



The Badger Barker



January 2024 Badger School District #676 Volume XXIX Issue 4
Student Editor: Alvaro Alves Sanchez & Hailey Lundgren

Badger High School Nominates Jordan Lee for 'Triple A' Award

Badger High School recently announced it nominated Jordan Lee for the Academics, Arts, & Athletics (AAA) Award.

Sponsored by the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL), the AAA Award honors high school seniors who have excelled in the classroom, in fine arts, and on the athletic field. Students who are nominated must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 or better, participate in MSHSL sponsored fine arts and athletic activities, and comply with the MSHSL's Student Code of Conduct.

AAA Award recipients are selected through a multi-level process that involves League member schools, the League's administrative regions, and a special committee of educators, business leaders, and members from the fine arts and athletic communities. Regional winners will be announced at the AAA Banquet in Mahanomen on February 7, 2024.

The top two AAA Award candidates from each region will be invited to a recognition banquet and will participate in an on-court ceremony during the 2024 Class AA Minnesota Boys' State Basketball championship game in March. League officials will announce two state Award recipients – one girl and one boy from both Class A and Class AA schools – during the on-court ceremony. Each state award recipient will receive a four-year \$1,000 scholarship.

A consistent A honor roll student, Jordan Lee is a member of the Badger Chapter of the National Honor Society, Math League, Knowledge Bowl, Target, Envirothon, and has served as a class officer. In addition to completing college prep coursework at Badger, she has successfully completed numerous college courses during her high school career. Jordan plays flute in the Badger High School band, where she serves as a section leader, and has helped the large group band earn several superior ratings. She is an athlete who participates in basketball and softball, and she is a member of the Gator basketball and softball teams who recently participated in the 2023 Minnesota State Basketball and Softball Tournaments. She plans to enroll in the Dental Hygiene Program at the Minnesota State Community and Technical College, Moorhead. Jordan is the daughter of John and Gretchen Lee of Badger.

Badger School Superintendent/Principal Kevin Ricke shared, "The Badger School District is very proud and honored to nominate Ms. Jordan Lee for the AAA award. Jordan thrives academically and is active in many different organizations and student activities. In addition, Jordan is an excellent role model within the Badger School and exemplifies what the AAA award represents." The Badger School District congratulates Jordan Lee on her nominations and accomplishments, and wishes her well in the region 8A AAA competition.

For more information about the AAA Award program, please contact the Minnesota State High School League at 763-560-2262 or <https://www.mshsl.org/triple-award> on the web.





Badger School Superintendent's News

I hope this January publication of *The Badger Barker* finds you, and finds you well.

Please visit our school website at badger.k12.mn.us and click on "View Calendar" found under the "Upcoming Events" right margin list toward the lower right-hand corner of the home page to see schedule updates for academic, art, and athletic events.

Events this month:

- Tue-Jan 2 School back in session after winter break.
- Sat-Jan 6 The Badger Chapter of FCCLA is sponsoring the third annual "Night of Lights" Semi-Formal Winter Dance for grades 9-12 at Badger School gymnasium from 8:00 p.m. to Midnight. *What does the acronym FCCLA stand for?* Family, Career and Community Leaders of America
- Jan 9, 16, 23, 30 Badger Elementary School is a Northwest Minnesota Arts Council (NMAC) Artist in Residence Program grant recipient. Each Tuesday when school is in session from January 9 to March 26 (twelve weeks) six out of the seven elementary grade levels will have at least a 45-minute session with Artist in Residence Alyssa Aune. Thank you Mary Langaas, kindergarten teacher, for successfully submitting the application again on behalf of our Badger Elementary School.
- Wed-Jan 10 ASVAB for Juniors and Pre ACT for Sophomores.
What does the acronym ASVAB stand for? Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery
What does the acronym ACT stand for? American College Test
- Jan 9, 16, 23, 30 Senior High Knowledge Bowl season begins with competitions being held most Tuesdays during the month of January. Please contact coach Mike Colton.
- Mon-Jan 15 No school for students - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Mon-Jan 15 Badger teachers will be doing virtual online learning during the MLK Professional Development Day sponsored by Northwest Service Cooperative based out of Thief River Falls.
- Wed-Jan 17 College Financial Aid Night, Badger Business Tech Room 29 at 6:30 p.m. A representative from the Financial Aid Office at Northland Community & Technical College (NCTC) will be the presenter. There are major changes (i.e., redesigned and streamlined) coming in 2024-25 for FAFSA. *What does the acronym FAFSA stand for?* Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- Fri-Jan 19 End of Quarter 2, end of academic Semester 1. Students dismissed early at 12:30 p.m.
- Fri-Jan 19 FCCLA De-Vice student activity night 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; more details to be announced.
- Mon-Jan 22 Start of Quarter 3, start of academic Semester 2
- Mon-Jan 22 The next Northern Lights Math League 8A Division event is scheduled for January 22. Please contact coach Sherri Kukowski for more details.
- Mon-Jan 22 Elementary Basketball Tournament between grade levels at Badger gym; more details to be announced.
- Wed-Jan 24 Spelling Bee in the Badger Cafeteria at 1:30 p.m. Grades 5-8 are eligible
- Wed-Jan 24 FCCLA Regional STAR Events at Ada, MN. STAR = Students Taking Action with Recognition are competitive events in which members are recognized for proficiency and achievement in chapter and individual projects, leadership skills, and career preparation.
- Jan 22-28 We are eagerly waiting for the official statewide announcement; however, we anticipate Minnesota Paraprofessional Recognition Week will be the same corresponding week as last year (subject to change with official announcement).
Paraprofessionals work in a variety of positions in our school, including, but not limited to, instructional assistants, pupil support assistants, special education paraprofessionals, lunch room and playground assistants, hall monitors, bus monitors, media center assistants, drivers, and family liaisons.
Our educational team will acknowledge our dedicated paraprofessionals listed in alphabetical order (no one was intentionally left out): Whitley Aamodt, Karla Davy, Tami Davy, Heather Gullickson, Diann Hauger, Lorraine Kukowski, Anna Mather, Tracy Peterson, Alyssa Pulczynski, Elizabeth Randall, Renee Rhen, Naomi Rybakowski, Tasha Seydel, and Kally Smith.
- Tue-Jan 23 Dual *Gator* wrestling match here in the Badger gym versus the Bagley/Fosston Brawlers
- Tue-Jan 30 Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) ~ "Welcome Back" Badger School Gym Night. Please contact either Gretchen Lee or Becky Dostal for more details.

With a spirit of rejuvenation, I am looking forward to 2024 ☺

Thank you, Kevin Ricke





Campus Comment

By: Arianna Grugal

What is your favorite winter activity?

Naomi Turpitt (7th grade): My favorite winter activity is skiing and sledding with friends. I like doing this stuff because it's fun and it's nice to go outside and have fun!

Abram Wirta (8th grade): I like driving snowmobiles with uncle Eric. It's fun because we go fast. I like to wear the helmet.

