



Calhoun R-VIII Newsletter

November-December 2019



Important Dates:

Dec 4 – ASVAB Test @ 8:00 am

**Dec 10 – Jostens Ring Delivery
@ 8:30 am**

**Dec 12 – Christmas Concert and
Art Show @ 6:00 pm**

**Dec 18 – Elementary Christmas
Parties @ 11:30 am**

– Early Release @ 12:30 pm

Dec 19-Jan 3 – NO SCHOOL

– Christmas Break

Jordan

Jordan Keith Hammond is senior who prefers to hang out at home. His biggest challenge the past four years has been staying awake in class, but he shows up to school because he knows he wants to graduate. When asked who his most influential role model was, he said, “My science teacher Mr. Duensing was important. He kept me going.” He will most remember his most random interactions with his teachers.

Calhoun Eagles
Proudly Present...



Jordan’s future plan is to be a welder. In 10 years, he sees himself as a successful welder in the city. His advice to the underclassmen: “Don’t do drugs.”

Ms. Bourland

Brandy Bourland is our new 1st Grade Teacher. She has a bright personality, and it is obvious how much the kids love being in her class. She said the best comment she ever received was “[t]hat the only reason other people thought my English (at a previous district) was boring was because I made them behave themselves. Ha!” The secret to passing her class is as easy as ABC: “Give your best effort, ask for help, follow directions.” Her biggest pet peeve is being interrupted, so her students should make sure to get those hands up high when they need help or have a question.



Miss Karrie

Karrie Harris has been our new head cook since the end of last year. Her home-cooked lunches keep you coming back for more. Although it's hard to pick just one, the best comment she ever received was "Thank you for being you!" When asked about her favorite part of the day, she said, "I love the morning breakfast line. I get to greet the students individually. They all love being addressed by name and given the opportunity to interact about some of their favorite things! It's fun to hear their stories!" Her biggest pet peeve is negativity; "[t]he world just needs more positive interaction! Let's help people smile!"



Blood Drive

The 2019 NHS Blood Drive was a success. Our goal was 13 units of blood, and we exceeded our goal with 18 units. Thanks to all the faculty, staff, and community who came and gave blood.



Stories, Cells, and Veterans

The 4th and 5th Grade students designed 3D book reports and 3D plant/animal cells. The book reports were to be a scene in a box representing the characters and story. The kids worked



hard on placing the objects and getting the colors just right. The plant/animal cells could be constructed out of anything, and the students showed how creative they could actually be.

They used toys, pipe cleaners, food, markers, tiny canvases, containers for canvases, and those are just a few of the design options. The kids did an excellent job putting thought into the projects, and Mrs. Bailey did a

wonderful job mixing art with literature and science.



4th and 5th Grade also made two special wall displays to help celebrate Veteran's Day: "Characteristics of a Soldier" and "Veteran Wall of Honor."

Omegaman

On November 7, Omegaman came to our school to share his vision and commitment to anti-bullying. From the Omegaman website <https://omegamanschools.com/about/omegaman-story/>: “Marc Wilkes, the man behind the proverbial cape, travels throughout country as a comic superhero, sharing his vision of a world without bullying and helping kids understand the importance of good choices at literally thousands of schools.

...The word and symbol (Omega) means final. Omegaman is speaking a final message that can change your life for the better – ‘The choices you make today determine your tomorrow and the power of those choices are up to you.’



Omegaman is a character born as a comic book superhero, arriving from a distant planet whose mission is “to promote positive choices and move the student’s hearts and minds to contemplate positive change and new direction for their lives.” Posing by day as an ordinary guidance counselor, Omegaman works through

comic books, inspirational posters, videos and school assemblies to help stop the evil Deceptor, whose character represents bullies and negative influences such as drugs, smoking, lying, and other negative behaviors. Whether addressing students in schools locally and across the country, Omegaman’s message is the same, ‘Be a Dream-Maker not a Dream-Breaker!’”

Band Fundraiser

A thank you to everyone who supported the music fundraiser. Once all the money has been collected, we stand to make \$1,200—just \$300 short of our goal. Money raised goes toward music supplies and instrument repairs. The online store is still open at <http://www.centuryresources.com/shop/index.aspx>. Our code is 22874.

Flashlight Donation

We would like to thank Jeff Gray for helping out our science students recently. He donated several flashlights to the science room for a project. Mr. Gray is Kairrie Harris’s brother and also in the Army Reserves.

