



# The Badger Barker



April 2022

Badger School District #676 Volume XXVII Issue 7  
Student Editor: Hannah Wilt

## America's Next Top Superhero



Supermusicians united on March 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> to perform a live show for the community. This year's show was titled "America's Next Top Superhero," and as usual it was a collaboration of the choir, band, and drama departments.

The public performances began with a meal of chicken kiev prepared by Jody Randall and served by community volunteers and students. Then the show started with host Tali Hamann and superhero judges Aidan Carpenter, Paige Rybakowski, and Alex Lunde who entertained the talents of many odd-ball superhero wannabes.

The band, directed by Mr. Carpenter, played superhero tunes including: "Captain America," "Mission Impossible," "Final Countdown," and "Who's that Masked Man." The choir, also directed by Mr. Carpenter, performed hits like "Over the Rainbow," "Radioactive," "Good Riddance: Time of my Life," and "We are the Champions." It was quite a fun site to see all participants decked out in their blue T-shirts and superhero capes.

A lot of behind-the-scene action went into creating this performance. First, the music department spent time brainstorming a theme. Then Mrs. Dahlgren wrote the script over Christmas break. Once the script was completed, students were assigned parts and drama practices began. Choir Director Carpenter and Band Director Erickson also worked on musical pieces to weave into the show.

Countless sacrifices were made by those who participated in the show. Parent volunteers, staff members, and students all worked to make the show a reality. On Wednesday the 23<sup>rd</sup>, the group performed for the student body. Students and teachers were excited to see a live show after a four-year hiatus due to COVID.

A lot goes into hosting a live performance, but the Music Revue continues to be a creative highlight of the school year. It was fun to see many former actors and musicians in the crowd both nights. Thank you to all students, staff, parents, and community members who helped make the performance come together.



## Badger School Superintendent's News



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

Spring has sprung!

### April

- 04 Badger Community School recognized Lorraine Kukowski on National School Librarian Day who keeps the school library working order. She is also dedicated to helping our children find the resources they need to keep learning.  
04-08 Severe Weather Awareness Week  
07 City of Badger and Roseau County will participate in the Statewide Tornado Drill: 1:45 p.m. and 6:45 p.m.  
04-08 Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center Experience ~ Grades 7 & 8  
06-08 State FCCLA ~ Bloomington, MN  
09 Prom/Grand March/Post Prom Party  
11 School Board Meeting  
14 Kindergarten Round Up @ 4:00 pm in the Preschool & Kindergarten Rooms  
15 No School ~ Spring Break (Easter Weekend)  
18 No School ~ Spring Break (Easter Weekend)  
22 Earth Day  
27 Administrative Professionals Day  
27 Midterm of 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter  
27 Envirothon Team at Lake Bronson State Park

### May

- 02-06 Teacher Appreciation Week  
03 Teacher Appreciation Day  
04 High School Spring Music Program at 7:00 pm  
08 Mothers' Day  
09 School Board Meeting  
12 Elementary Spring Music Program/Kindergarten Graduation at 1:45 pm (*date change from calendar*)  
18 Baccalaureate at 7:00 p.m.  
22 Graduation Commencement Ceremony at 2:00 pm  
26 Last Day of School ~ End of 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter/2<sup>nd</sup> Semester

Every student and employee is fortunate to be part of our vibrant school. Thank you to all who help to make our school a gem of excellence in northwest Minnesota.

As always, if you have any questions or would like to visit in person, please stop by anytime.

Thank you,

Kevin Ricke, Superintendent & Principal K-12



## Campus Comment

By: Michael Beckler

### If you could meet any dead president, which one would it be?

**Braedon Lane (7<sup>th</sup> grade):** George Washington because I would like to know what the government was like back then.

**Noah Gust (8<sup>th</sup> grade):** Abraham Lincoln because he seems like a cool guy to be around, and I like his top hat.

**Bethanie VonEnde (9<sup>th</sup> grade):** If I could meet any president, I would want to meet George Washington. I would like to ask him why he wanted to be president. I would also ask why he chose to fight with the colonial forces.