Caine Larson (9th grade): Snowmobiling with a sled attached; it's really fun and thrilling! I like to ride in the sled the most. When my siblings are in it, I try to tip it over so they wipe out. But I do also drive it and I always make sure to spin up snow and cause both sleds to drift. I do also like to just speed around on it normally.

Zaymein Rud (10th grade): My favorite winter activity is probably skiing. It's my favorite activity because the two times I went, I had more fun than any other activity. Maybe it was because I was with my classmates, either way I'd say skiing is most fun.

Ella Gust (11th grade): Snowcat racing is my favorite winter activity because I get to spend time with my family. I also really like traveling to the races. I also really like hanging out with my friends that race too.

Danton Bronson (12th grade): My all-time favorite winter activity is snowmobiling. It is always so fun riding with friends and family. But my favorite part is the speed of them and just feeling the wind.

Mr. Ricke (Principal/Superintendent): Hardwater fishing with a spear in a dark-house on a frozen snow covered lake was one of my grandfather's favorite past-times. Grandpa was a blacksmith who welded, forged, and sold tools like ice tongs, chisels, spears, and wood stoves. He also had wood-carved fish decoys with tin fins. The tradition of luring northern pike into the aquarium like view of a large rectangular hole by circle jigging decoys through the lake ice is enjoyable.



Textile Design Class

Badger FCS Textile Design class students applied their sewing skills to construct aprons. They then learned about embroidery and personalized their projects. Pictured are Eli Monsrud, Wyatt Jenson, Henry Osborne, Emery Christensen, Austin Przekwas, Levi Olson, Cale Lindland, Avealah Hanson, Ashlyn Johnson, Makayla McClure, Katelyn Gust, Hallie Glodowski, Kylee Larson





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Gator Sports

By: Caden Wojciehowski

For changes in schedule go to www.badger.k12.mn.us and click on "Gator Athletic Schedules."

January

Boys Wrestling

- 2 Blackduck, Fertile-Beltrami @ BGMR
- 9 Frazee @ BGMR
- 11 @ Pembina County North
- 12 @ Minnewaska Area Tournament
- 13 @ Alexandria Tournament
- 20 @ Thief River Falls Tournament
- 23 Fosston @ BGMR
- 27 @ Larimore Tournament
- 30 Hatton-Northwood @ BGMR

Boys Basketball

- 4 @ Warren-Alvarado-Oslo
- 9 @ Stephen-Argyle @ BGMR
- 12 @ Kittson County Central
- 15 @ Lake of the Woods
- 16 Roseau @ BGMR
- 18 Fertile-Beltrami @ BGMR
- 23 @ Clearbrook-Gonvick
- 26 @ Goodridge-Grygla
- 29 @ Scared Heart

Girls Basketball

- 4 @ Thief River Falls
- 8 Stephen-Argyle @ BGMR
- 11 @ Grygla-Goodridge
- 12 Roseau @ BGMR
- 15 Thompson @ BGMR
- 20 Mahnomen-Waubun @ BGMR
- 25 Kittson County Central @ BGMR
- 27 @ Fosston
- 29 @ Fertile-Beltrami

February

Boys Wrestling

- 1 Crookston, Roseau @ BGMR
- 3 @ Fertile Tournament
- 13 @ Section Quarters
- 16 @ Section Team
- 24 @ Section Individual
- 29 @ State Tournament

Boys Basketball

- 1 @ Northern Freeze
- 2 @ Roseau
- 6 Kittson County Central @ BGMR
- 8 @ Warroad
- 10 @ Grygla-Goodridge Tournament
- 15 @ East Grand Forks
- 20 @ Fisher-Climax-Shelly
- 22 Lake of the Woods @ BGMR
- 23 @ Conference Tournament (TBD)
- 26 @ Red Lake
- 29 @ Blackduck

Girls Basketball

- 1 @ Roseau
- 2 Red Lake Falls @ BGMR
- 5 @ Stephen-Argyle
- 8 Warroad @ BGMR
- 9 Warren-Alvarado-Oslo @ BGMR
- 13 Grygla-Goodridge @ BGMR
- 16 @ Win-E-Mac
- 19 @ Sacred Heart
- 22 @ Northern Freeze
- 23 @ Warren-Alvarado-Oslo

Girls Wrestling

- 3 @ Pine Island Invitational
- 10 Section Individual

Trivia

By: Alvaro Alves Sanchez

1. In which city was John F. Kennedy assassinated?
 - A. Dallas
 - B. Washington D.C
 - C. New York
 - D. Chicago
2. What is Cynophobia the fear of?
 - A. Insects
 - B. Birds
 - C. Dogs
 - D. Cats
3. What is the currency of Poland?
 - A. Franc
 - B. Zloty
 - C. Euro
 - D. Dollar
4. What is the symbol for copper in the periodic table of elements?
 - A. Cu
 - B. Co
 - C. Cp



Badger High School Nominates Bethanie VonEnde & Masen Swenson for ExCEL Award

Badger High School is pleased to announce the nomination of juniors Bethanie VonEnde and Masen Swenson for the Minnesota State High School League's ExCEL Award. ExCEL (Excellence in Community, Education and Leadership) is a program designed to recognize high school juniors who are active as volunteers in their communities, hold leadership positions within their school, participate in MSHSL sponsored activities, and perform well academically.

In January, an independent panel of judges will review applications from throughout Minnesota to select this year's ExCEL Award recipients. Statewide winners of the 27th annual ExCEL Award will be announced on the MSHSL website on February 6, 2024, and recognized on 45TV during the winter tournaments. Statewide winners will also be recognized in an on-court ceremony during the Class AA Girls Basketball State Tournament championship game in March.

Masen Swenson's activities include football, basketball, golf, and band. He is a captain for the Gator football and basketball teams, a section leader in band, and has earned an all-conference award in golf. He has spent time volunteering around the school and community, specifically with the Badger Fire Department, St. Mary's Church and youth group, and coaching youth at football and basketball camps. Masen can often be found volunteering his time mowing lawns in the community, and consistently achieves the school honor roll. Masen's parents are Jeremy and Angie Swenson.



Bethanie VonEnde has served her community by making quilts for kids who have been involved in accidents, serving food at church, working with the Backpack Meal Program, working at a blood drive, being a peer mentor to Unified Athletes, and volunteering at FCCLA events. She participates in band, golf, wrestling, and clay target team. She also is a former cheer team member, has been a wrestling manager, and is currently a football manager. She has served as a class officer and a member of the Student Council. Bethanie is also active with National Honor Society, Math League, FCCLA, and consistently earns honor roll status. Bethanie is the daughter of Jedd and Jandi VonEnde.

According to Superintendent Kevin Ricke, "We are proud to announce the selections of Bethanie VonEnde and Masen Swenson as ExCEL Award nominees. Both Masen and Bethanie engage in useful tasks serving others as well as giving back to our own school programs as well as Gator interscholastic activities; both perform at a high academic level; both are positive ambassadors for what Badger Community School and the ExCEL Award exemplify."

