



Volume XLI Issue 3  
February 2020

# Mustang News

A PUBLICATION OF MONTABELLA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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## Closing the Gap

One Campus—One Goal—One Community

The classes are full, and the halls have a steady flow of students passing from one end to the other. Gone are the days that students have to walk outside to switch classes. We have officially become one centrally located campus, focused on academics, safety, and success of everyone who walks through the doors of Montabella.



# Fitness Center

Mr. Balhorn's Personal Health and Fitness class  
enjoying the new Fitness Center



## Solar Energy and Montabella Schools??



The amount of electrical energy consumed has been on a steady rise over the years. Many individuals and businesses are looking for ways to reduce energy use with more efficient lighting and appliances. Montabella Schools is no different as we have made a number of upgrades in lighting and mechanical operations to get the most out of our energy consumption.

Renewable energy is another way that individuals and businesses can help to reduce the energy consumption and is becoming a more common. The most common renewable energy options are wind and solar. There are a number of wind and solar farms that have been developed in the surrounding areas. These options for renewable energy can be costly so that can prohibit individuals and businesses from pursuing these options.

There are a number of solar companies that are working with investors to bring the option of solar to businesses and specifically schools with no upfront costs. Investors purchase the equipment that is installed on the school property and the school gets the benefits of the energy that is produced from the solar panels. The school pays a monthly fee to the company that is less than the current price of electrical energy. Potentially setting up a win-win situation where the school saves some operational costs and also reduces the electrical consumption on the grid.

The Montabella School Board is currently investigating the potential of a solar panel farm on school property. This could be a great educational opportunity for our students to examine the amount of energy produced by the panels and also provide a savings to the district. The board is just in the preliminary investigation and the potential savings has not been identified. When those savings have been identified, the board will seek community input on the project. We hope to be sharing more in the future about this interesting opportunity.

### Upcoming Events

#### Coaches vs Cancer Fundraiser: February 22, 2020

- 12pm—Boys JV vs CCC
- 2pm—Girls JV vs Vestaburg
- 4pm-6pm Spaghetti Dinner
- 6pm—Girls Varsity vs Vestaburg
- 7:30pm—Boys Varsity vs Vestaburg

#### Guy's Volleyball Tournament: March 14, 2020 @ 9:00am

#### Parent Teacher Conferences March 19th, 2020 & 1st Annual Montabella Elementary Showcase

Come out and see all of our hard work on display in the elementary gymnasium during conferences.

#### Spring Break: March 30 -- April 3, 2020

#### Montabella Elementary PTO Carnival: April 25, 2020 @ 1:00-4:00pm

Petting Zoo, Silent Auction, Food, Games, Inflatables! Raffle prizes include: Processed Pig & Small Chest Freezer, Propane Grill, or a \$250 Meijer Gift Care

#### Kindergarten & Great Start Readiness Round Up April 30, 2020 @ 3:00-7:00pm Call (989)427-5414 to schedule an appointment



Lion Heart shared a powerful message of strength and resiliency to our elementary students!



### Jake the Therapy Dog

Meet Jake, and his best friend, Mrs. Linda! Together they visit Montabella Elementary once a week as a volunteer for the Mentor Program. Jake is a registered Therapy dog who spends time with individual students, as well as classes. Students especially enjoy reading to Jake.

# ALUMNI CORNER



## CONNOR RILEY

Students traveled to Hope College to support alumni, Connor Riley, as he played basketball for the Benedictine Eagles!



## JOE NEVILLS

### Forever a Mustang

Let me introduce to you, Mr. Joe Nevills, Montabella graduate, and winner of the Media Eclipse Award for his article, “Biting the Dust: A Long Goodbye to Mount Pleasant Meadows.” To put this type of achievement into perspective, imagine standing on stage at the Oscars, accepting the award of a lifetime; THAT is what the Media Eclipse Award is in horse racing! Joe had passion that was born within, fueled by setbacks, and a mission to keep the memory of Mount Pleasant Meadows horse track alive. It started at a young age, when Joe would follow his grandpa, John Murphy, to race tracks in Michigan, analyzing the performances of those at the track. A journal emerged, and as he states, “It was a relatively private journal and the writing was horrible. I was fortunate that I had this opportunity to stink at writing in private so I could do better once my work became more public-facing.” None-the-less, as he analyzed the races, he allowed the words to flow onto paper. With each word, and every sentence becoming more cohesive, a journalist transpired. After graduating from Montabella, Joe went on to study at Central Michigan University where he majored in Journalism, as well as writing for the student newspaper, Central Michigan Life. Horse racing was at the center of his stories, and when he was not writing for school or the paper, he was blogging and working as a freelance journalist. His dedication to the sport landed him in Kentucky where he was offered a journalism internship that eventually led to his current position at the Paulick Report. Company downsizing and bankruptcy certainly were not part of the plan, but they were obstacles that Joe faced before he found his current position. As he puts it, “Journalism isn’t a terribly steady business these days when it comes to long-term stability, and while having a specialty like I do with horse racing can be useful, it makes it a little scarier when you get let go somewhere and you have to think about how these very specific skills might have to translate to something outside that sphere.” Through all of this, Joe has proven to be a steadfast Mustang who continued to pursue his ultimate goal of winning the Media Eclipse Award. He is proof that small-town kids can grow up and make big-time dreams come true! We are so very proud of you Joe, and we look forward to following your journey.

