



Volume XLII Issue 4
May 2021

Mustang News

A PUBLICATION OF MONTABELLA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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TOP TEN*

Student Spotlight

Student of the Month

Senior Farewell

*Scan the QR Codes with your camera for Top 10 senior videos

Coach Balhorn 500 Wrestling WINS!



Coach Shaun Balhorn, is the 31st Michigan High School wrestling coach to achieve 500 wins! Thank you for your hard work, dedication, and faith in all of our Mustang Wrestlers! You built a successful program that encouraged many students to be better on AND off the mat.

UPCOMING EVENTS

It is time to return overdue school library books. Drop them off at the school office; no questions asked.

May 20—Senior Honors Night

May 23—Commencement (Invite Only)

May 27—Last day of school for students

August 6—Annual PTO/Sports Boosters Golf Outing



I

CAN

do anything I set my mind to!

MOVING FORWARD



Another unique school year is just about in the books. What an interesting 14 months it has been for everyone, but despite that, we have a group of students that deserve some recognition. Congratulations to the Class of 2021.

This fine group of young men and women have put forth the effort over the last thirteen years that has culminated with their upcoming graduation. Over the years we have been able to watch them grow and change from toddler to kids to teenagers and now to adults. What a transformation that takes place over the years and what a gift for our school staff to be able to have a front row seat year after year.

The Class of 2021 has some unique experiences, particularly within the last year that no one would have been able to predict. Those unexpected events and how we respond to them are part of what we hope every graduate takes away from their educational experience at Montabella. The ability to identify a problem, look for potential solutions, evaluate the positive and negatives of those solutions, develop an action plan and then most importantly make adjustments to the action plan. We all wish that we did not have to experience the pandemic but maybe we can make the best of a bad situation and use that experience to enhance those employability skills.

All of the staff at Montabella sends our best wishes to the Class of 2021. We hope that you are proud of your accomplishments as well as your hard work, and perseverance that has gotten you to this point. Best of luck in moving forward in the next phase of your life. You will always be a Mustang and we look forward to hearing about your accomplishments after high school.

chartwells
serving up happy & healthy

Lisa Hicks and the Chartwells kitchen staff teamed up with Mr. Sprau's Art 2 class to create a St. Patty's day themed art project this February. Students used recycled fruit cans for the base of their leprechaun hat along with paper, glue and cardboard. The leprechaun hats were displayed in the Montabella Jr/Sr media center for the week of St. Patty's day.



Students
Against
Destructive
Decisions

Red Ribbon Week

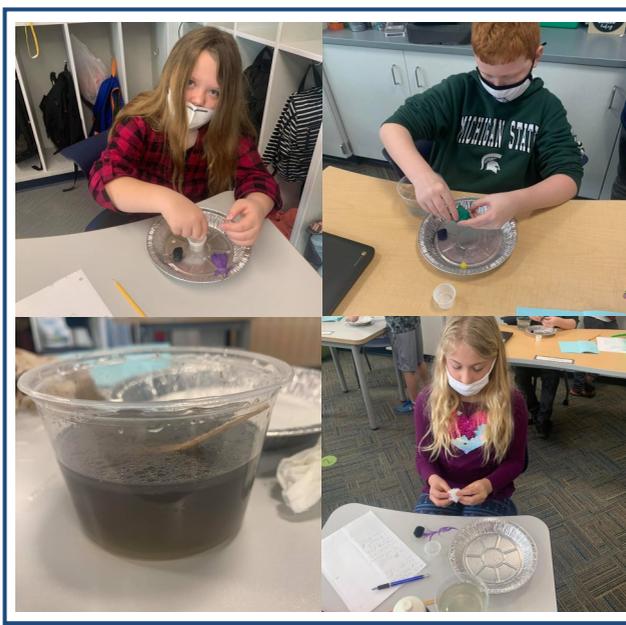
Lisa Hicks and Chartwells staff provided a week full of swag and delicious treats to help spread awareness against destructive decisions.