Badger Dean of Students Stacey Warne commented, "Masen and Bethanie have modeled leadership, community and school involvement, all while holding themselves to high academic standards throughout their high school careers. We are pleased to nominate these two deserving young people for the ExCEL Award. We wish Masen and Bethanie good luck in the state level competition."



7th Grade Gingerbread Tradition Continues

Back: Marley Haugen Rosadino,
Eli Monsrud, Naomi Turpitt,
Kiley Streich, Ava Gust,
Aiden Thompson

Front: Aaron Jasiqi, Grant Olson,
Maizy Thompson, Gage Otto, Kaylie
Streich, Wyatt Jensen



White Chocolate Pomegranate-Pistachio Bark

<https://www.countryliving.com/food-drinks/a41767019/white-chocolate-pomegranate-pistachio-bark/>

By: Measha Troxel

Ingredients:

8 oz. white chocolate, chopped
¼ cup pomegranate seeds, plus more for sprinkling
2 tablespoons. roasted pistachios, chopped, plus more for sprinkling

Directions:

Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper. Melt chocolate in microwave-safe bowl on high, stirring every 30 seconds, until smooth, about 1 minute. Stir in pomegranates and pistachios. Pour on prepared baking sheet and smooth with an offset spatula. Sprinkle top with pomegranates and pistachios. Freeze until firm, 25 to 30 minutes. Break into pieces. Refrigerate in an airtight container up to one week.



Blackberry Cobbler

<https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/218009/barons-blackberry-cobbler/>

By: William Peterson

Ingredients:

Berries:

½ cup white sugar
2 tablespoons cornstarch
6 cups fresh blackberries
¼ cup unsalted butter, melted

Batter:

2½ cups all purpose flour
1½ cups white sugar
1 tablespoon baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
2 cups milk
¼ cup unsalted butter, melted
1 tablespoon vanilla

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350. Lightly grease a 9x13 baking dish.
2. Prepare the berries: Whisk sugar and cornstarch together in a small bowl. Place blackberries into a mixing bowl and drizzle with melted butter. Sprinkle cornstarch over top, then toss until evenly coated. Spread into the prepared baking dish.
3. Make the batter: Whisk flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt together in a mixing bowl until evenly blended. Stir in milk, melted butter, and vanilla until combined but still slightly lumpy. Pour over berries in the baking dish.
4. Bake in the preheated oven until berries are tender and the crust is golden brown, 55 to 60 minutes.





Kindergarten Korner

By: Hailey Lundgren



Gahrizim Jean

What are you enjoying about kindergarten? I like doing math and I like to go outside.

What is your favorite season? Summertime because we have bonfires. I go swimming in the summer.

What is your favorite holiday? Christmas because I like wrapping the presents. I want a bike this year.

What do you want to be when you grow up? I want to be an artist so I can do lots of art. I like pencils.

If you had a superpower, what would it be? Webs like Spiderman so I can wrap up people.

If you could be any animal, what would you be? A horse so I can give people rides and I can run really fast.

Lucas Erickson

What are you enjoying about kindergarten? I like kindergarten because we go outside and I play on the swings a lot. I never get off!

What is your favorite season? Deer season because I go hunting with my dad. He got deer this year. One was a 10 pointer.

What is your favorite holiday? Christmas because Santa gives you toys. The more toys he gives, the bigger pile of toys I get.

What do you want to be when you grow up? I'm gonna be a cop. I like to arrest bad guys. I pretend play that already.

If you had a superpower, what would it be? Speed because I can go really fast and beat my brother in a race.

If you could be any animal, what would you be? A cat because I would catch mice and keep them.



Deklyn Madoll

What are you enjoying about kindergarten? I like that we get playtime on the tractor and the tree house.

What is your favorite season? All of them. I like to jump on the trampoline and play tractor outside in the summer.

What is your favorite holiday? Halloween. I had a star and a mask on my costume. It was probably Captain America.

What do you want to be when you grow up? I want to have a job at the grocery store. I can raise a ton of money.

If you had a superpower, what would it be? I would be making tornados because I like tornados and whirlpools.

If you could be any animal, what would you be? I would be a hornet so I could pretend to sting people.



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Student Opinion

By: Kylee Gust

Would you rather spend a day without your phone or a day alone with no people?

Greta Wojciechowski (11th): I would choose a day without my phone. I'd rather go hang out with friends than be on my phone. There are people in life that make me happier than a phone. Phones ruin the world with false information and ruins the actual picture of the world. I'd rather visit a place than see it through a screen. The only thing my phone is good for is music.

Braedon Lane (9th): I would rather spend the day alone with no people than a day without my phone. I chose to spend the day alone because I'm not a big fan of a lot of people. If I really needed to talk to someone, I would use my phone to call them instead of seeing them.

Briggs Jenson (10th): I would rather go a day without my phone because I can spend time with my friends and go snowcatting. I'd also go muzzleloading hunting with my friends. I would also work on wrestling and staying on top with my homework. I would also just hang out at home and just be with my friends.

Ashton Pickhartz (12th): I would rather spend a day with no people; although, it depends on the people I'm with. If I was with some old folks knitting or something, I'd rather have my phone. I wouldn't want to spend an entire 24 hours with people because I've got to sleep and shower and what not.



Dates to Remember

By: Jaden Kukowski

January

- 1 No School ~ Winter Break
- 6 FCCLA 'Night of Lights' Dance, grades 9-12
- 8 School Board ~ 7:30 pm
- 7 Open Gym ~ 3:30 to 5:00 pm
- 9 Sr. High Knowledge Bowl Meet @ Thief River Falls
- 10 ASVAB~ Grade 11
- 10 PreACT~ Grade 10
- 14 Open Gym ~ 3:00 to 5:00 pm
- 15 No School ~ Staff Development
- 14 Open Gym ~ 3:30 to 5:00 pm
- 16 Sr. High Knowledge Bowl Meet @ Thief River Falls
- 17 College Financial Aid Event ~ 6:30 pm
- 19 End of Quarter 2 ~ Students dismissed @ 12:30 pm
- 21 Open Gym ~ 3:30 to 5:00 pm
- 22 Math League Meet
- 22-28 Minnesota Paraprofessional Recognition Week
- 23 Sr. High Knowledge Bowl Meet @ Thief River Falls
- 24 FCCLA Regional STAR Events @ Ada
- 28 Open Gym ~ 3:30 to 5:00pm
- 30 Sr. High Knowledge Bowl Meet @ Thief River Falls
- 30 ECFE ~ 6:00pm