**Ashton Pickhartz (10<sup>th</sup> grade):** If I could meet any president, it would be Zachary Taylor. While he is not well-known, he had a few interesting feats, such as encouraging California to join the union and fighting in the Mexican-American War. He died to chorea, which can now be treated with antibiotics.

**Bryza Rud (11<sup>th</sup> grade):** If I could meet any dead president, I would choose John F. Kennedy. He proposed the need for the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which was passed after he was assassinated. I would congratulate him on his accomplishments and ask him about the secrets that the government is hiding. He probably wouldn't tell me, but it would be worth a shot.

**Jenessa Isane (12<sup>th</sup> grade):** If I could meet any dead president, I would meet George Washington because he was the first ever president, and I would ask him what his life was like.

**Ms. Thompson (Social Studies):** If I could meet any president who's not alive today, I would have to choose Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt. In my opinion, Theodore Roosevelt became an admirable leader. He led the Rough Riders in the Spanish-American War, was a conservationist, a historian, and a writer. He was rewarded with the Noble Peace Prize and used the prize money to fund a trust that would promote peace. Roosevelt had many more achievements throughout his life, but for all these reasons I would love to sit down and get to know Theodore Roosevelt, who was able to accomplish so much and change our country in so many ways.



## Trivia

By: Anastasia Dahl

1. Juneau is the capital city of which U.S. state?
  - A. Wyoming
  - B. Alaska
  - C. Hawaii
  - D. Kentucky
2. Which flower yields the spice saffron?
  - A. Fire Lily
  - B. Titan Arum
  - C. Jade Vine
  - D. Crocus
3. Where do pine nuts come from?
  - A. Marigolds
  - B. The ground
  - C. Pinyon Pine Tree
  - D. Alliums
4. What type of dog is Marley, star of the 2008's movie *Marley & Me*?
  - A. Yellow Labrador
  - B. German Shepherd
  - C. Golden Retriever
  - D. Husky



# The Badger Barker



## Senior Spotlight Caden Olds

**Parents:** Julie Byre, Joan Wik

**Siblings:** Coralie, Cierra, Tyler, Joey

**Nickname:** Cado

**Favorite:**

**Sport:** Skateboarding

**Food:** Tacos

**Color:** Red

**Quote:** "Don't live someone else's dream, live your own."

**If you found a genie, what would be your three wishes?** I would wish for skateboards for a lifetime, I'd wish for my dream job, and I'd wish for an Xbox.

**If you could change one thing in the world, what would it be?** I would want to change the internet. The thing I'd change is cancel culture. Not just cancel culture itself but bad cancel culture.

**If you could take a road trip with one person, who would it be and where would you go?** I would take a trip to Los Angeles with Bryce.

**What do you think you'll be remembered most by?** For being kind and also being chill.

**What is the craziest thing you've done in high school?** I skipped class.

**What is your favorite hobby?** Playing video games.

**What one thing are you proud of that happened to you in high school?** I won 2<sup>nd</sup> place on my Veterans Day essay.



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## Senior Spotlight Bryce Thompson

**Parents:** Amber & Marcus

**Siblings:** Bethany, Roger, Maizy, Toby

**Nickname:** B-ryce

**Favorite:**

**Sport:** Football

**Food:** Venison Steak

**Color:** White

**Quote:** "You can dream all you want but in order to succeed you need to put in the effort."

**If you found a genie, what would be your three wishes?** Unlimited money, a brand new house, and a new truck.

**If you could change one thing in the world, what would it be?** For all the hate and discrimination in the world to stop because everyone should be treated equally.

**If you could take a road trip with one person, who would it be and where would you go?** Probably with my buddy Caden. I don't know where we'd go, but it'd probably be all over the United States.

**What do you think you'll be remembered most by?** Always talking in class when I'm supposed to be paying attention.

**What is the craziest thing you've done in high school?** When I was in eighth grade and I tried to push Dalton off a chair and the whole table flipped over.

