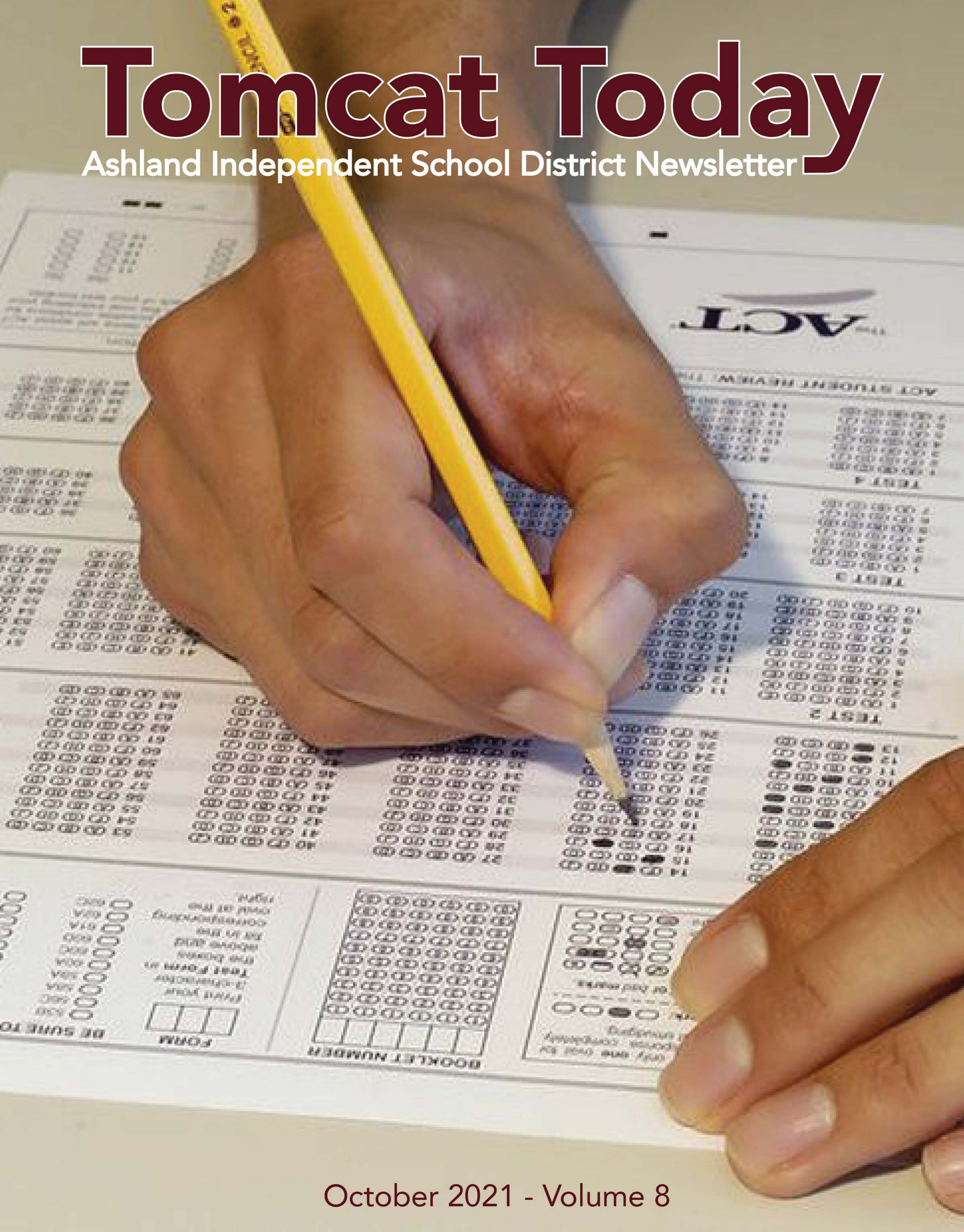


Tomcat Today

Ashland Independent School District Newsletter





Greetings,

As we embark upon the second quarter of school and prepare for our Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks, I just want to say “thank you” to all those who continue to support our students and staff through multiple means. Despite many obstacles over the past few months, what an honor it is to have had the highest ACT scores in the area! With your continued support, we will strive diligently to better each child, every day. Our enrollment is continuing to increase which is a testament that many new families are finding our district to be where they choose to send their children. We ask that your child be involved in some sort of extracurricular activity as research has shown that those who are involved in clubs, athletics, academic teams, etc. tend to be more adapted to experiencing successful endeavors throughout their life.