If you would like to read his award winning article, you may do so at, [www.paulickreport.com/news/ray-s-paddock/biting-the-dust-a-long-goodbye-to-mount-pleasant-meadows/](http://www.paulickreport.com/news/ray-s-paddock/biting-the-dust-a-long-goodbye-to-mount-pleasant-meadows/).



## MONTABELLA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

The Mission of Montabella Community Schools is to prepare our students to be successful in a changing global society.

FIND US ON 

Or download our app—Montabella Community Schools (available on Droid and Apple)



Isaac Carr



Sadie Simon



Damien Finley



Noah Arganbright



Madisyn Helmer



Brennin Grandell



Brayden Jensen



Kathrynne Welling



Chloe Decker



Elizabeth Qualls



Cane Tomac



Alana Hill



Leah Stratton



Joslynn Smith



Harmony Wood



Bryce White



Mrs Hicks



Mr Doerr

# Spotlight Students

## November & December



Ms Fournier



Mrs Dawson



Kinleigh Bailey



Isabelle Davis



Sylar Bauman



Alana Gonzalez



Lawson Willis



Lillian Wilkinson



Emilee Baylor



Brooklyn Race



Lillian Davis



Patyn Recker



Skyler Miller



Alaina Himebaugh



Braleigh Fulk



Bryson Williamson



Stewart Houghton



Mika Wolfgang

# JR/SR Student of the Month Recipients



Top Row: October—Rongyi Zhu(7), Chase Burggren(8), Sydney Adgate(9), Hailee McElhaney(10), Taylor Harkness(11), Brooklynn Knopf(12)

Middle Row: November—Javon Perkins(7), Rebekah Mayer(8), Chloe Cutler(9), Tabby Lumbert(10), Makaila Kuipers(11), Sara Anderson (12)

Bottom Row: December—Sandra Anderson(7), Madison Jordan(8), Ryan Binge(9), Alyssa Walwark(10), Mackenzie Minkle(11), Tyler Powell (12)

2019-2020 2nd Six Weeks

R.E.A.L. Mustang Pride Honor Roll

**R**espect--**E**xplore--**A**chieve--**L**ead



These students have a "C" or better grade in all classes and have not had any discipline referrals for the 3rd six weeks.

**7th:** Keion Adams, Sandra Anderson, Carly Bonasse, Ashlynn Davis, Alayna Foster, Justin James, Tyler Koons, Jaylie Newcombe, Zoe Nicholson, Javon Perkins, Elicia Peterson, Brienne Porter, Brendan Rameau, Aden Shattuck, Jamison Stockwell, Addyson Strohl, Jadon Trost, Gavin Willis, Devon Wingert, Rongyi Zhu, **8th:** Kalia Adams, Kaydenn Aggas, Jayden Allen, Keyien Alzamora, Kelsey Austin-Campbell, Cooper Bolton, Morgan Bondie, Sydney Boyer, Chase Burggren, Kaylee Cook, Daisy Fitzgerald, Austin Foster, Amber Friedrich, Andrew Fuller, Mersadies Geister, Ella Harris, Zaylee Huntoon, Madison Jordan, Chelsea Mason, Rebekah Mayer, Emma Murray, Kiana Nickerson, Kylie Pifer, Katie Spohn, Jaden Vizineau, John Woolman, **9th:** Makenna Bailey, Ryan Binge, William Daws, Hana Deal, Dakota Dykhuis, Keegan Griffin, Seth Hallock, Nathan Jensen, Alexis Jordan, Andrew Kelsey, Ella Kotenko, Joseph Kuipers, Alizah Langlois, Lily Lobert, Kaitlynn Miller, Monica Miller, Logan Peterson, **10th:** Tabitha Anderson, Ethan Buccieri, Ryan Cook, Sara Courser, Malinda Johnston, Hailee McElhaney, Trista Perkins, Anthony Tallent, Alyssa Walwark, **11th:** Zoey Barnes, Parker Burggren, Ashley Davis, Paje Deal, Jonathan Gormley, Taylor Harkness, Emma Hatton, Kennen Huber, Brenna Hunt, Gavin Hurt, Makenna Jensen, Makaila Kuipers, Eder Lopez-Morales, Mackenzie Minkel, Roman Nickerson, Nolan Wilkinson, Hannah Willis, **12th:** Ashlynn Aggas, Damian Burns, Mariah Chagoya, Morgan Christensen, Tyler Cook, Paige Courser, Mackenzie Dalrymple, Mason Dalrymple, Sabrina Fisher, Rose Goltz, Arturo Hemmingsen, Whitney Hoover, Lauren Jordan, Alan Keller, Brooklynn Knopf, Autumn Ladd, Summer Ladd, Maggie Ludwig, Natalie Lumbert, Brehanna Marks, John Mazurkiewicz, Skylar McElhaney, Jacee Moore, RJ Neumann, Paige Pant, Luke Pell, Cole Powell, Tyler Powell, Donovan Qualls, Jordan Rose, Savannah Smith, Aiden Turner, Chad Vestergaard, Matthew Visner, Chance Wagoner