**What is your favorite hobby?** Hunting and fishing, pretty much anything outdoorsy.

**What one thing are you proud of that happened to you in high school?** I got my driver's license.





## Senior Spotlight Coralie Olds

**Parents:** Julie Byre, Joann Wik

**Siblings:** Cierra, Caden, Tyler

**Nickname:** Cori

**Favorite:**

**Sport:** Running (away from responsibilities)

**Food:** Spaghetti

**Color:** Pink, blue, black

**Quote:** "Everyone has a chance to make a difference."

**If you found a genie, what would be your three wishes?** I wish to have an unlimited amount of money to go shopping, to be shorter, and for everything to be free.

**If you could change one thing in the world, what would it be?** Bullying.

**If you could take a road trip with one person, who would it be and where would you go?** Tenisha and we would go to Mexico.

**What do you think you'll be remembered most by?** My laugh or being quiet.

**What is the craziest thing you've done in high school?** I tripped on the stairs walking up by Mrs. K's room in 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

**What is your favorite hobby?** Hanging out with friends.

**What one thing are you proud of that happened to you in high school?** Being able to speak in front of classrooms.



## Spring Lime Tea Cookies

<https://www.allrecipes.com/>

By: Christian Peterson

### Ingredients:

2 teaspoons lime juice

½ cup milk

½ butter, softened

¾ cup white sugar

1 egg

2 teaspoons lime zest

1¼ all-purpose flour

1 teaspoon baking powder

¼ teaspoon baking soda

2 tablespoons lime juice

¼ cup white sugar



### Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Combine the 2 teaspoons of lime juice with the milk; let stand for 5 minutes.
2. In a large bowl, cream together the butter and ¾ cup sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the egg, then stir in the lime zest and milk mixture. Combine the flour, baking powder, and baking soda; blend into the creamed mixture. Drop by rounded spoonful onto the ungreased cookie sheets.
3. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes in the preheated oven, until the edges are light brown. Allow cookies to cool on baking sheets for 5 minutes before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely.
4. To make the glaze, stir together the remaining lime juice and sugar. Brush onto cooled cookies.



## Elementary Viewpoint

By: Aleksei Beckler

### What is your favorite book?

**Elliot Mather (1<sup>st</sup> grade):** *Put Me in the Zoo* because it is funny.

**Abel Stoutenburgh (2<sup>nd</sup> grade):** My favorite book is *Biggety Bat*. I like it because there are bats in it. It's about a bat who is looking for a friend.

**Paige Gust (3<sup>rd</sup> grade):** My favorite books are *Bad Kitty*, *There was a Coyote Who Swallowed a Flea*, *Diamond*, and *The Monster of the Woods*. I like them because they are funny and happy.

**Ryder Gust (4<sup>th</sup> grade):** I think my favorite book is *Dairy of a Wimpy Kid*. I like it because it is telling about a kid's crazy life. It's very funny and gives a lesson about a life.

**Grant Olson (5<sup>th</sup> grade):** My favorite book is *Strange But (Mostly) True* because it talks about people that help in the Civil War and other wars as well. Also *Death by Molasses* which is really cool. You should really read these books because they are really good books!

**Azmera Olson (6<sup>th</sup> grade):** My favorite book is *Ground Zero* because I like historical fiction. I love this book so much that when I start reading it I don't want to stop.



## April Wacky Celebrations

<https://www.holidayinsights.com/moreholidays/april.htm>

By: Hannah Wilt

### Caramel Popcorn Day ~ April 7

Take part in this holiday by enjoying the tasty combination of these two treats. You can make today memorable by making your own homemade caramel popcorn. Fun fact: caramel popcorn used to be directly associated with Halloween for trick or treaters.

### Record Store Day ~ April 16

Music, which is a defining point of each generation, can be appreciated by people of all ages. To celebrate, find your nearest record store and browse today. Most record stores will recognize this day with special events or sales.

### National Stress Awareness Day ~ April 18

Today is National Stress Awareness Day! This holiday is acknowledged on the first workday in April after U.S. taxes are due. Use this day to find ways to destress and relax.