Sincerely,

D. Sean Howard
Superintendent
Secretary, Board of Education

From the Office of the Director of Pupil Personnel:

- Please try to schedule appointments after school hours.
- Each student is allowed to use 5 parent notes each school year. Be sure the note is turned in within 5 days after the absence. Parents can send the note to school with the child or bring in the note to the office.
- Be sure a doctor's note is turned in within 5 days of the absence. Many doctor's offices will fax the excuse directly to the school. Follow up with the school to be sure they received the note.
- Parents will get a phone call each time the child is absent; be sure we have your correct phone number. If the phone number changes, please notify the school.
- Court action may be taken once a student has 10 unexcused absences or tardies.
- Students have 2 days to make up the work missed due to absences.
- If you need to sign your child out for an appointment, please come into the school and sign him/her out. Leaving early also counts as a tardy.

Parent Portal Reminder:

Please make sure you know your parent portal login information and become familiar with the different features offered. The parent portal is a great way to stay updated on how your child is doing at school. The parent portal allows you to view attendance, grades, schedule, and lunch balances. You will have to use your parent portal this spring to do early registration for the 2022-23 school year. If you do not know your parent portal username and password, please call the secretary of your child's school.

If you have any questions about attendance please call Christine Scott, Director of Pupil Personnel, at Ashland Central Office (606) 327-2706 ext. 2724

PAUL G. BLAZER HIGH SCHOOL



It's hard to believe, but we are already one nine weeks into this school year. In that nine weeks we have had several changes. We had to take a period off for COVID, we implemented a virtual option, and we saw a new normal established in many of our routines around campus. However, change is only truly successful when those who are implementing it are fully invested and ready for the challenge.

There is no doubt that our teachers and students have worked extremely hard to ensure that all of these changes are successfully implemented.

We are encouraged to be returning to some normalcy in many of our events. We've been safely able to attend athletic events and other extracurricular activities such as Homecoming. Our students and staff have been diligently working to ensure that we each do the best we can to help our neighbors and our community. Without a doubt, this is the greatest lifelong lesson that they could take away.

As we push forward, we will continue to ensure that the safety of our students and staff are of the utmost importance. As parents and community members, we ask that you continue to help us keep our campus safe by being proactive, wearing a mask while at our indoor facilities, and monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms. If you have any questions about this, please feel free to reach out.

GO TOMCATS!

James Campbell
Principal

Staff Spotlight Katie Imel

Coming from the world of health-care, Katie Imel has been with Blazer for a little over a year now as our bookkeeper. She continues to ensure that the financial tracking and transactions are accounted for and implemented properly. Mrs. Imel works with both our school staff and our central office staff handling, athletic ticketing, in house booster accounts, and general purchasing that is needed each day to ensure the smooth operation of the school.



Mrs. Imel is married to Blazer science teacher, Justin Imel. They have one daughter, Lydia who continues to keep them on their toes each day. Thanks, Mrs. Imel, for all of your hard work and dedication to the students and staff here at Blazer.

New Year, New Experiences

With the creation of our new agriculture program, we welcome a new club at Blazer. Future Farmers of America (Ashland Independent Chapter) was created this year, and its members are already making strides to be noticed. Madison Stachler, the club sponsor, recently took our new chapter of students to Morehead State for a livestock event. At this event they learned to evaluate different types of livestock for competition.

These students worked diligently to learn the material in class. Top scoring students from the class were invited to take part in the event which included evaluating sheep, goats, and cattle. Our new chapter did very well and look forward to competing in more competitions.

In addition to evaluating, our students will be taking an active role in our school and city wide community by working on service projects to help with floral and landscape design. They will also be participating in the FFA National Convention in Indianapolis in the upcoming weeks. Be watching for good things in our community for the FFA program.



ASHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL



The 2021-22 school year got off to a challenging start, but our wonderful faculty and staff have been superstars working hard to meet the needs of our students and school! It's exciting to take on a new role at Ashland Middle. I am humbled and honored to be the principal of this great school and look forward to serving its staff and students!

GO CATS!
William Ferguson, Principal

Good Things Are Happening!

There are several new and exciting things going on here at AMS! Our first "Exhibition of Learning" will be taking place at the end of October. This will be the first installment in a series of student showcases that provide an opportunity to celebrate acquired skills and accomplishments. While it won't be able to be in-person as we had initially hoped, this event will be in virtual form and will be available on our school website. Be sure to check out how talented kids!

Speaking of accomplishments, we are set to start recognizing our Tomcat of the Month winners again! As we have done in the past, team and elective teachers will nominate students who have exhibited great character to become our monthly winners. We've even added a few new ideas to this program as well.