February

- 4 Open Gym ~ 3:30 to 5:00 pm
- 6 ECFE ~ 6:00pm
- 7 MSHSL Triple A Award Banquet @ Mahnomen
- 8 Jr. High Knowledge Bowl Meet @ Thief River Falls
- 11 Open Gym ~ 3:30 to 5:00pm
- 12 Math League Meet
- 12 School Broad ~ 7:30 pm
- 13 Sr. High Knowledge Bowl Meet @ Thief River Falls
- 13 ECFE ~ 6:00pm
- 15 Parent-Teacher Conferences ~ students dismissed @ 12:30 pm
- 18 Open Gym ~ 3:30 to 5:00 pm
- 19 No School ~ Presidents Day
- 20 Sr. High Knowledge Bowl Meet @ Thief River Falls
- 20 Jr. High Knowledge Bowl Meet @ Roseau
- 20 ECFE ~ 6:00pm
- 21 Third Quarter Midterm
- 21 Large Group Instrumental Contest @ Roseau
- 23 Ski Trip, grades 5-6
- 25 Open Gym ~ 3:30 to 5:00 pm
- 27 No ECFE ~ Precinct Caucasus Day
- 27 Sr. High Knowledge Bowl Meet @ Thief River Falls
- 28 Jr. High Knowledge Bowl Meet @ Greenbush





Choir Musician of the Month Hallie Glodowski



Grade: 9th

What section are you in? I'm in the soprano section.

How long have you been in choir? This will be my second year in choir.

What styles of music do you like to sing? I like to sing a variety of genres, but I like rock the best.

What do you enjoy the most about being in choir? I like the singing and talking to friends.

What are you looking forward to this year in choir? I'm looking forward to the large group contest.

What advice would you give other vocalists in choir? Do your best, pay attention, and have fun.

What is your favorite choir memory? My favorite memory from choir would be meeting most of my friends there.



Band Musician of the Month Quynn Washington

Grade: 8

What instrument do you play and why did you choose this instrument? I chose percussion because it was the easiest and I thought it fit me, but I went through many other instrument to get here.

If you could learn a new instrument, what would you pick? Trumpet, because if I didn't choose percussion, trumpet was my second choice.

What is your favorite song to play? Pep band song is *Thriller* because it has a lot of fills. Concert songs is *Bell Carol*.

If you could pick a theme for Music Revue, what theme would you pick? Holiday theme because it is fun to celebrate the different holidays, even birthdays.

What is your most memorable moment in band? When we went to state for volleyball and basketball.

What advice would you give to younger musicians? I would tell them band is really fun; especially when you get to go to state and meet new people.

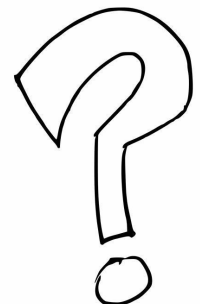
Who inspired you to be part of band? My mom because she played alto and I wanted too also, but that didn't work. Ms. Erickson because she encouraged me to stay in band even when the instruments didn't fit me.

Random Riddles

<https://parade.com/947956/parade/riddles/>

By: Caine Larson

1. What has a thumb and four fingers, but is not a hand?
2. What stalks the countryside with ears that can't hear?
3. What kind of coat is best put on wet?
4. I am an odd number. Take away a letter and I become even. What number am I?
5. Three doctors said that Bill was their brother. Bill says he has no brothers. How many brothers does Bill actually have?
6. If there are three apples and you take away two, how many apples do you have?
7. Two fathers and two sons are in a car, yet there are only three people in the car. How?





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Senior Spotlight Damien Tuura

Parent: Scott Tuura
Siblings: Hannah, Laura
Nicknames: Flame, Red
Favorite:

Sport: Football
Food: Red meat
Color: Red, black
Hobby: Driving and going to work
Quote: "Expect the worst, hope for the best."

If you found a genie, what would be your three wishes? 1968 Dodge Charger, to be wealthy, and to never lose Danton.

If you could change one thing in the world, what would it be? Make everything legal at 18.

If you could take a road trip with one person, who would it be and where would you go? I would take Danton and we would go to Montana to see the mountains.

What do you think you'll be remembered by most? My explosive attitude.

What is the craziest thing you've done in high school? When I had a panic attack during dodge ball.

Senior Spotlight Measha Troxel

Parents: Jeff Rasmussen & Jennifer Troxel
Siblings: Jace, Miles, Gabe, Kolby, Anistain
Nickname: Meash
Favorite:

Sport: Soccer
Food: Steak
Color: Pink
Hobby: Making blankets
Quote: "Anything lost, can be found again, except for time wasted." ~Kevin Gates

If you found a genie, what would be your three wishes? Stop world hunger, success, and unlimited cash.

If you could change one thing in the world, what would it be? I would end racism.

If you could take a road trip with one person, who would it be and where would you go? I would go to the Bahamas with my favorite cousin Eliana.

What do you think you'll be remembered by most? My lack of being at school.

What is the craziest thing you've done in high school? When I pulled up to school and realized nobody was there because we had the day off.



Trivia Answers

1. A 2. C 3. B 4. A

Random Riddles Answers

1. A glove
2. Corn
3. A coat of paint
4. Seven
5. None. He has three sisters.
6. You have two apples.
7. They are a grandfather, father, and son.



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Senior Spotlight Ada Lee

Parents: John & Gretchen Lee

Siblings: Greta, Jordan

Nicknames: Aids, Ada Jo

Favorite:

Sport: Track & Field

Food: Pasta

Color: Blue

Hobby: Hanging out with my friends.

Quote: "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." ~ Matthew 6:34

If you found a genie, what would be your three wishes? My three wishes would be for all of my family and friends to stay healthy and safe, unlimited money, and my dog lives as long as I do.

If you could change one thing in the world, what would it be? That there is a cure for cancer.

If you could take a road trip with one person, who would it be and where would you go? I would choose my twin sister Jordan. We would go somewhere warm like San Diego, California. We might have a few close calls when driving, but we'll get there one way or another.

What do you think you'll be remembered by most? Being Jordan's twin sister.

What is the craziest thing you've done in high school? Threw a party on the back of the track bus.



Ramp-Up Topics for January

Submitted by: Stacey Warne, Dean of Students

GRADE 6: Students will learn how to take a specific type of notes, called Cornell Notes, to help them keep track of information that is presented in their classes. When students take better notes, they become more engaged in their learning and are able to retain important information. Sixth graders will also be looking at what different types of postsecondary education may be available to them down the road.

GRADE 7: It is not too early to start thinking about a career and exploring what career options might be available after graduation. Students will assess their interests and skills and match them to different career fields. Seventh graders will also learn about the personal and financial benefits of a high skilled career that requires a postsecondary degree. In most cases, the higher degree of education, the higher the social emotional benefits and wage earnings.

GRADE 8: During January, students will be discussing the importance of peer relationships in middle and high school and how social media impacts those relationships. Being aware of the influences of peers and social media will help students make sound decisions when they need to solve problems. Eighth graders will also be looking at getting prepared for high school and the graduation requirements here in Badger.