### Volunteer Recognition Day ~ April 20

Participate in this day by finding a volunteer opportunity in your community. Take time to selflessly benefit the lives of others. Make it your goal to donate money or time to an organization in need!

### Hairstyle Appreciation Day ~ April 30

Hairstyle Appreciation Day recognizes all the different and unique styles of hair. Through our hairstyles, we are able to express our individuality. Observe this day by trying a new hairstyle, complementing someone's hairstyle, or simply appreciating your hairstylist.



# The Badger Barker



## Gator Sports

By: Treston Nichols

For changes in schedule go to [www.badger.k12.mn.us](http://www.badger.k12.mn.us) and click on "Gator Athletic Schedules."

### April

#### **Baseball**

12	@ Kittson County Central
18	@ Fertile-Beltrami
19	Red Lake County Coop @ BGMR
26	Northern Freeze @ BGMR
28	Ada-Borup @ BGMR
29	@ Warroad

#### **Softball**

4	@ NCE/UH
5	@ Red Lake County Central
8	@ Moorhead vs Fargo Davies
8	@ Moorhead vs Moorhead
12	Red Lake Falls @ BGMR
14	Roseau @ BGMR
19	Warroad @ BGMR
21	@ East Grand Forks
23	Tournament @ BGMR
26	@ Red Lake Falls
28	@ Northern Freeze

#### **Track**

7	@ Bemidji
21	@ East Grand Forks
26	@ Thief River Falls
29	@ Thief River Falls

#### **Golf**

21	Boys @ Karlstad
21	Girls @ Greenbush
22	Boys @ Fertile/Red Lake Falls
26	Boys @ Stephen
26	Girls @ Warren

### May

#### **Baseball**

1	@ West Marshall
2	@ Thief River Falls
6	Warroad @ BGMR
10	@ Sacred Heart
12	Crookston @ BGMR
13	@ Blackduck
16	West Marshall @ BGMR
17	Fosston @ BGMR
19	@ Northern Freeze
23	Win-E-Mac @ BGMR
24	@ Roseau
26	@ NCE/UH
31	Subsections @ High Seed

#### **Softball**

6	@ Warroad
12	Sacred Heart @ BGMR
14	Tournament @ BGMR
17	@ Roseau
19	@ Thief River Falls
24	Subsection @ High Seed
26	Subsection Semis @ Lake of the Woods
26	Subsection Finals @ Lake of the Woods
31	Section @ BGMR

#### **Track**

3	@ East Grand Forks
7	@ Thief River Falls
13	@ Warren-Alvarado-Oslo
20	@ Lake of the Woods

#### **Golf**

3	Girls @ Karlstad
3	Boys @ Greenbush
4	Boys @ Bemidji
5	Girls/Boys @ Lake of the Woods
10	Boys/Girls @ Warroad
12	Boys @ Lancaster
12	Girls @ Hallock
18	Girls @ Bemidji
19	Girls/Boys @ Roseau
24	Sub-Section @ Roseau

## Random Riddles Answers

1. NOON.
2. The car door.
3. Because there are more of them!
4. One without whiskers.
5. When it is felt.
6. I'd rather have the tiger eat the lion.
7. Footsteps.

## Trivia Answers

1. B   2. D   3. C   4. A



## Band Musician of the Month Jordan Davy



**Grade:** 10th

**What instrument do you play and why did you choose this instrument?** Clarinet, I chose to play it because I liked the sound and it was the one instrument my mom didn't care for but now enjoys.

**If you had to change your instrument, what would you pick?** Trumpet because they get the melody in most songs.

**What is your favorite song to play?** *Fate of the Gods* because I like how it has slower and faster parts in the song.

**If you could pick a theme for Music Revue, what theme would you pick?** Disney because I think it would be fun to see some of my favorite Disney movies acted out.

**What is your most memorable moment in band?** Going to The Cities and playing at the Minnesota School Board Association Convention

**What advice would you give to younger musicians?** Listen to your teachers because they can help you learn new techniques and skills to improve your playing.