While it isn't new to AMS, Reading Plus has found a new role in our building. All students have been working on our reading program daily to help build skills and prepare them for the future. In just a short period of time we have seen amazing amounts of growth in reading! We are so proud of the effort put forth by our students! Some kids have already gained as much as 3 years worth of progress!

Middle school can be a tough time. We understand that and want things to go well for all of our students. In an effort to help, a new addition to the hallways here at Ashland Middle is the anonymous reporting box. These can be found on each floor of the building and will be used to report issues, bullying, or something that counselors or administrators need to be aware of.

As you can see, lots of things are happening here at AMS! We are so glad to be able to share in these experiences with our students!

Staff Spotlight

AMS would like to take this opportunity to recognize some new faces here in our building. We are excited to welcome the following new staff members:

Please join me in welcoming these newest Tomcats!



Bob Pulliam
AMS Asst. Principal



Anita Laney
6th Grade Science



Mike Compliment
Special Education



Elizabeth Frasher-Moon
EBD Staff



Will Nations
6th Grade Social Studies



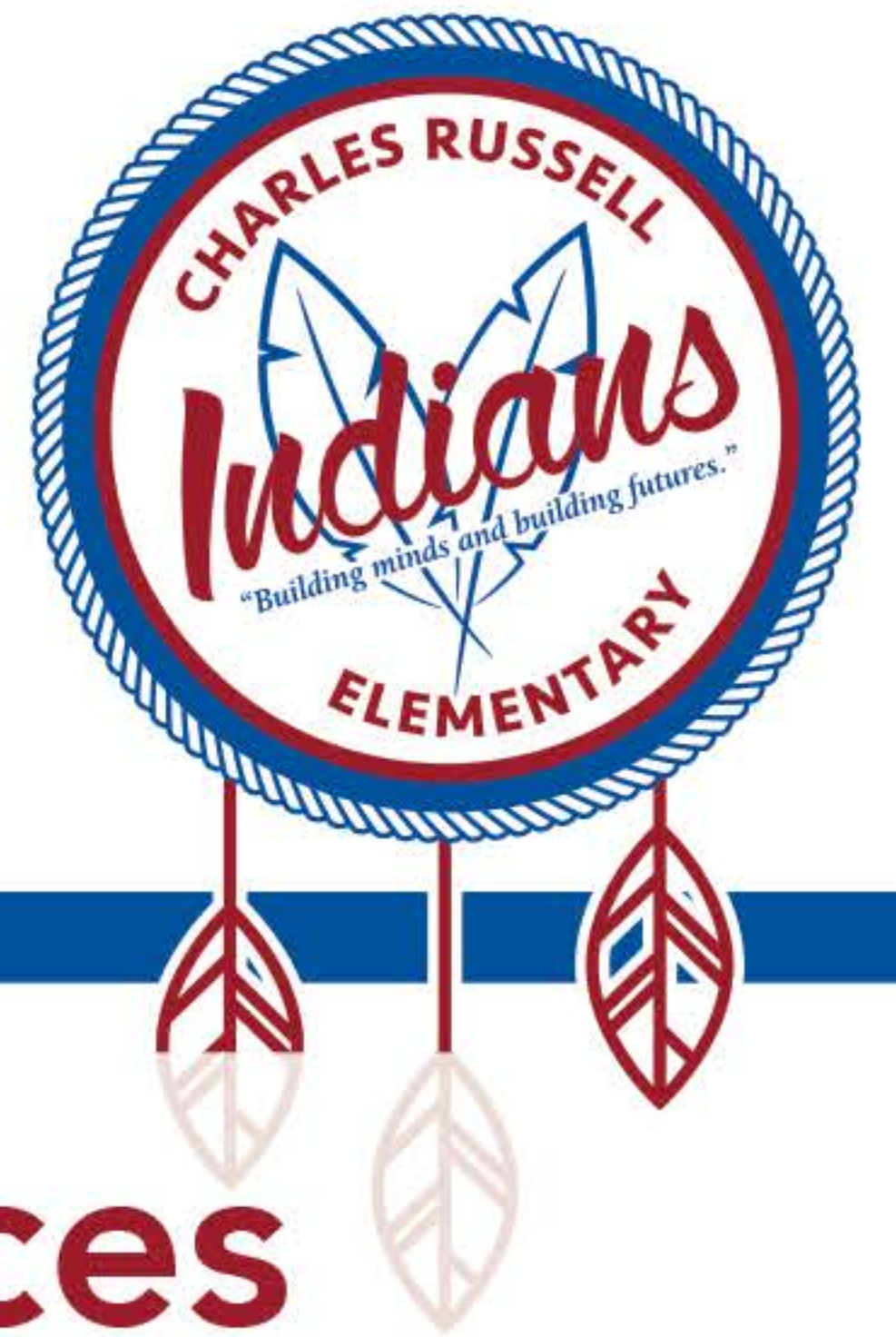
Skylar Wilson
FMD Staff

Upcoming Events

November 11 - Veteran's Day

November 22 - 26 - Thanksgiving Break

CHARLES RUSSELL ELEMENTARY



I am truly honored to be starting my 20th year in education as the new principal of Charles Russell Elementary. I have been a teacher at Charles Russell for 19 years, and I am excited to see what the future holds for our school. It's great to have students in the building this year! Our wonderful teachers have

been working diligently to provide many meaningful learning opportunities for our students.

Kerry Bocook
Principal

Staff Spotlight

We want to welcome the following people to our CRS family:

Leanne Bradley - 1st grade teacher
Karen Brown - 1st grade instructional assistant
Kathy Braden - Kindergarten instructional assistant
Toni Patton - 2nd grade instructional assistant

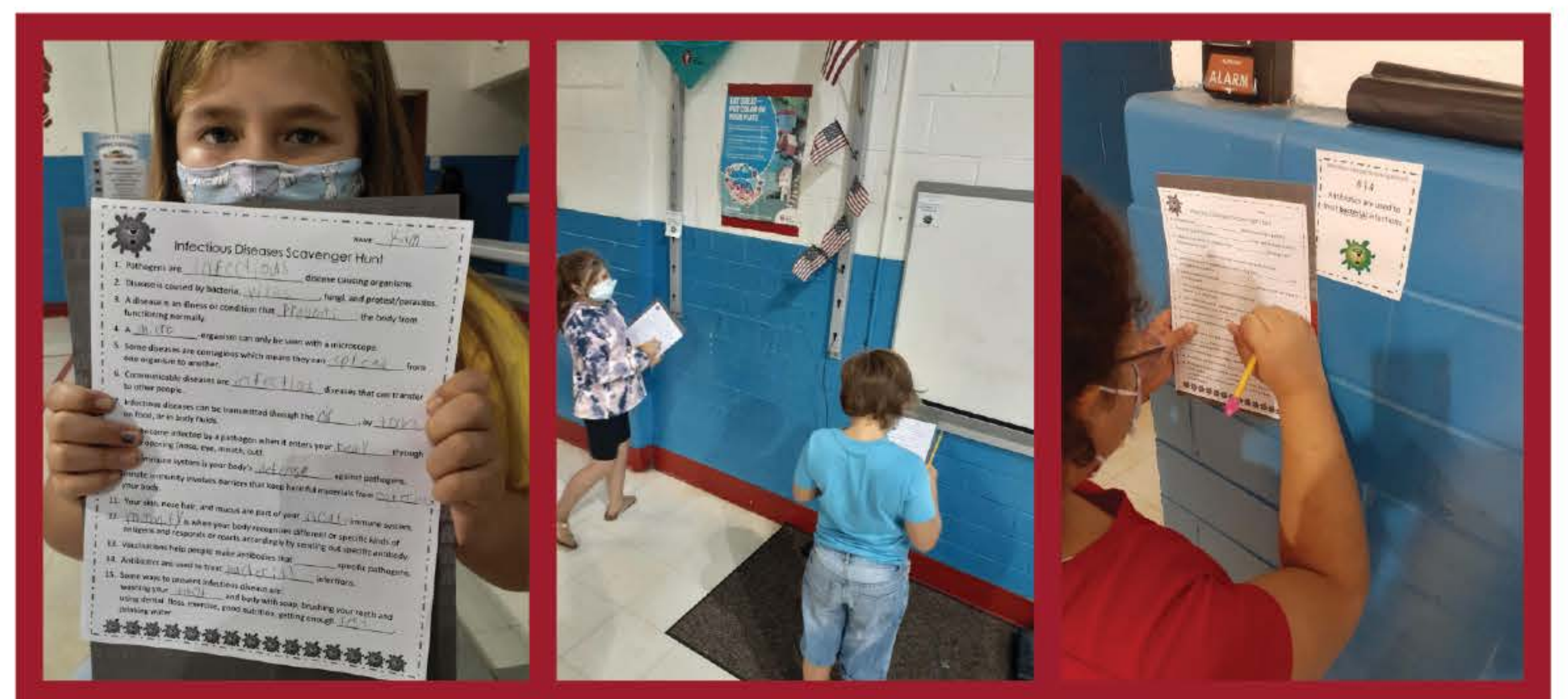
Playground Goals

We are working hard this year to raise money for a new playground! We have several fundraisers planned throughout the year to help us meet our goal.



