashbaugh, Mason Burggren, Nathan Jensen, JT Smith, Ryan Wright

11th Grade: Kalía Adams, Amber Friedrich, Madison Jordan, Katie Spohn

10th Grade: Connor Ball, Carly Bonasse, Anthony Chaffee, Ashlynn Davis, Justin James, Jesse Nessen, Brianna Porter, Eli Rathka, Jennifer Swanson, Nathanyal Voorhees

9th Grade: Addyson Bouwkamp, Annaliese Harris, Stewart Houghton, Judith Mesta-Rivas, Blake Snyder, Braydon Williamson

8th Grade: Hunter Amon, Raelynn Baez, Mason Bogart, Noah Carlson, Lexi Curtiss, Dakarai Ely, Tucker Flachs, Tristan Knapp, Keith Miller, Brooklyn Rauch, Corbin Ruthruff, Joslynn Smith, Ellie Zeien

7th Grade: Lesley Burggren, Sidney Jaquays, Shelby Keeler, Mia Lumbert, Logan McElhaney, Shane Perkins, Katelyn Pifer, Saralynn Shelley, Ethan Snyder

6th Grade: Ashlynn Bott, Makayla Dickinson, Callen Eldred, Tripp Eldred, Oakley Gatehouse, Makayla Helmer, Elizabeth Nielsen, Lincoln Snyder, Shawn Walker, Hunter Wittig

MISS EDMORE
Queen's Pageant
POTATO FESTIVAL

BECOME ROYALTY
SEPTEMBER 13, 2023
Montabella & Vestaburg School Districts
Queen: 16 - 19 yo
Jr. Queen: 10 - 15 yo
Prince & Princess: 5 - 9 yo
Registration packets and details are available at:
Facebook: @missedmorepotatofestpageant
Email: potatofestivalqueenspageant@gmail.com
Gypsy Soul Boutique
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAY 19, 2023



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



Montabella Community Schools &
Montabella Elementary



Mpride_stampede (Mr. Riley)

Find Us

Be Responsible

Be Respectful

Be Safe



Hudson Knapp



Cienna Swinson



Lane Foster



Sam Oswald



Zoey Moore



Knox Nemeth



Gracie Hyzer



Grant Baldwin



McCoy Garner



Jayce Wilson



Waylon Harvell



Benson Kenyon



Addison Sissell



Finley Foster



Caiden Kooiker



Sylar Bauman



Cassidy Mallay



Tuck Magner



Audra & Kaylee
Preston



Malakhi Kauffman



Saleen Bott



Hudzyn Painter



Isabelle Davis



Lily Deal



Autumn Willis



Lucas Snyder



Alana Gonzalez



Madisyn Helmer



Evan Greene



Kinsley Hubbard



Alyssa Helmer

GOOD ATTITUDE—MAXIMUM EFFORT—NO LIMITS

JR/SR STUDENT OF THE MONTH RECIPIENTS

November



Tripp Eldred (6), Logan McElhaney (7), Leah Stratton (8), Ashlyn Binge (9), Cameron Stoneham (10), Kiana Nickerson (11), Hayley Reffitt (12)

December



Caroline Darling (6), Kain Karcher (7), Presley Storey-Dolan (8), LeeAnn Duncan (9), Connor Ball (10), Paul Himebaugh (11), Ryan Binge (12)

Other Nominations

Makayla Helmer, Josh Arganbright, Lewis Davidson, Bailey Kelsey, Brayden Foster, Addyson Bouwkamp, Silas Peterson, Donovan Lampo, Ashlynn Davis, Landyn Lane, Monica Miller, Ella Kotenko, Kaitlynn Miller, JJ Hendrickson, Jonathon Hubble, Callen Eldred, Tucker Flachs, Dakarai Ely, Allison Cook, Malachi Houghton, Tyler Koons



Maeson Baez (left) is joining former Mustang students at the Special Olympics Winter State Games in Traverse City to compete in snowshoe or cross country skiing events.



Congratulations JT Smith

JT scored his 1000th point on 12/15/22 vs St. Charles!

1000 POINTS CLUB

chartwells
serving up happy & healthy

Happy Birthday Mustangs

The Elementary students enjoyed some celebration cake during lunch, for everyone's birthday this school year. Baked with Mustang Pride from the kitchen staff.



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
Sherri Miel..... Trustee
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Mustang News

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



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
WWWTV 9&10Cadillac
WJRT TV12Flint
WZZM TV13Grand Rapids

Radio Station

WCFX 95.3FM Mt. Pleasant
WGLM 106.3FM Greenville
WCUZ 1230AM/105.7FM Grand Rapids
WCZY 104.3FM Mt. Pleasant



BUS NEWS

We are hiring, training provided. Please call 989-427-5024 ext. 631 to learn more.

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

CALLING ALL YOUNG MUSTANGS LEARN YOU WILL

MONTABELLA ELEMENTARY OFFICE

ONSITE VISION & HEARING SCREENING
TO SCHEDULE AN APPT.
CALL (989) 427-5414 EXT. 606
OR

SCAN QR CODE TO SCHEDULE ONLINE
CLICK ON "LOOK FOR APPOINTMENT SLOTS
FURTHER AHEAD" UNTIL YOU REACH MAY 4TH.



Child must be 5 years of age by September 1, or an age waiver can be completed if turning 5 by December 1, 2023.

Please complete enrollment packet online. Go to www.montabella.com and click on "Enroll" to be taken to Final Forms. Create an account, if you do not already have one (if you have older students at Montabella you should already have an account). Follow the steps to complete enrollment. This must be completed before roundup.

KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP

MAY 4, 2023—3:30-6:00 PM

Our bus drivers recently presented a few different videos to students regarding bus safety. Melissa Eldred spoke with the elementary students about the importance of following bus rules and how to make sure students can stay safe when near or on a school bus. Kristi Wray, Teresa Willisie, Melissa Eldred, and Amanda Swarts also created a video for our JR/SR high students with examples of good and bad choices.

Student drivers watched a video that specifically discussed the proper procedure for stopping when the bus lights turn on. When the **Yellow** caution lights are on, within 200 feet, the **Reds** will come on, which means  **Yellow flashing lights are not the time to speed up and try to pass the bus.**

With the new school year in full swing, now is a great time to review bus safety, not only at school but also at home. Bus rules are in place to ensure that all students make it to school and home safely. Please take a moment to talk to your children about bus safety and remind them that many of the rules that are in place are also state laws. Your support is greatly appreciated! ~Montabella Bus Garage