**Who inspired you to be part of band?** My mom.

## Choir Musician of the Month Elliott Isane

**Grade:** 11<sup>th</sup>

**What section are you in?** Tenor

**How long have you been in choir?** I have been in choir for 5 years.

**What kind of music do you like to sing?** I like 80's pop (last Music Revue songs).

**What is your favorite part about being in choir?** I like that there is no homework.

**What are you looking forward to this year?** I am looking forward to spring concert.

**What advice would you give other vocalists in choir?** Stay on task and everything will be easier.

**What is your favorite choir memory?** My favorite memory was the last Music Revue.



## Shout Out To...

*Striker Hasson* for the great job he did keeping the snow cleared this winter.

*Mrs. Kukowski, Jordan Davy, Jordan Lee, Ada Lee, & Amelia Wilt* for updating the gym door decorations.

*Striker Hasson* for going above and beyond to mentor students and teach them the value of hard work and a kind heart.

**All Who Made the Music Revue Possible...**

*Students musicians and actors* for all your hard work.

*Set Design:* Sherri Kukowski & Art Club

*Lights:* Deegan Hanson, Ava Warne

*Sound:* Christian Peterson

*Costumes:* Gretchen Lee, Deb Dokken

*Parent Volunteers:* Gretchen Lee, Kaydell Majer, Jody Davy, Shannon Dostal, Sara Olson, Lorraine Kukowski, Heidi Warne, Naomi Rybakowski, Jami Lunde, Annie Stenberg

*School Volunteers:* Striker Hasson, Mike Coltom, Jody Randall

*Corporate Sponsor:* Border Bank, Badger

*Parents* of all actors and musicians who reminded their kids to attend practice!

*Musical Directors:* Lisa Erickson, Dan Carpenter

*Play Director:* Becky Dahlgren



## Ramp-Up Topics for April 2022

Submitted by: Stacey Warne, Dean of Students

**GRADE 6:** Students will be exploring the strong correlation between educational attainment and earning potential. After completing the unit, students will reflect on what they have learned regarding college and career readiness, including two things they will continue to do and two things they will stop doing.

**GRADE 7:** Students will be looking at financial awareness as going to college may require a student going into some debt. "Good" debt and "bad" debt will be discussed as well as ideas of credit, interest, and borrowing.

**GRADE 8:** Students will discover ways to pay for college including savings, work study, scholarships, grants, and loans. There are multiple ways to pay for college without incurring excessive loans, so students should not decide they can't go because of costs. Families interested in learning more about how to pay for college can visit this website: <https://www.mnprivatecolleges.org/how-pay/paying-college-videos>  
Students will also complete the PREP Survey as a Ramp-Up post-test.

**GRADE 9:** During April, students will be introduced to coursework they can complete during high school that will count as college credits. Offerings available at Badger High School will be discussed, including the Online in the College High School program. Ninth graders will also learn about Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate programs, as well as Postsecondary Education Options.

**GRADE 10:** Sophomores will be instructed on the relevant sections of a resume and how to begin building one for their own and include employee characteristics that colleges and employers are looking for. In addition, students will be asked to think about what interests them so they can consider what career and postsecondary experience would be best for them.

**GRADE 11:** Juniors will study the importance of being a lifelong learner and its impact on employability, which is relevant to summer jobs, internships, and their long-term career goals. In addition, juniors will be taking the PREP survey post-test to assess their post-secondary readiness and discuss the idea of "falling forward" into their last year of high school.

**GRADE 12:** Students will be identifying and celebrating their postsecondary choices by writing them on a piece of paper to display in the school. They will also be writing a letter to someone who has had a positive impact on them getting to this point in their education and getting them ready for their future endeavors.