Healthy Choices

The fourth grade students completed an Infectious Disease Scavenger Hunt in counseling class with Mrs. Brillhart. Over the last several weeks, students have been learning about germ prevention, non-communicable and communicable diseases, and how to be responsible for making healthy choices to support their immune systems.



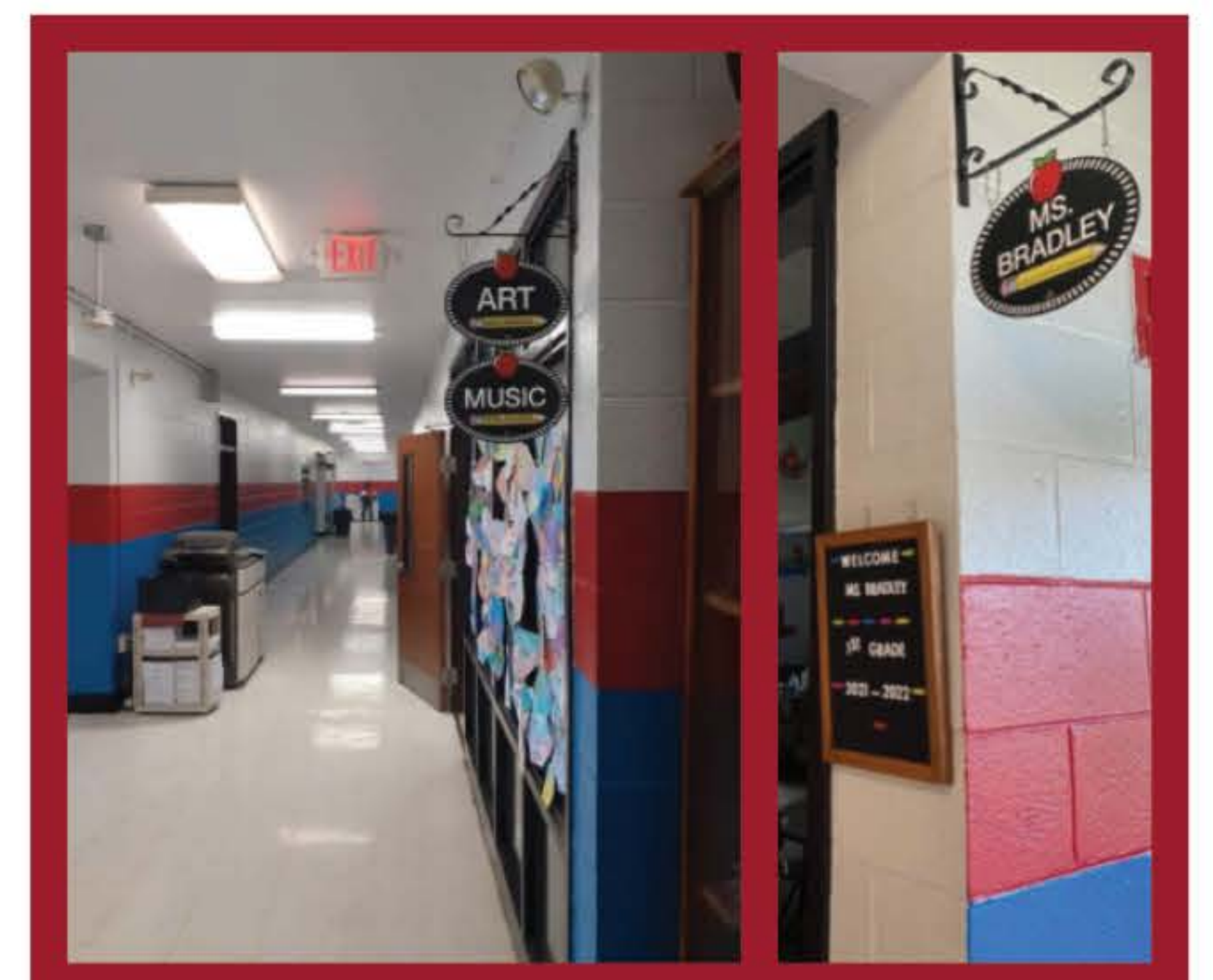
All About Apples

Our kindergarten classes have been exploring apples. They've sampled different types of apples, made art projects by using apples as stamps, and made their own applesauce.