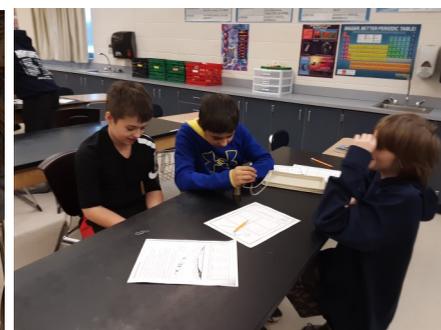
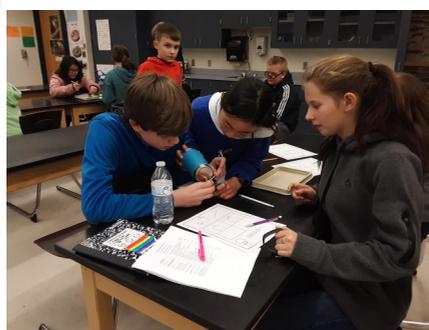
SADD members recently volunteered at the Isabella Community Soup Kitchen.



Lisa Hicks, Director of Dining Services, extended a fun food themed art opportunity for students in Mr. Sprau's Art 2 class early second semester. She taught and demonstrated how to Tie Dye a t-shirt using food products as colorant! Students learned what foods could be used to create a specific color dye and how to design "tasteful" color combinations.

Mrs. Cook's seventh grade students learned about electricity by creating an electric circuit. They had to find four ways to light a lightbulb using only one battery and one piece of wire. It was a challenge, but they succeeded!

#LearningIsFun  
#GivingBack



## 2019-2020 3rd Six Weeks

### R.E.A.L. Mustang Pride Honor Roll

#### Respect--Explore--Achieve--Lead



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# Mustang Athletics



Stay up-to-date on all Mustang Athletics at  
[www.montabellamustangs.com](http://www.montabellamustangs.com)



## November Mustangs of the Month



### Hannah Willis

**Grade:** 11 - "Hannah is a dedicated teammate. She is always enthusiastic and often cannot help herself in shouts, "I'm so excited!" Hannah volunteers to lead team stretching, and is frequently among the first to jump in to help others. Hannah's kicks are near perfection, she is quick to learn new choreography, and her enthusiasm is apparent in her expressions." Great job Hannah!

## POMS



### Ethan Haenke

**Grade:** 8 - "He is a tireless worker in the wrestling room and wrestles matches with passion and intensity. He continues to work on technique to segment his strength and athleticism. We are very anxious to see him continue to grow as a Mustang Wrestler." Great work Ethan!

## WRESTLING



Congratulations to senior, Mason Dalrymple, who recorded his 100th career victory! Mason is the 30th Montabella wrestler to achieve this mark. Mason has been wrestling varsity since his Freshman year!



## December Mustangs of the Month



### Bralynn Clark

**Grade:** 9 - "Bralynn has a great work ethic, and is always looking for ways to improve. She is constantly asking me what she can do to improve. She puts in the work to get better at shooting, dribbling, etc. She is a role model for her teammates and other student athletes." Great job Bralynn!

## BASKETBALL



### Carter Simmons

**Grade:** 8 - "Carter recorded 6 pins during that stretch with one in 18 seconds and one in 22 seconds. Carter is a first year wrestler and started late because of an injury. He is athletic, strong, and an extremely hard worker. I thoroughly enjoyed having Carter on the team and I look forward to watching his success on the High School Level!" Excellent work Carter!

## WRESTLING



Congratulations to our Montabella Wrestling Mustang Duals **Champions**

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**

*Jann LaPointe*..... *President*  
*Scott Parks* ..... *Vice President*  
*Ivan Renne*..... *Secretary*  
*Eylie Foster* ..... *Treasurer*  
*Mike Rasmussen* ..... *Trustee*  
*Katie Ludwig* ..... *Trustee*  
*Shaila Powell* ..... *Trustee*

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# Mustang News

A PUBLICATION OF MONTABELLA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



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.

## NOW HIRING



### Join Our Team - Positions Available School Bus Drivers

No Experience Necessary, Free Training Provided  
Flexible Schedules  
No Nights, Weekends Or Holidays Required  
A Work Schedule That Matches Your Child's School Schedule

APPLY TODAY! 888-996-8586 



**UPDATE: Montabella will be switching to Biodegradable serving trays in February.**

**chartwells**  
eat. learn. live. 

Mrs. Dawson's class learned lots of great things about other states while they participated in the US Gingerbread Exchange! Classes from all over the United States sent letters with fun facts about their school and state. The kids were so excited when they received new letters and gifts!