It was a successful week that included:
Orange You Glad to be Drug Free Day
Let's Taco Bout Being Drug Free Day
Choose Nuggs Not Drugs Day





Cookie tasting with Mrs. Garvey



Experiment Time

Mrs. Jones's class learned about oil spills and how they impact animals and the environment. We also explored brands and how advertising persuades people to buy certain products, even if they don't work the best! The dollar store soap beat Dawn!



EARTH DAY

Our Middle School student council hosted an Earth Day poster contest. The first place winner was, Katelynn Brundage, who wins a \$15 gift card. We had two students tie for second place, Natalie Ludwig and Brendan Dolson-Nisonger. They each win a \$10 gift card. Congratulations to our top winners!

February Mustang of the Month Drew Kelsey Basketball



Grade: 10
Age: 16



Stats:
14 points and 7 rebounds for February

Drew has worked extremely hard all offseason and during the season. This has been evident in his play as he leads an undefeated JV team. Drew is averaging over 14 points a game while only playing a quarter in the JV game, which allows him to play 4 quarters in the varsity game. Drew works hard every day, shows up to the weight room and works hard there. Drew has been a joy to coach!

March Mustang of the Month JT Smith Basketball



Grade: 10
Age: 16



Stats:
14 points, 4.6 rebounds, and 3.5 assists per game

JT showed great leadership down the stretch of the season for the Mustangs. He played balanced basketball, scoring in double figures in 9 out of 10 games played in March, and the only reason it wasn't all 10 was due to the fact he was more concerned about getting his teammates involved in a game that did not require him to carry the scoring load in order for the team to win. Although end of season awards have not been selected yet, JT was also nominated for 1st team all conference as well as 1st team all area as a sophomore as his game and leadership continues to grow. Great job JT! ~Coach Simon

February Mustang of the Month Tristin Almanza Wrestling



Grade: 11
Age: 18



Stats: In the month of February Tristin is undefeated with a 7-0 record.

Tristin has really dedicated himself to improving his physique and mental attitude towards being successful in the sport of wrestling. He is motivated and enthusiastic every day in his desire to get better and become a champion is unmatched in our room. Great job Tristin!

March Mustang of the Month Brady Kieff Wrestling



Grade: 7
Age: 12



Stats:
9-3 and 6 pins for month of March

Brady was 9 - 3 during March with 6 pins. This record was against Division 3 opponents and most often against wrestlers with more experience and a higher ability rating. He worked extremely hard during that time on his technique and was very coachable in the process. I love his competitive spirit and he is learning to channel his emotions in a more productive manner. This makes him very deserving of this recognition. Excellent job Brady!

MUSTANG OF THE MONTH

2021 Top 10



Hannah Willis is the daughter of Erica & Phil Vincent and Billy Willis. She currently resides in Blanchard and is graduating 1st in her class with Highest Honors. Hannah is a member of the National Honor Society, and was Homecoming Queen her senior year. During her high school career, Hannah participated in Track (4 years), Sideline Cheer (2 years), Poms (4 years), Language Arts Team (4 years), Band (4 years), Marching Band (4 years), Concert Band (4 years), Honors Band (3 years), SADD (4 years), Yellow Ribbon Club (4 years), Student of the Month multiple times, Links (1 year), PEER-to-PEER (1 year), Riverside Clean-up, Roadside Clean-up, and the recipient of the "I Dare You" Award. Outside of school, Hannah participated in 4-H for 2 years and she has worked at the Jump Station in Mt. Pleasant for 2 years. After graduation, Hannah plans to attend Saginaw State University to pursue a career in Education.



Hannah Willis

Kendall Bolton is the daughter of Kirsten and Brad Bolton. She currently resides in Blanchard and is graduating 2nd in her class with Highest Honors. Kendall is a member of the National Honor Society and Senior Class President. During her high school career, Kendall participated in Track & field (2 years), Cheerleading (2 years), Poms (1 year), Language arts Team (4 years), Quiz Bowl (2 years), Model UN (2 years), Band (2 years), and Dual Enrollment (2 years). Outside of school, Kendall works at Maurices in Mt. Pleasant and loves to sing. After graduation, Kendall plans to attend Mid-Michigan College and then transfer to Western Michigan University to pursue a career in Aviation Flight Science.