Veteran's Day

The Veteran's Day Assembly was held on November 11, despite the weather's attempts to stall us. We had a fine crowd of veterans and their spouses attend. The students did a fantastic job with their performances, and the slide show was a



wonderful tribute. After a special breakfast, Color Guard Isaiah Bailey and Arron Gibbs led the veterans and their spouses in to the gym for the assembly. The Welcome Address was given by Emma Watson and Abby Dittmer; they were articulate and poised, despite being nervous. "Star Spangled Banner" was performed this year by Arionna Watson, and "Pledge of Allegiance" was led by Kindergarten.



A heartfelt poem was read by Kaydie Moore, Kimber Marriott, Abby Taylor, and Emmaleigh Smith. "Heart of America" and "American Tears" were performed by 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade, with soloist Kimber Marriott, Kaydie Moore, and Alisha Woods featured in "American Tears." "What Is a Veteran" was read by Carly Nelson and Caylianne Higginbotham; Lee Higginbotham and Zaden Shearer read a poem that Mrs. Collins found for them. "My Flag" and "Yankee Doodle" were performed by Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd Grade, complete with the most adorable streamer performance.



Our first guest speaker was Mr. James Burson; his anecdotes about the war always make us laugh. "Medley of the Armed Forces" was the fitting background music for a slide show featuring friends, family, and co-workers who have proudly served our country. Our second guest speaker was Mr. Mike Lamb; although Abby nervously forgot to introduce him at first, Mr. Lamb got a good laugh out of it, and showed what a good rapport he has with the students. He reminded all of the younger generation that Veteran's Day assemblies need to carry on as long as they can; we must never forget the sacrifices that were made to keep us free.



"Stars and Stripes Forever" was performed by the High School Band before we recognized all the veterans by having them introduce themselves and lining up along the wall. "Taps" this year was performed on clarinet by Arionna Watson, who made the song hauntingly beautiful in a unique way. Afterward, the students went and shook the veterans' hands and thanked them for their service.



Christian and Maddie



A student appreciation lunch was held by the Clinton Optimist Club on November 13. Maddie Ross and Christian Wolf were the Calhoun honorees this year. Maddie went home sick and could not attend, but Christian was still able to be there. Christian was presented with a large bag of popcorn and a certificate; Maddie was presented with hers when she was able to come back to school. We are proud



of both of them and how they choose to carry themselves every day.

MSTA Calhoun Reunion

On Thursday night, November 14, some familiar faces were tagged in a Facebook post:

“The ole guard is back together for MSTA Conference. Representing Pleasant Hill[,] Calhoun[,] and Sedalia school district.”

Heather Morgan (our former Elementary Teacher), Shawn Duensing (our current Science Teacher), and Kathy O’Dell (our former FACS, Computers, and Math Teacher) all happened to be representing their respective schools at MSTA Conference Thursday and Friday. They were all excited, as no one had realized they would all three be there. Everyone who saw the post on Facebook enjoyed seeing the gang back together again.



Christmas Concert

The Christmas Concert and Art Show will be December 12 at 6:00. Band and Music students need to be here by 5:30 in their classrooms. Please come and support our Fine Arts Program. The bands and singers have been practicing hard, making great improvements, and are excited to fill the gym with the sounds of Christmas. The artists have been working overtime on their pieces, making sure they are just right, and not wanting to stop improving them. Our Fine Arts students cannot wait to showcase their talents for you.

Menu

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider.”

Breakfast and Lunch Menus are subject to change.

Milk options are Fat-Free Chocolate Milk or 1% White Milk. Juices are all 100%

Breakfast

Monday, Pizza, fruit, juice, milk.

Tuesday, Pancake, sausage, fruit, juice, milk.

Wednesday, Choice of cereal, toast, fruit, juice, milk.

Thursday, Pancake sausage on a stick, fruit, juice, milk.

Friday, Biscuit and gravy, fruit, juice, milk.

Lunch

Dec. 2, BBQ rib, baked beans, tater tots, fruit, milk

Dec. 3, Goulash, carrots, pears, salad, milk

Dec. 4, Chicken patty, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, peaches, bread, milk

Dec. 5, Chicken nachos, corn, lettuce, salsa, fruit, milk

Dec. 6, Grilled cheese sandwich, tomato soup, salad, fruit, milk

Dec. 9, Pulled pork, baked beans, broccoli, fruit, milk

Dec. 10, Chicken Alfredo, salad, carrots, pears, milk

Dec. 11, Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, peaches, roll, milk

Dec. 12, Hotdog on bun, fries, corn, fruit, milk

Dec. 13, Pizza, salad, fruit, milk

Dec. 16, Chicken nuggets, mac and cheese, broccoli, baby carrots, fruit, milk

Dec. 17, Cheeseburger on bun, tots, corn, fruit, milk

Dec. 18, Chicken patty, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, peaches, bread, milk

NO SCHOOL, DEC. 19-JAN. 3