GRADE 9: Ninth grade students will be discussing stress, its impact on them, and how they can learn to manage it in their lives. Students will identify and list some of their internal strengths (assets) and will learn how they can use those to overcome the external obstacles they face.

GRADE 10: Is intelligence fixed? Won't a C student always be a C student? Sophomores will look at a theory that shows the difference between having a fixed mindset vs. a growth mindset. People can and do grow their ability to learn and achieve. Smart is not how we are born, smart is what we work to become. Parents can find more information about the growth mindset at: <https://www.mindsetworks.com/parents/default>

GRADE 11: Juniors will be provided information about the elements of college applications which included tests and essays. The ACT, SAT, placement tests, preparation options, and guidance on writing essays for college scholarships and applications will be covered.

GRADE 12: Seniors will be exploring the concept of "good debt" versus "bad debt" and how it can impact their lives now and after high school. One activity specifically addresses credit card debt with high interest rates that can cause students to have financial difficulty when they graduate. Basic budgeting information will also be addressed.



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Elementary Viewpoint

By: Adysen Gregerson

What was the most exciting thing you did in this last year?

Coraline Jenson (1st grade): I visited my grandma and grandpa's house. I colored a picture for my mom. I played with my dolls.

Elena Lindemann (2nd grade): The best thing was going to my grandma's. She has a big tree with a swing attached to it. We got to swing on it. It is fun!

Parker Stoppelman (3rd grade): The most exciting thing I did in the last year was going on a trip to Arizona. I went to see the mountains. I also saw my grandma.

Easton King (4th grade): I went to Perkin, Illinois, for Thanksgiving. I got to see family and I got to go ice skating. We got to eat McDonalds and Sonic, and we got Chinese.

Rozalyn Bieber (5th grade): My most exciting thing last year was driving the go cart at Falls Stay and Play in Thief River Falls.

Brynleigh Samson (6th grade): The most exciting thing I did this past year was probably saving a turtle. We were driving home from my mom's when my dad saw a spot. We pulled over and my dad got out of the car. I was in the front seat so I was able to get out of the car quickly. I didn't walk long before I saw what it was, a turtle! My dad told me to get back in the car as he was climbing in it. He placed the turtle in a cup holder. This all reminded me of our other turtle we used to (kind of) own — Tommy the Turtle, who we used to drive by. We had to move though, and I hope he is alright. Anyway, as we pulled into our driveway, my dad told us to find a small, clear tote and dig for dirt, rocks, and stuff to make a mini outside for the turtle. We kept him for about a day before we had to let him go. As we were dropping him off, he ran back to us, then ran into the pond. I guess a small act can really make a guy come out of his shell!



Fourth Grade Tradition

Grandma Paulette Christianson and Kelly Kofstad treated the Badger fourth grade class to a lefse demonstration on November 30. Students were able to learn the steps from preparing the potatoes to tasting the finished product. They were also lucky enough to sample soft flatbread. Thank you Paulette and Kelly for taking your time to share your talents and holiday traditions with us.





Sophomore Leaders

Badger sophomores Breydon Foss, Tryg Olson, Briggs Jenson, Emily Burkel, Noah Gust, and Hailey Lundgren joined approximately 100 area students at the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls November 28 for a “Team-Up” leadership seminar sponsored by the Minnesota State High School League’s Region 8A. Each year, speaker Craig Hillier leads the group in a lively, funny session about positive leadership for school teams and organizations. Mr. Hillier shared his own growth experiences and led students through exercises for enhanced perspective-taking.

A few key points from Mr. Hillier’s messages:

- Rise to action when a leadership opportunity presents itself. Will you walk up or walk by?
- On learning from mistakes: You can look back; you just can’t go back. “How fast can I get over it?” instead of “How long are we going to dwell on it?” Victims blame others; leaders look to what’s coming next. Victims quit; leaders give themselves time to respond. Victims freak out; leaders don’t respond to cheap shots.
- Do what’s right to help the team. Ask how you can make the team better.
- If you only count on your own experience, your trajectory for growth is limited. Success leaves clues. Learn from others. Take feedback without pushback.
- Every day we have an opportunity to break through.
- Crossing fingers and hoping for success is not a strategy. Be persistent.
- Confidence is a choice. Through failure and preparation, we get better.
- Leaders take care of their bodies, avoiding chemicals that harm performance.
- Mental skills: Show up every day. Leave it in the locker – in other words, set aside whatever else is going on in life to be completely focused at practice or the game. Have integrity – do the right thing even when no one is watching.
- Arrogance is ugly. Win or lose, commit to being classy.



Unified Athletes Compete

Badger Unified athletes and their partners participated in the bowling event in Thief River Falls. They were a part of over 200 students who participated in this two day bowling event. Unified athletics is a great event that brings many schools together! It was an amazing day for everyone who participated.

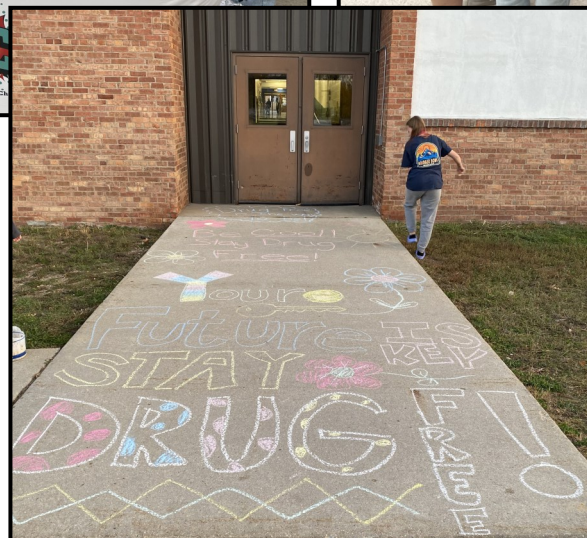




Red Ribbon Week

Submitted by: Avearah Hanson

The Badger School Target Team put on many events for Red Ribbon Week October 23-31, highlighting the importance of living a drug-free life. Starting the week out strong, the Target Team wrote drug-free messages with chalk on the sidewalks around the school. As a follow-up, Target held a drug-free pledge signing with prizes and a prize wheel the next day. Huge thanks to Team Epic for providing the prizes! For Halloween, students dressed in their Halloween costumes to help “scare drugs away”! Target also held a coloring contest for Badger elementary students. The student with the neatest and most colorful page got a prize. Last but not least, the Target Team visited elementary classrooms to inform younger students about the dangers of drugs. The team members who volunteered for grades K-3 presented about staying drug-free, and members who volunteered for grades 4-6 created a Kahoot for the kids to participate in. For all grades, members announced the coloring contest winners. Target Team is a high school organization open to all interested students in grades 7-12.





Shout Out To...

Paulette Christianson for sharing her talents by bringing her art lessons into our elementary classrooms.