## Banana-Nutella Crepe

<https://www.eatthis.com/homemade-banana-nutella-crepe-recipe/>

By: Measha Troxel

### Ingredients:

Butter for the crepes  
1/4 cup Nutella  
2 bananas, peeled and sliced  
Confectioners' sugar (optional)

### For the crepe batter:

1/2 cup flour  
1 large egg  
1 Tbsp melted butter  
Pinch of salt  
6 Tbsp low-fat milk  
1/4 cup water



### Directions:

1. Heat a 10" nonstick pan over medium heat. Add enough butter to coat, then add 2 tablespoons of the crepe batter and swirl the pan to cover it in a thin, even film (use a rubber spatula to help, if needed).
2. Cook on the first side for 3 to 4 minutes, until the bottom takes on a deep golden brown color. Flip and slather a tablespoon of the Nutella down the middle of the crepe, then top with a scant quarter of the banana slices.
3. Cook for 3 to 4 minutes longer, until the bottom is golden brown.
4. Fold the crepe sides over the filling and slip onto a plate.
5. Top with a few slices of banana and a shake of confectioners' sugar if you like.
6. Repeat to make three more crepes.



# The Badger Barker



## Dates to Remember

By: Caden Wojciehowski

### April

- 4-8 Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center ~ grades 7 & 8
- 5 ECFE "Read with Me ~ Bring a Special Guest" 6:00 pm
- 6-8 State FCCLA
- 7 Winter Sports Banquet 6:30 pm, Greenbush Gym
- 9 Badger Prom, Grand March 7:30 pm
- 11 School Board 7:30 pm
- 12 ECFE "Graduation" 6:00 pm
- 13 Grade 11 Field Trip, NCTC Mechatronics Program, Marvins, & Polaris
- 13 Parent Class for all Drivers' Ed Student 5:30 pm GMR Music Room
- 14 Kindergarten Round Up 4:00 pm
- 15 No School ~ Spring Break
- 17 Easter
- 18 No School ~ Spring Break
- 27 Fourth Quarter Midterm
- 27 Envirothon Team @ Lake Bronson State Park

### May

- 4 High School Spring Music Program 7:00 pm
- 5 3rd Grade Field Trip, Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge
- 8 Mother's Day
- 9 School Board 7:30 pm
- 12 Elementary Spring Program & Kindergarten Graduation 1:45 pm (*note date change*)
- 18 Baccalaureate 7:00 pm
- 22 Graduation 2:00 pm
- 26 End of Quarter 4
- 27 Staff Development
- 30 Memorial Day

## Student Opinion

By: Bryza Rud

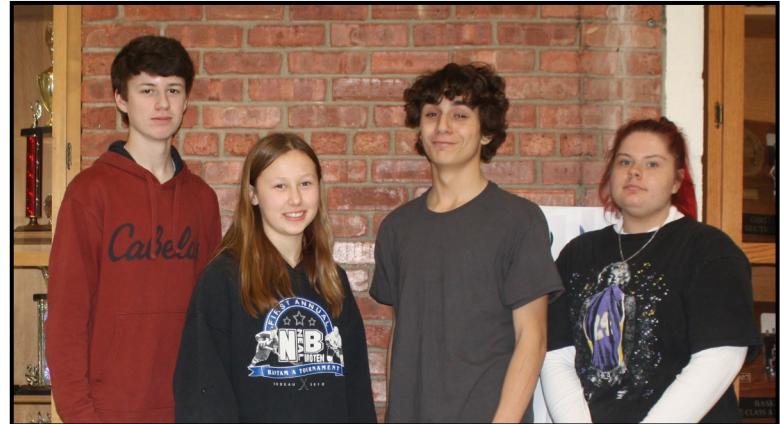
### Should students get mental health days off from school?

**Gabe Warne:** Yes, I think we should get mental health days off from school. I think it will help students be more productive. It will also help them get caught up on the homework they need to get done.

**Julia Dostal:** I believe that students should get some mental health days, however, they should be approved by the school and parents to make sure that the student is actually using the day for mental health and not to just skipping school.

**Ray Rosadino:** No, just take off regular school days if you need them. You can rest on the weekends. Give less homework to the people who are not mentally sound. Turn that frown upside down.

**Anastasia Dahl:** Yes, most of the time school is the most stressful thing in a student's life. Getting an impromptu break once in a while would help those with anxiety or stress problems.