Kendall Bolton



Maycee Chaney is the daughter of Chad & Mandy Chaney. She currently resides in Blanchard and is graduating 3rd in her class with Highest Honors. Maycee is a member of the National Honor Society and was a member of the Captain's Council. During her high school career, Maycee participated in Sideline Cheer (3 years), Competitive Cheer (1 year), Basketball (1 year), Softball (2 years), Track (2 years), Band (3 years), Marching Band (3 years), Concert Band (3 years), Yellow Ribbon (4 years), and Dual Enrollment (1 year). Outside of school, Maycee is a member of Waves/Church Youth Group and enjoys drawing & painting and doing photography. After graduation, she plans to attend Montcalm Community College to get her Associates Degree and then transfer to a university to get her bachelor's degree in either Business Management or Photography.



Maycee Chaney

Natalie Lutz is the daughter of Jeff Lutz and Heather Ellis. She currently resides in Blanchard and is graduating 4th in her class with Highest Honors. Natalie is a member of the National Honor Society, on the Student Council, and Senior Class Secretary. During her high school career, Natalie participated in Poms (3 years), Sideline Cheer (3 years - captain), Talent Show (3 years), Forensics (3 years), Competitive Cheer (1 year), Science Olympiad (1 year), Student Advisory (1 year), Band (4 years), Marching Band (4 years), Concert Band (4 years), Career Center (1 year), Yellow Ribbon (1 year), SADD (2 years), Spanish Club (4 years), Student of the Month, Harvest Dinner, and PROM Committee. Outside of school, Natalie is a member of her Youth Group and works at Dave's Dairy Delight in Edmore. She enjoys spending time with her friends & family, singing, and playing her ukulele. After graduation, Natalie plans to attend Central Michigan University to pursue a career in Dermatology.



Natalie Lutz



Roman Nickerson is the son of Rick & Bobbi Nickerson. He currently resides in Edmore and is graduating 5th in his class with Highest Honors. Roman is in the National Honor Society and attends the Montcalm Community College for Dual Enrollment. During his high school career, Roman participated in Baseball (4 years) & Woodshop (3 years). Outside of school, Roman currently works at a hobby shop and enjoys helping at several community service events: Edmore Food Pantry, Back Pack Buddies (4 years), Back to School Supply Give Away (3 years), Mobile Food Truck (2 years), and Vans Food Give Away (1 year). After graduation, Roman plans to attend culinary school to become a chef.



Roman Nickerson



Nolan Wilkinson is the son of Kevin & Connie Wilkinson. He currently resides in Blanchard and is graduating 6th in his class with High Honors. Nolan is in the National Honor Society and Dual Enrollment. During his high school career, Nolan has participated in Model UN (3 years), Quizbowl (3 years) and Forensics (2 years). Outside of school, Nolan has worked at Dewitt Lumber for 3 years and enjoys going on vacations as far away as possible and reading books. After graduation, Nolan plans to attend Vernon Community College in Texas to pursue a career in journalism.



Nolan Wilkinson

Parker Burggren is the son of Jay & Lisa Burggren. He currently resides in Edmore and is graduating 7th in his class with Highest Honors. Parker is in the National Honor Society and was on the Montcalm Community College Dean's List while attending Dual Enrollment in high school. During his high school career, Parker has participated in Football (4 years), Basketball (2 years), Band (4 years), recipient of the "I Dare You" award, and attended the HOBY Leadership Conference. Outside of school, Parker



works at Randall's Old Mill in Edmore, volunteers at Mt. Pleasant Community Church, volunteers at Lazy T Ranch, raises chickens, keeps bees, and enjoys hunting, fishing and anything outdoors. After graduation, Parker plans to attend Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie to pursue a career in Conservation Biology.

Parker Burggren



Brenna Hunt is the daughter of Keith & Katrina Hunt. She currently resides in Edmore and is graduating 8th in her class with Highest Honors. Brenna is in the National Honor Society, CAS, and Dual Enrollment. During her high school career, Brenna participated in Track (1 year), Poms (1 year), Spanish Club (1 year), Student Council (3 years), Band (4 years), Marching Band (4 years), Concert Band (4 years), Honors Band (1 year), Career Center (1 year), Student of the Month, NHS Blood drive, PROM Committee, Harvest Dinner, Riverside Clean-up, and Roadside Clean-up. Outside of school, she worked at Main Street Pizza in Edmore and



Brenna Hunt

currently works at Leona's Restaurant in Vestaburg. After graduation, Brenna plans to attend Montcalm Community College and then transfer to Central Michigan University to pursue a career in Child Counseling.

