



BALLARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

March 2020

DATES

March 2020:

March 11 - End of Data Point 3

Students with 0-6 days absent are in "regular absent"

March 12 - Kindergarten Registration at 6pm, at Northside Elementary

March 13- Wear a T-Shirt for All to Read

March 20- Box Top Collection Dress as a Storybook Character

March 23 & 24- 5th Graders visit Ring Lardner

March 26 - Camp Out at Ballard! Family Reading Night, 6:00-7:30

March 27- Wear Animal Prints/Animal Shirt

April 2- PTO Meeting 4:00pm

April 3 - HALF DAY of School Dismissal at 11:58 3rd Grade 8:00-8:30am Pastries w/Parents Pajama Day!

Recent Happenings...



Spelling Bee

After months of preparation, hard work, and being resilient, the students traveled to Lake Michigan College for the regional Cloverleaf Spelling Bee competition, where they competed against students from area schools. Despite being three of the youngest contenders, they competed fiercely and made Ballard proud during their effort. While they did not win, they were able to stay and watch much older students compete for the eventual prize. It was quite impressive to see students as young as the Ballard team on that stage. (4th Graders Izabelle, Alaska, and Javion pose for a photo before the big competition on February 20th.)

Girls on the Run

Starting February 24th, a group of 15 girls in grades 3-5 began Girls on the Run. This program is all about strengthening a sense of confidence in young girls while fostering care and compassion for self and others. At Girls on the Run, all girls are inspired and motivated to understand and accept others, while standing up for what they believe. At the end of the program, girls participate in a 5K, which provides a tangible sense of accomplishment, setting a confident and goal-oriented mindset into motion.

Science Olympiad

We are PROUD to say a group of students from grades 3, 4, and 5 went to Lake Michigan College yesterday to participate in Science Olympiad. Great job to all those students who worked hard and participated in the events. And big thank you to Mrs. White for being the coach of this wonderful team!



PTO:

PTO is still collecting Box Tops that have not expired. Please send in any Box Top you have collected so far. Thank you!

Another way you can help our school earn money is to scan your receipt when shopping at stores. First, download the Box Tops app for free, and then scan after shopping to earn the school money.

A big **THANK YOU** to all the students and their families who came out to The Ballard Ball. We enjoyed seeing all the smiling faces, laughter, and great dance moves!



Gym:

Mr. Payne has teamed up with "Skatetime School Programs" to bring a skating program to students in Grades 3, 4 & 5, where they will be learning how to skate. Students will learn how to balance and coordinate their movement, as well as the basics of skating: stopping, forward skating, backward skating, and cornering.



Pathways to Potential

**P2P Bracelet Club
for 1st-5th Grades
* March 18th***

Kinder VIP Attendance
March begins with a monthly attendance incentive. On the 4th, all Kinders received a special prize from P2P. The next prize date will be **April 15th**, and **ONLY** the students who have **3 OR LESS** days absent from school from March 5th to April 15th will receive a prize.

DATA POINT 4 CHALLENGE

March 12th we begin "Leap into Spring"
The challenge runs from March 12-May 13. Each week the class with the **BEST** attendance will earn a frog. At the end of the data point the class that accumulated the most frogs wins the data point and will receive a special P2P incentive.

Computers:

How can I help my student prepare for the MSTEP test?

Students in grades 3-5 will be practicing for the MSTEP test during Lab time while at school. The test will be given after Spring Break. Here is how you can help your child prepare:

Go to: wbte.drcredirect.com/MI/portals/mi

- M-STEP is on the left side;
- Select "Online Tools Training"
- Select "Sample Item Sets"
- Select the grade
- Select the content area
- Login with the Username and Password provided on the login screen

Coming Soon....SAVE THE DATE!

**Ballard Family Reading
Night is coming on**

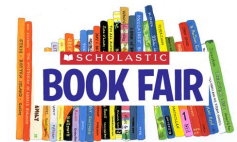
March 26th!

Thursday, March 26, 2020

6:00 - 7:30 pm

Ballard Elementary staff presents a night of literacy and reading fun! We will be providing dinner for those families who attend, literacy make-and-take activities for parents, door prizes, and just a **FUN** night of reading at "**Camp Ballard**" in the gym. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Library News



Thank you to all the families that supported Ballard during the Spring Book Fair! Our total sales were \$5,723, which our school earned 50% of. The money we earn at the book fair we put right back into reading at our school. Last year we updated a lot of books in the library and added some new listening centers. This year we were able to bring the "One Book, One School" Program to Ballard. We love seeing you add books to your home libraries and supporting our school!

Hope everyone is enjoying their copies of "Zoey and Sassafras: Dragons And Marshmallows"! We are having a lot of fun with it at school, and look forward to hearing from the students who are all excited about everyone reading the same book!