Lisa Klimek & Mariah Torgerson for the donation of Gingerbread House kits and Christmas stocking paint kits for each of the 2nd graders.

Val Johnson for volunteering to work for the kindergarten winter wonderland workshop. Your help working at the cookie station is greatly appreciated. Thank you to Striker, Alyssa, and Heather for your help setting up and working at the workshop.

Val Truscinski for taking photos at the kindergarten workshop. You captured the Christmas spirit in all!

Macy Majer & Landon Christianson for your help completing the projects with a kindergarten student ~ they were so happy to work with you!

Senior college on-line girls for having treats with Renee Rhen on her last of subbing in the library.

Striker Hasson ~ thank you for your time in the district. You were a great person to have around for staff and students. Good luck on your next adventure!

Jody Randall for all the extra lunches for kids trips and meal planning and prepping for the NHS and sports banquets.

Nicole Wilt & Garrett Anhorn for all the extra cleaning at night. Thanks for keeping the school looking sharp even if you have to stay later.

Garrett Anhorn & Striker Hasson for getting the gym ready for the basketball practices

Sara Olson, Hailey Truscinski, & Leah Hasson for keeping the office up and running every day.

Mr. Warne for keeping all the sports schedules straight.

Sara Olson in the office for always being able to find substitute teachers-even at the last minute.

Heather Gullickson, Grandma Bev Holm, Grandma Paulette Christianson, Angel Houska, & Alyssa Pulczynski for helping the First Graders read.

Scholastic Book Fair

Renee Rhen for giving of your time to work at the book fair during Home for the Holidays and assisting with it all week in the library.

Sherry Verbout for hosting and working long hours on the Scholastic Book Fair ~ it was amazing!

Striker Hasson for relocating and storing the book fair cases before the fair.

Leah Hasson for your financial expertise in keeping the financials for the book fair.

Students, parents, and Badger School staff for generously supporting the book fair.

Music Programs

Striker Hasson, Treston Nichols, Briggs Jenson, Emmitt Isane, & Breydon Foss for helping the music department set up for the concerts.

Sherri Kukowski, Elizabeth Randall, Val Truscinski, & Treston Nichols for creating the awesome flats and backgrounds for the elementary concert.

Juli Smedsmo for accompanying the Badger Concert Choir for our concerts.

Sherry Kukowski & Mike Colton for decorating the gym for the high school winter concert.

Naomi Rybakowski & Janice Mostofi for being our videographers.

Sara Olson & Janice Mostofi for providing the newspaper with pictures.

Renee Rhen as our backstage helper.

Our amazing staff, students, & parents for help with cleaning up.

Border Bank for treats after the programs ~ fun community time

Home for the Holidays!

Community donations to the FCCLA Clothing Exchange ~ your support makes this event possible!

Nellie Hagen for assisting with the Clothing Exchange.

FCCLA elves who helped with the Home for the Holidays ~ Ada Lee, Alvaro Alves Sanchez, Emily Burkel, Paige Rybakowski, Katelyn Gust, Ave Hanson, Landon Chrisitanson, Ady Gregerson, Quynn Washington, Ava Warne, Mr. Lee, Mrs. Warne, Mrs. Ricke, & Joel Erickson.

Ms. K for making our Home for the Holidays event happen!

Our wonderful cooks Jody Randall & Angela Monsrud for keeping our bellies full:)

Striker Hasson, Garrett Anhorn, & Nicole Wilt for keeping our messes cleaned up ~ Kudos!



We Did It!!

Our Book Fair was a huge success and one our students will always remember. Thank you to the community for the overwhelming support once again. The library and elementary classrooms will be purchasing new books and supplies because of your continued generosity.

Sherry Verbout
Book Fair Coordinator



My New Year's resolution is... Grade 4

- ... to do chicken chores. Do better with duck chores. Be nicer to my brothers. Get better grades. Get more sleep every night.
~ **Eli Haugen**
- ... to make my 15 year-old brother happy, earn a car, jobs, and house and family, and love my family very much. I will like my classmates, teachers, and bus driver. ~ **Gavon Pulczynski**
- ... to get better at Roblox. I am going to do this by playing it with my little brother. To play with Avani by playing snow ball race. I will research about different techniques. I could play different games. ~ **Aubree Mostad**
- ... to clean more. I am going to do this by tidying up before my mom comes home and clean my room when my mom tells me to. I can also clean up the bathroom when I have time. ~ **Layla Otto**
- ... to get better at English. Help my mom clean the house. Help my grandpa clean his house. Help take care of my pet.
~ **Owen Olson**
- ... to get better at riding horses. Get better at kickball at recess. Get better at wrestling with more practice. Be good on the bus. Catch big fish ice fishing on Lake of the Woods. Get better at driving snowmobiles. ~ **Carter Jensen**
- ... to go to the football field. I will go to the park more to play football. I will try to make "A" honor roll every quarter. I will try to make my goal every quarter. ~ **Brentley Williams**
- ... to do better at school. I'm going to do this by doing the right thing. Also to play Roblox with Aubree. To race like my uncle. I am going to do this by practicing. To be a pro at Fortnite. I am going to do this by practicing. ~ **Avani Washington**
- ... to get better at social studies. I want better grades. I want to get better at basketball. I want to be better at games. ~ **Trey Rinde**
- ... to get better at school. I'm going to do this by being kind and getting more A's. I could raise my hand and be quite. I could read more AR books and I could help out on classroom jobs. ~ **Mia Kjos**
- ... to make my goal every quarter so I can go to Gator Track to Success events. And to get a Gatorade by reading for 30 minutes and reading instead of watching TV. ~ **Carter Kjos**
- ... to have more fun with my friends. To see my family more often. To get better at art, so I can make art for my friends. Getting better grades in math, social studies, spelling, reading, PE, music, English. Keeping my room clean so friends can come over.
~ **Collin Matthews**
- ... to be nice to my sibling. I am going to do this by not arguing and annoying my sibling. I am going to help my mom by doing dishes and sweeping. I going to not be lazy by playing outside and work in the shop. ~ **Blair Przekwas**
- ... to get my grades up. I am going to do this by listening in class more. I am going to raise my hand if I need help. I am not going to guess on my answers. I am going to take my time on worksheets. I am going to do what the teacher tells me to.
~ **Alexie Berger**
- ... to not get in trouble so much. Make my AR goal every time. Get more sleep so I'm not so tired and crabby. Get along with my brothers to make it easy for my parents. Be good at sports with my friends! ~ **Tucker Rinde**
- ... to not make messes at home. Get more sleep every night. Do more chores every day. Don't be lazy. Don't be mean to my sisters. Do my homework. ~ **Easton King**
- ... to get good grades. To get better grades in math. To do more science experiments. To make more friends and not bullies. To see my dad more often. To play Minecraft again and defeat the Ender dragon. To get more one on one time with my mom
~ **Zaya Bieber**
- ... to get better grades. I will do this by listening in class. I also will pay more attention in class. I also will turn in my work on time. I will also ask for help when I need it. ~ **Chesnie Berg**
- ... to not fight with my siblings as much. I would also like to help my mom make dinner. Also, to finish my homework so I can play more. To make the B honor roll again. ~ **Shalyn Kukowski**