## Random Riddles

[www.riddles.com](http://www.riddles.com)

By: Bethany Thompson

1. What 4-letter word can be written forward, backward or upside down, and can still be read from left to right?
2. A man in a car saw a golden door, silver door, and bronze door. What door did he open first?
3. Why are 1999 ten pound notes worth more than 1993 ten pound notes?
4. What is a bare-faced liar?
5. When is a bump like a hat?
6. Would you rather have a tiger or lion eat you?
7. The more you take, the more you leave behind. What am I?



# The Badger Barker



## Read Across America Week

Sponsored By Badger National Honor Society





# The Badger Barker



## Elementary In-House Basketball Tournament



Kindergarten



Grade 3 ~ The Junior Gators



Grade 4 ~ Badger Bolts



Grade 1 ~ Gators



Grade 5 ~ Wildcats



Grade 2 ~ Lightning Bolts



Grade 6 ~ Champions



# The Badger Barker



## Choir Contest ~ Large Group

The Badger Concert Choir participated in the MSHSL Large Group Choir Contest, which was held at Badger School, on Thursday, February 24, 2022. The Choir performed two selections: an arrangement of *Ahrirang* by Robert DeCormier and *If Music Be the Food of Love* by Minnesota composer David C. Dickau. The Choir earned a Superior rating from each of the three event judges.



## Band Contest ~ Large Group

On February 24<sup>th</sup> the Badger Concert Band performed their large group contest pieces for 3 judges. The band performed *Music of the Water* arr. Darren Jenkins and *Ascend* by Samuel Hazo. The Concert Band earned three Superior ratings for their performance and represented our school very well.





Elementary School • April 2022

# BUILDING READERS®



How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

Badger Independent School District #676

## Students who read independently read more—and enjoy doing it

Research shows that independent reading has a positive effect on school success: The more students read for pleasure, the more they enjoy—and benefit from—reading in school.

Unlike assigned reading, independent reading lets students choose their reading material and read purely for enjoyment. They don't have to answer comprehension questions or check in with a teacher.

To encourage independent reading at home:

- **Set an example.** If you read for pleasure often, your child may join you.
- **Carve out time** each week when family members gather together to read.
- **Ask questions** about what your child is reading. Demonstrate interest in learning more about the books your child likes.



**Source:** Literacy Leadership Brief: Creating Passionate Readers Through Independent Reading, International Literacy Association.

## Stand up to the ‘fourth-grade slump’

Interest in reading often drops as students move from early elementary school to the upper grades. Some experts say fourth grade tends to be when this starts.

To maintain your child’s interest, make sure reading time at home is frequent and fun. Keep irresistible materials around the house, such as:

- **Novels** related to your child’s interests.
- **Kid-friendly news articles** and comics.
- **Biographies** of role models.
- **Magazines** about your child’s favorite topics.
- **High-quality graphic** (comic-book style) novels.
- **Cookbooks** and other how-to books.
- **Books** and articles *you* enjoy reading—so you can set a good example!

## Have fun with poetry this month

April is National Poetry Month, so look for collections of funny poetry to read with your child. Try Shel Silverstein’s *Where the Sidewalk Ends* or Bruce Lansky’s *A Bad Case of the Giggles*.

Don’t just read the poems together—act them out! Then challenge each other to change the words and create a silly new poem.



## Build vocabulary with puzzles

To strengthen vocabulary, a vital part of reading comprehension, introduce your child to crossword puzzles. Look online to find age-appropriate puzzles.



Solve the first few together until your child gets the hang of it. If frustration strikes, take a break. Remember: Word games should be fun, not work.

## Ask ‘what if?’ questions

Reading and writing go hand in hand. The more children write, the better their reading skills will be.

Ask a few “what if?” questions to spark imagination. Then, challenge your child to write short stories that explain the answers.



Ask questions like:

- **What if oranges** were purple?
- **What if dogs** could talk?
- **What if you could** stop time?
- **What if everyone** had the same name?