Taylor Harkness is the daughter of Tyler & Carrie Harkness. She currently resides in Edmore and is graduating 9th in her class with High Honors. Taylor is in the National Honor Society and was in Dual Enrollment. During her high school career, Taylor has participated in Basketball (1 year), Equestrian Team (4 years), Language Arts Team (4 years), Forensics (2 years), Yearbook, and PEER-to-PEER. Outside of school, Taylor enjoys riding horseback, spending time with her friends, eating snacks and playing with her dogs. After graduation, Taylor plans to attend Montcalm Community College to pursue a career in Communications and Marketing.



Taylor Harkness



Helena Snyder is the daughter of Jim & Teresa Snyder. She currently resides in Edmore and is graduating 10th in her class with High Honors. Helena was on the Student Council for 3 years and Senior Class Representative. During her high school career, Helena participated in Track (4 years – repeatedly breaking the school high jump record), Basketball (4 years), Cross Country (3 years), Career Center (1 year), SADD (2 years), and Yellow Ribbon Club (3 years). Outside of school, Helena worked at Anderson & Girls and currently works at McDonalds in Edmore. After graduation, Helena plans to attend



Helena Snyder

Montcalm Community College and become rich through investing.



Caiden Kooker



Meeah Perkins



Weston Sturm



Skylar McIntyre



David Gonzalez



Ella Anderson



Gunnar Preston



Cayden Deal



Maelee Brown



Thomas Ryers



Peighton Ward



Amelia Grandy



Damien Finley



Parker Koehler



Logan Finley



Cataleya Miller



Serenity Watters



Ryder Eldred



Nicanor Garcia-Pantoja



Connor Moore



Lily Deal



Katie Taylor



Abbie Wisley



Raelynn Perkins



Colten Miller



Brooklynn Porter



Kadin Dalrymple



Autumn Willis



Bailie Carlson



Kinsley Hubbard



Corbin Lombard



Julius Hudson



Benjamin Brundage



Michael Ockert



Autumn Smith



Makayla Helmer



Ashlyn Newcombe



Aden Champlin



Makayla Dickinson



Kortney Robinson



Gabriella Arguijo



Skyler Miller



Riley Ames



Shane Perkins



Seth Jordan



Garrett Paulson



Bailey Kauffman



Camden Moravik



Marley Demmick



Maxie Ludwig



Kain Karcher



Kyleigh Bovee



Allison Chapman



Gabe Kauffman



Sierra Pranger



John Richards



Ellie Zeien



Bailey Kelsey



Tristan Knapp



Genevieve Bass



Lisa Hicks



Mrs. Heller

JR/SR STUDENT OF THE MONTH



January: Aiden Sprague (7), Isabelle Storey (8), Brady Carlson (9), Kase Jerome (10), Julie Spohn (11), Abigail Hadley (12)



February: Gavin Simmons (7), Carly Bonasse (8), Daisy Fitzgerald (9), Sydney Adgate (10), Dylan Wingert (11), Anna Himebaugh (12)

Mustang Pride

March: Chase Keller (7), Gavin Willis (8), Genika Gray (9), Payton Sheldon (10), Makayla Alzamora (11), Makenna Jensen (12)



2021 VARSITY SOFTBALL

Bottom row: Abby Munro (9), Sara Courser (11), Bralynn Clark (10), Savannah Almanza (9), Middle Row: Kylie Pifer (9), Trista Perkins (11), Kaydenn Aggas (9), Katie Spohn (9), Back Row: Jairen Olger (9), Kalia Adams (9), Emma Murray (9), Ella Kotenko (10), and Julie Spohn (11)



Anatomy & Physiology

Hands On Learning!

Mr. Urbanawiz's Anatomy and Physiology class spent some time dissecting a heart!