My New Year's resolution is... Grade 5

- ... flexibility and making animal costumes for Halloween. These are my resolutions because I want to be flexible and I like making animal things, and right now I make them out of paper. ~ **Rozalyn Bieber**
- ... to get better at hockey because I like the sport. ~ **Easton Buley**
- ... being nice and kind. These are my resolutions because you have to be nicer than ever before. ~ **Josephine Curry-Schram**
- ... to get better grades and work on my chores at home. These are my resolutions because I don't think I am working hard enough. ~ **Jens Duray**
- ... helping animals around the world and people around the world. These are my resolutions because not all people and animals have homes and I want people and animals not to starve or need help. ~ **Raeleena Friesner**
- ... drawing, roping, and helping my mom and dad with cows, and riding horses. These are my resolutions because I love to draw and rope cattle. I also love to ride horses, because I can herd cattle with my horses. ~ **Paige Gust**
- ... to get my dirt bike fixed so I can ride it. ~ **Emerson Jensen**
- ... to celebrate my older sister's 17th birthday and to get better at baseball. These are my resolutions because they are hard for me to do. ~ **Jaryn Kukowski**
- ... to go on a trip and get better at volleyball. These are my resolutions because we haven't gone on a trip in a long time and I'm not very good at volleyball. ~ **Charlotte Lane**
- ... to get better at wrestling and better at being good ~ **Colten Larson**
- ... to make school a better place and to get my cat to like me more. These are my resolutions because a lot of schools have many bullies. Next, I feel like my cat hates me because he hates being brushed, sometimes he likes me. His name is Asher. I have five cats: Poppy, Peaches, Asher, Snowball, and Kitty Grseua. ~ **Isabella Lindemann**
- ... to get better at football and basketball. These are my resolutions because I want to be good at them. ~ **Steele Marquis**
- ... to be better at snowmobiling. This is my resolution because I want to be a professional racer. ~ **Tanner McClure**
- ... listening and getting homework done. These are my resolutions because I need to work on them. I need to listen so I can finish my homework. ~ **Ezra Monsrud**
- ... to get better grades and sports. These are my resolutions because my grades are not that good and I need to work on getting better at sports. ~ **Kaden Randall**.
- ... getting better at basketball and playing NBA2K24. These are my resolutions because that's what I love. ~ **Tatum Rinde**
- ... better grades and I want to be a better drawer. ~ **Tayleigh Stoppelman**
- ... that I want to be good at sports and school work so I will live a happy life and go to college, graduate, and live happily. That is my New Year's resolutions. ~ **Eli Washington**
- ... to not talk in class as much, and to not drink pop as much. ~ **Abigal Wojciechowski**
- ... to get better at Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2 and get better grades. ~ **Chance Wojciechowski**
- ... to be capable at drawing more complex pictures and to get to play the drums in band. ~ **Hadley Zimney**





My New Year's resolution is... Grade 6

- ... to shoot a buck and to go to a Vikings game. I would also like to try sushi. ~ **Rogan Hanson**
- ... to work on having more patience. Sometimes I get really angry because of a lack of patience. Other things that I would like to do in 2024 are visiting Mount Rushmore, reading *The Hunger Games*, and learn different languages. ~ **Delyla Carpenter**
- ... to have no late work in school and to stop saying whatever comes to my head. One thing I want to learn in 2024 is to be better at math. In 2024 I want to visit a Taylor Swift or Olivia Rodrigo concert. ~ **Ayden Mostad**
- ... to not give up so quickly when I get mad and how to speak in different languages. My favorite memory of 2023 is when I went to Willow's house for a sleepover. A book I would like to read in 2024 is *Restart*. I hope to visit Louisiana in 2024. A new food I would like to try in 2024 is KFC. ~ **Autumn Turpitt**
- ... to eat healthy and keep my room clean. I also want to go to Florida and to do math better. ~ **Onah Gregerson**
- ... to get a deer and I want to get good grades. I want to go to Lake of the Woods for fishing. I would love to have more art for school. I want to read more hunting books. I really want to try hot foods. ~ **Jacob Foss**
- ... I want to try to get on the A honor roll all 4 quarters of the year. But that's not the only thing I want to achieve in 2024. I also want to try to do my hardest and not give up so easily while doing things. ~ **Willow Rud**
- ... to learn to race. I want to follow my dad's steps into racing cars, sleds, anything, as long as I can race, I don't care. I just would like to be the best, like my dad. ~ **Ryder Gust**
- ... to be better at sports and to get a buck. I would also like to try lobster rolls. I hope to visit Spain and read the rest of the *FNAF* books. ~ **Nils Christianson**
- ... to come out of my shell and to sing more. I really want to visit Japan next year. I also hope I can get my hands on the second book of *Harry Potter* because my step-brother says it's really good (he's a huge Harry Potter fan). I also hope I can get Red Lobster again. It was really good, and I loved spending time with my grandma, grandpa, uncle, siblings, my step-mom, and my dad. I also wish that I can learn how to say some long and hard to pronounce words. My favorite memory of this year is when I got my solos in one of our songs in the Christmas play *The Grinch*. I was really nervous and wouldn't sing it. Then, I got over it and actually sung the song. It's actually really cool and I enjoy it! ~ **Brynleigh Samson**
- ... to go bass fishing with Ryder and Rogan. There's some books I would like to read like *The Minnesota Vikings* I would like to learn how copper is made. I want to visit a Vikings game in 2024. My favorite memory of 2023 is catching a 28 inch walleye with my two best friends Ryder and Rogan ~ **Briar Williams**
- ... to lose weight and get better grades. It would be nice if I could go to Montana or Kentucky. Also, I would like to have sushi for the first time. Always seeing it in TV shows makes me want to eat it. My favorite memory is playing football with my sister and brother. ~ **Cameron Moore**
- ... to hit unranked in *Fortnite* and win a cash cup. I would also like to win FNCS. ~ **Alex Gust**

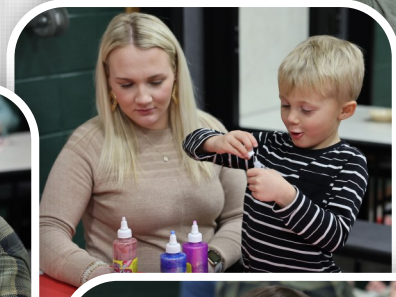




The Badger Barker



Kindergarten Winter Wonderland





Helping Children Learn®

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School

Badger Independent School District #676



January 2024

Reinforce learning and academic skills in six simple ways at home

Incorporating learning into your child's time at home is one of the most important ways you can support success in school. Here are six easy ways:

- 1. Expose your child** to new things. Every meaningful experience your child has—from observing a construction site to visiting a museum—has an impact on learning. On your next outing together, discuss how some of the things you are seeing relate to what your child is learning in school.
- 2. Have conversations** about what your child is doing in classes. Show enthusiasm and interest. Find out what your child thinks about school.
- 3. Ask your child to teach you.** Have your child show you how to solve that math problem on today's worksheet, or tell you about a historic event the class is learning about.
- 4. Talk together about all sorts of topics.** Really listen to what your child says, and ask follow-up questions to keep the conversation going.
- 5. Encourage deeper thinking.** Discuss similarities and differences between things. Ask your child to give reasons for opinions.
- 6. Put your child's abilities into action.** Let your elementary schooler use knowledge and skills to help you around the house. Ask for your child's advice when you are making a decision or solving a problem.