Fresh Paint and New Places

In addition to many of our staff moving classrooms and taking on new roles this year, our hallways had a summer facelift! Our custodians and teachers worked hard to spruce up our building with freshly painted walls and trim and added beautiful new signs to make our hallways bright and inviting.



CRABBE ELEMENTARY



Welcome back to school, Tiger Families! We are excited to be back and to be in-person! As you know we are still in a pandemic. I am hopeful, however, that the worst is all behind us. We will continue to strive to create an educational environment that is not only safe but also conducive to learning. Thank you for trusting us with your children. We take pride in offering our best here at Crabbe Elementary. We look forward to a great school year. Stay safe and healthy!

#ITSATIGERTHING!

Uriah A. Tolbert, Ed.S
Principal

Staff Spotlight

We welcome the following staff to our family:

Emma Hensley - Guidance Counselor
Shannon Callihan - Kindergarten
Kali Scott - Speech Language Pathologist
Heather Clark - Math Recovery
Veronica Catlin - Secretary
Peggy Fitch - 3rd Grade
Krista Reyes - 2nd Grade
Joseph Gemmer - 2nd Grade
Brett Parsons - 2nd Grade
Stephanie Forrest - 4th Grade
Amanda Walden - Special Education
Gaebriell Leake - Kindergarten
Emily Nichols - RTI Tutor
Ashlee Cordial - Music (Crabbe/Hager)

**IT'S A
TIGER
THING!**

STEM Energy

STEM activities have been going great. Scholars explored how mechanisms change energy by transferring direction, speed, type of movement, and force. Scholars discovered a variety of ways that potential energy can be stored and released as kinetic energy. They also predicted the transfer of energy in the event of a collision to develop a vehicle restraint system to protect an egg passenger.



HAGER ELEMENTARY



I want to welcome our Hager Wildcats back to school! We are excited to have you back in the building and cannot wait to make 2021-2022 a fantastic school year! As I enter my 2nd year as the principal of Hager, I continue to be proud of our dedicated staff and hardworking students. Our staff has worked tirelessly to prepare focused instruction that will engage students in learning.

Most of our students have returned to the building, yet our teachers continue to use a variety of digital tools in the classroom that promote collaboration, communication and creativity. Please know that we miss our students who are participating in the virtual learning experience, but we respect the decision that you have made for your family. Our students, whether in person or virtual, will always be our number one priority!

It is our desire to keep you informed of all that is taking place at Hager this school year. Up-to-date information will be given to you in our weekly "Monday Folder," on social media pages, and within other teacher communication methods. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or give the front office a call.

You matter. Every child. Every day.