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

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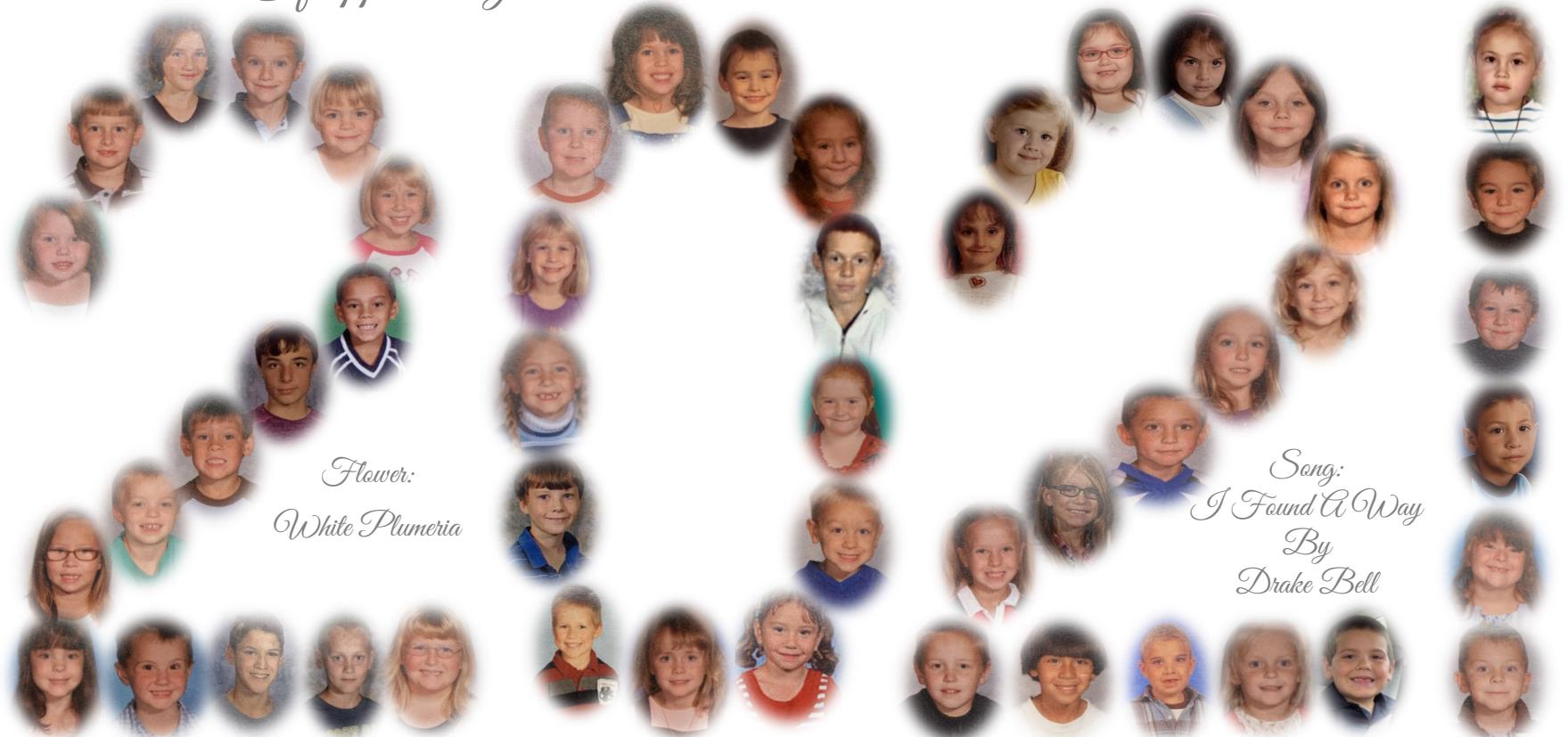
Eagle Scout Court of Honors

Congratulations to Jakob Perkins, Corey Rohn, Landon Hendrickson, Seth Davidson, and Ethan Smyth on this high honor!



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.

Congratulations to the class of 2021
"If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door." ~Milton Berle



Flower:
White Plumeria

Song:
I Found A Way
By
Drake Bell