Breakfast is a smart start

Studies show that eating breakfast improves students' focus, alertness, comprehension and memory. Whether your child eats it at home or at school, breakfast provides essential fuel for learning. If time is an issue, offer grab-and-go options like an apple and a piece of cheese.



Why handwriting matters

Writing by hand helps children learn reading skills faster than typing on a keyboard. Seeing and feeling the letter shapes reinforces letter knowledge. To boost handwriting skills:



- **Make sure your child's feet** rest on the floor. Place a box under them if necessary. This anchor makes writing easier.
- **Help your child** find the right amount of pressure. Pushing too hard tires out hand muscles. Experiment with different tools, like gel pens that glide smoothly.
- **Offer chances to write.** Together, write letters to relatives. Dictate your grocery list for your child to write down.

Sources: R. Wiley and B. Rapp, "Handwriting beats typing and watching videos for learning to read," Johns Hopkins University; L. Brukner, "Tips to help students with their handwriting," Edutopia.



Addition facts can be child's play

Memorizing addition facts frees up brainpower so your child can focus on solving multi-step problems and word problems efficiently. To strengthen your elementary schooler's addition fluency in fun ways:

- **Play board games** with two dice. At first, your child may need to count every dot on each die. With practice, your child will immediately recognize the number of dots on one die (say, 3), then count the dots on the second die (say, 5) on from 3 ("4, 5, 6, 7, 8") to find the total number of spaces to move. Soon, your child will simply recall that $3 + 5 = 8$.
- **Build with blocks** to practice making 10. Help your child learn number combinations that equal 10 by building two-color block towers (1 blue block + 9 red blocks = 10, 2 blue + 8 red = 10, etc.). Later, your child can use this knowledge to learn "neighboring facts." (" $5 + 5 = 10$. So $5 + 4$ must equal 9, since 4 is one less than 5 and 9 is 1 less than 10.")

Encourage organization

Elementary schoolers are just developing the organizational skills they need to think ahead. Help your child learn to:

- **Use a calendar** to track assignments, test dates and activities.
- **Break big projects down** into parts to complete over several days.
- **Tidy up after study time** so supplies will be easy to find when next needed.



Helping Children Learn

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

January 2024



My child's clowning is a serious issue. What can I do?

Q: My first grader is a real class clown. The teacher says this behavior is disruptive. At home, my child also uses laughs to get out of doing things. But how am I supposed to impose discipline when I am laughing myself?

A: Children often make jokes and behave like clowns to gain status with peers—and it works. Or they are rebelling against adults or rules, but in such a way that adults react to the humor instead of the misbehavior.



To put an end to your child's antics, change your response:

- **Don't use labels** like "the class clown" or talk about how funny your child is to others—it will only reinforce the silliness.
- **Ignore your child's efforts at humor** when they are inappropriate. Leave the room if you can't avoid laughing. Clowns need an audience in order to continue their performance.
- **Establish rules and consequences in advance**, and apply them consistently. If your child is clowning to avoid a responsibility, enforce the consequence for shirking. If your child is trying to manipulate you into a *yes* when your answer is *no*, stick to your *no*.
- **Talk with your child** about better ways to make friends. Smiling and showing interest in others is a great way to start.



Are you teaching your child new words?

Communication skills improve when your child can use just the right word to express an idea. Are you helping your child build a large vocabulary that supports academic success? Answer *yes* or *no* to the questions below:

1. **Do you discuss** unfamiliar words and their meanings when you and your child read together?
2. **Do you introduce** new words for familiar ideas? "Let's use big blocks at the bottom so the tower will be *sturdy* and won't fall down."
3. **Do you choose** word games often when playing games as a family?
4. **Do you help** your child make and add to a personal dictionary of new words?
5. **Do you post** a new word each day that family members try to use in conversation?

How well are you doing?

More yes answers mean you are adding to your child's word power. For each no, try that idea.

"A child needs a forest of words to wander through, a sea of words to splash in."
—Frank Bruni

Keep on reading aloud

No matter how old students are or how well they can read to themselves, family read-aloud times are effective and fun ways to build reading skills. For the best results:

- **Choose a regular time.** Reading aloud with your child daily demonstrates that reading is too important to miss.
- **Read books you like.** Your enjoyment can increase your child's enjoyment.
- **Emphasize the first line** to grab your child's attention.
- **Use distinct voices** and expressions for each character to bring them alive.
- **Stop reading** for the day at a point where your child is eager to hear what happens next.

Offer reasons to persevere

Learning isn't always easy, which is why it's so important for students to develop persistence. To encourage your child to persist:

- **Offer reminders** of times persistence has helped your child master a skill.
- **Offer encouragement.** Say things like, "You are making progress. Keep at it, you'll get it."
- **Discuss the rewards.** It feels great to be able to go into a test with confidence, knowing you've studied hard. Even better, it feels great to learn and get smarter!

Unlock cooperation secrets

Give your student two keys to working well with others in the classroom:



1. **Controlling others** is impossible, but your child *can* control personal actions and reactions.
2. **Responsibilities** are like promises. They are things that must be done, especially when others are counting on your child.

Helping Children Learn®

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Cake Wars

Submitted by: Gretchen Lee

Badger Foods class was challenged to test their cake decorating skills based on their favorite book. Students voted on their favorite book, sketched out their designs, and went to work baking, frosting and decorating. Once the cakes were completed, Badger School staff was invited to vote for their favorite presentation.

- *The Shining* twins replication was designed by Paige Rybakowski, Xander Grugal, Arianna Grugal, Greta Wojciechowski, & Alex Lunde.
- Ray Haugen Rosadino, Tenisha Berger, Bethany Thompson, Bethanie VonEnde, & Measha Troxel recreated the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*.
- Dr. Seuss's *Oh, the Places You'll Go* was designed by Julia Dostal, Brayden Little, Jaden Kukowski, & Bailey Wojciechowski.
- *Thomas the Train* was inspired by Kaden Halvorson, Masen Swenson, Ivan Olafson, Alvaro Alves Sanchez, Taylor Davy, & Caden Wojciechowski.

After votes were tabulated, the winner was *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*!