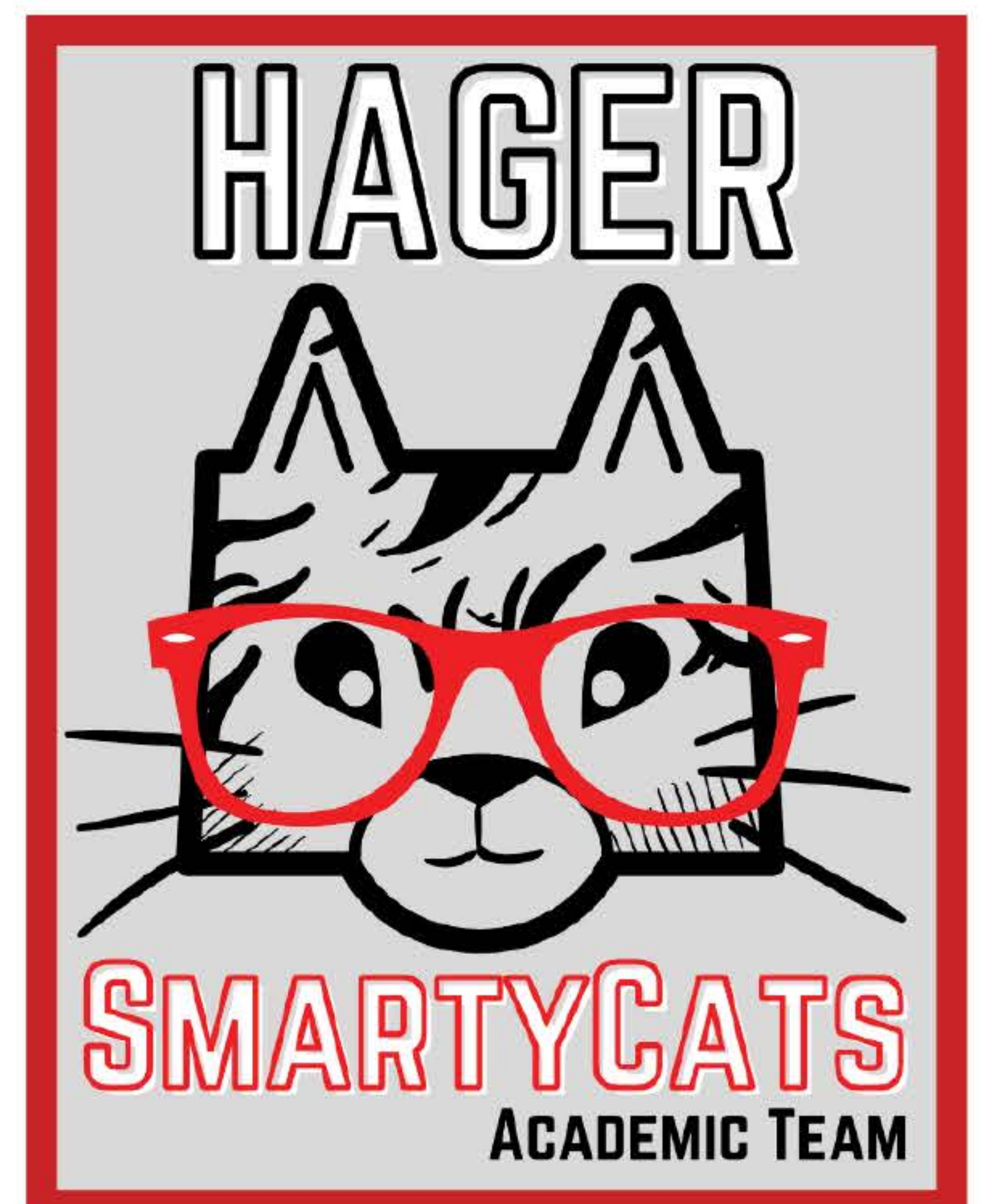
Susan Vance,
Principal

Staff Spotlight

Hager would like to introduce all of our new staff members. Please give a warm Hager welcome to Jessica Preston (Kindergarten), Magean Conley (1st Grade), Nicki Gallaher (2nd Grade), Jessica Howerton (4th Grade), Megan VanBibber (Special Education), Ashlee Cordial (Music), and Candice Bunch (Art). Also, the following staff have changed roles this year: Emily Ream (Reading Recovery), Brianna Zimmerman (2nd Grade), and Amber Patrick (5th Grade).

SMARTYCATS

Ms. Patrick, Mrs. Preston and Mrs. Ream had the opportunity to visit Louisville in mid-September to attend the KAAC Conference. They were each given a choice of several different workshops to become certified and better their knowledge of academic team competitions. Hager academic team is already underway, and our Wildcats and coaches are looking forward to competing this academic year. We would like to give staff shout-outs to our academic coaches: Mrs. Howerton (Arts & Humanities), Mrs. Vance (Mathematics), Mrs. Parsley (Social Studies), Science & Written Composition (Mrs. Price), Mrs. Cole (Language Arts), Mrs. Preston (Future Problem Solving) and Ms. Patrick & Mrs. Ream (Quick Recall). We would like to thank our parents and students for their diligence in practicing after school and at home. Let's go SmartyCats!