## BUILDING READERS®

Elementary School • April 2022

### Review capital letter usage with your child

Your child has learned about capital letters in school. Talk together about when to use them. Beyond using them to begin sentences, your child should use them when writing:

- **The pronoun "I."**
- **Important words in titles** (*The Mouse and the Motorcycle*).
- **Names of people, organizations and specific places** (Bryan, Brown Elementary School, Spain).
- **Days of the week**, months and holidays (Monday, April, Earth Day).
- **Titles that are associated with names** (Aunt Rosie, Grandpa).

Encourage your child to look in books to find other times that writers use capital letters. Talk about why people capitalize when they write. What if we only used lowercase letters? What if we only wrote in capitals?



### Help your child select a book by ranking titles

Next time you're at a bookstore or library, suggest that your child take a closer look at the book titles. Which five or 10 titles does your child like best? Why? What's the top pick?



Suggest your child try that book and see if it lives up to its name!

### Explore different types of literature while learning about flowers

Spring is here and flowers are in bloom—in gardens, in planters and even in books. Take this opportunity to learn more about flowers *and* about different types of literature.

With your child, read a:

- **Fiction story** about a flower. Discuss ways to tell that it is fiction. For example, do the flowers speak?
- **Nonfiction book** about flowers. Discuss characteristics of nonfiction. Are there photos or realistic illustrations? Did you learn facts?
- **Poem** about a flower. How can you tell that this is poetry? Do the words follow a pattern or rhyme?



### For lower elementary readers:

- *The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Daywalt. When Duncan opens his crayon box, he finds a note from each of his crayons. Every crayon is upset and they've all gone on strike!

- *A House for Hermit Crab* by Eric Carle. Hermit Crab outgrows his shell and finds a new home. Kids will relate to the discomfort and value of change.

### For upper elementary readers:

- *Nouns and Verbs Have a Field Day* by Robin Pulver. It's Field Day in Mr. Wright's class—and the nouns and verbs that the students have been studying join in!

- *The Have a Good Day Cafe* by Frances Park and Ginger Park. Every day, Mike's family sells food from their food cart. But when business starts to slow, Mike and his grandma come up with a plan.



**Q: My child is not very confident when reading aloud. What can I do to help build his confidence?**

**A:** Encourage your child to practice! Read together every day. Take turns reading aloud. Demonstrate how to pronounce words your child is unsure of. Help him understand what he reads by encouraging him to ask plenty of questions. In addition to reading, keep talking with your child every day to strengthen language and vocabulary skills.

### Building Readers®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

Publisher: Doris McLaughlin.  
Publisher Emeritus: John H. Wherry, Ed.D.  
Editor: Rebecca Hasty Miyares.

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(a division of PaperClip Media, Inc.)  
P.O. Box 7474, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7474  
1-800-756-5525, ISSN: 1533-3302  
[www.parent-institute.com](http://www.parent-institute.com)

Badger Public School  
110 Carpenter Avenue  
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## Postal Customer

### Kindergarten Korner

By: Macy Majer

#### Dagoshen Jean

**What is your favorite color?** Blue because it's really dark and cool.

**What do you like about spring?** I like that there is a lot of hours with the sun out so I can be outside.

**What are you enjoying about kindergarten?** I like it because I get to play at the end of the day and I also like recess.

**What do you want to be when you grow up?** I want to be a tow truck driver so I can help people who are stuck.

**If you could have a superpower, what would yours be?** I would want

Spiderman's powers so I can throw webs like him.

**What do you like about your teacher?** She is nice and she is good at teaching art. She also helps me when I have a question.

**What makes someone a good friend?** Someone who will talk to me and play with me when I'm not doing anything.



#### Aspen Stenberg

**What is your favorite color?** Blue because it's in the rainbow.

**What do you like about spring?** I like that the flowers grow and I like the weather because it's sunny outside.

**What are you enjoying about kindergarten?** I enjoy playtime and recess because I get to play with friends.

**What do you want to be when you grow up?** I want to be a kindergarten teacher because it sounds fun.

**If you could have a superpower, what would yours be?** I

would want to have ice powers like Elsa from *Frozen* because I want to be like her.

**What do you like about your teacher?** I like her because she gives me homework and homework is fun!

**What makes someone a good friend?** Someone who will play with me a lot and help me.