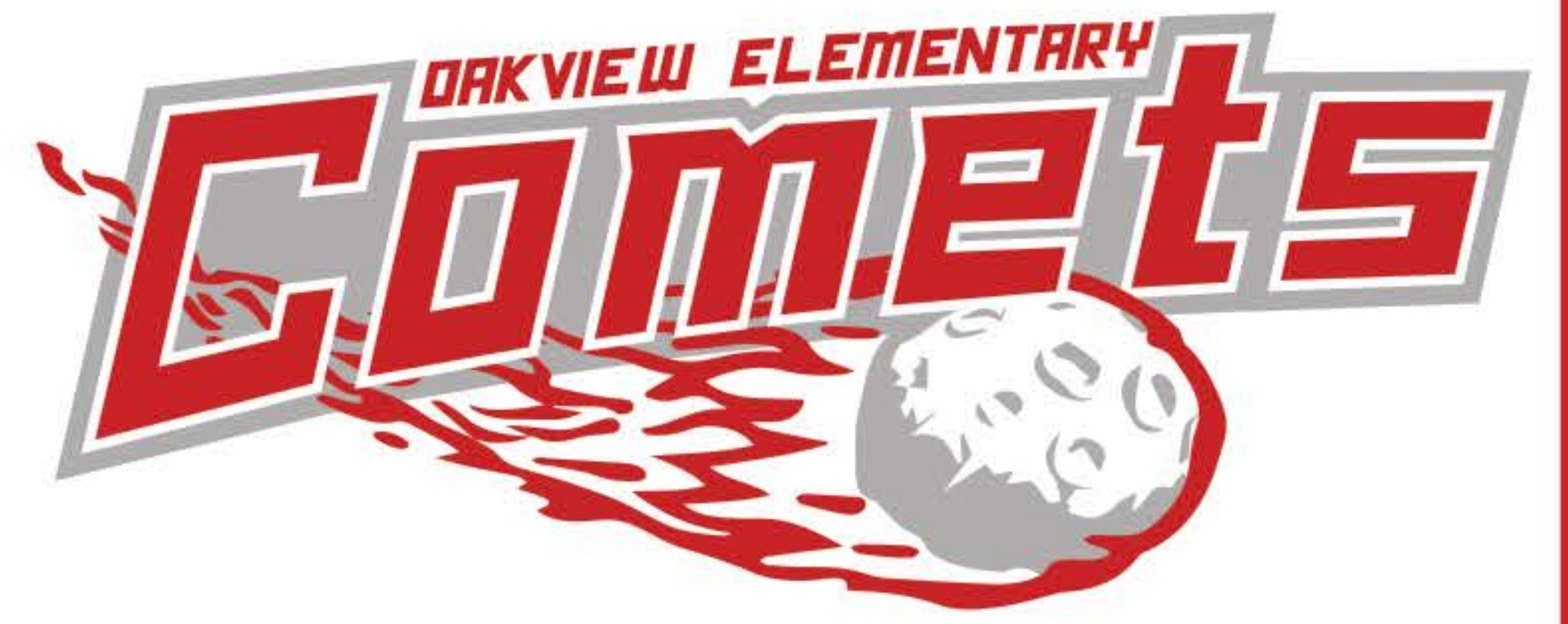
A Proper Party

The 2nd grade teachers, Ms. Gallaher, Mrs. Wall and Mrs. Zimmerman, recently ended their unit on common and proper nouns with a Proper Noun Tea Party. Prior to this day, the students were taught about nouns as well as the country of England and proper etiquette. In their proper attire, the

students identified proper nouns and practiced proper table manners at the party. It was a day for our 2nd graders to remember!



OAKVIEW ELEMENTARY



Welcome Back! We may be masked but we are in person making the most of everyday with our kids. We have missed them terribly. I am eager to see what the year holds. I believe the worst is behind us, so I am looking onward to what learning opportunities lie ahead. We have many things planned for our students and families this year. It is my hope that we can make this year as normal as possible. We are in the midst of planning House activities and group outings. We know our kids miss our House system because we do, too! We are planning many things that are fun and safe at the same time. As always, please feel free to reach out to my staff and me if you have any questions. We are here to serve your children as well as support our families. We truly believe, "once a comet, always a comet!" We are Four Houses, but One Family!

Rebecca Howell,
Principal

Staff Spotlight

Oakview Comets would like to introduce the new face of the front office, Miss Shannon Maddix. She has been part of our family for seven years. Shannon moved from the position of Instructional Assistant to our School Secretary in August. We are very excited for her as she begins her new role. Please help us in making her feel loved!



Pollinators and Pumpkins

Our school garden also houses a variety of native pollinator plants and vegetables. In the spring, Mrs. Patierno's class planted pumpkin seeds. We have been observing the life cycle of our pumpkin plant and finally have some exciting news...our very own pumpkins have made an appearance! We are just smitten with this new addition to the Oakview Crew.



"Comet Club"

What an exciting start to the year! Oakview Elementary has been fortunate enough to receive the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant! As a result of receiving this grant, Oakview is now offering "Comet Club." This before and after school program is geared towards filling in academic gaps and providing a variety of enrichment activities to our participants. We have had a successful 2 weeks of Comet Club. Students have especially enjoyed participating in the enrichment portion of the program. Enrichment activities include Folk Dancing, Public Library, Good News Club, Boy Scouts, Paramount Arts Center, Brother's Keeper, Sisterhood of the Comets, 4H, Kindness Club, and Yoga.

Students who participate on Wednesdays will get to experience a fun approach to yoga! During yoga class, students are working on their balance and stamina, using their imagination, and practicing concentration techniques. As you can see, we are all smiles after a fun and engaging yoga lesson!

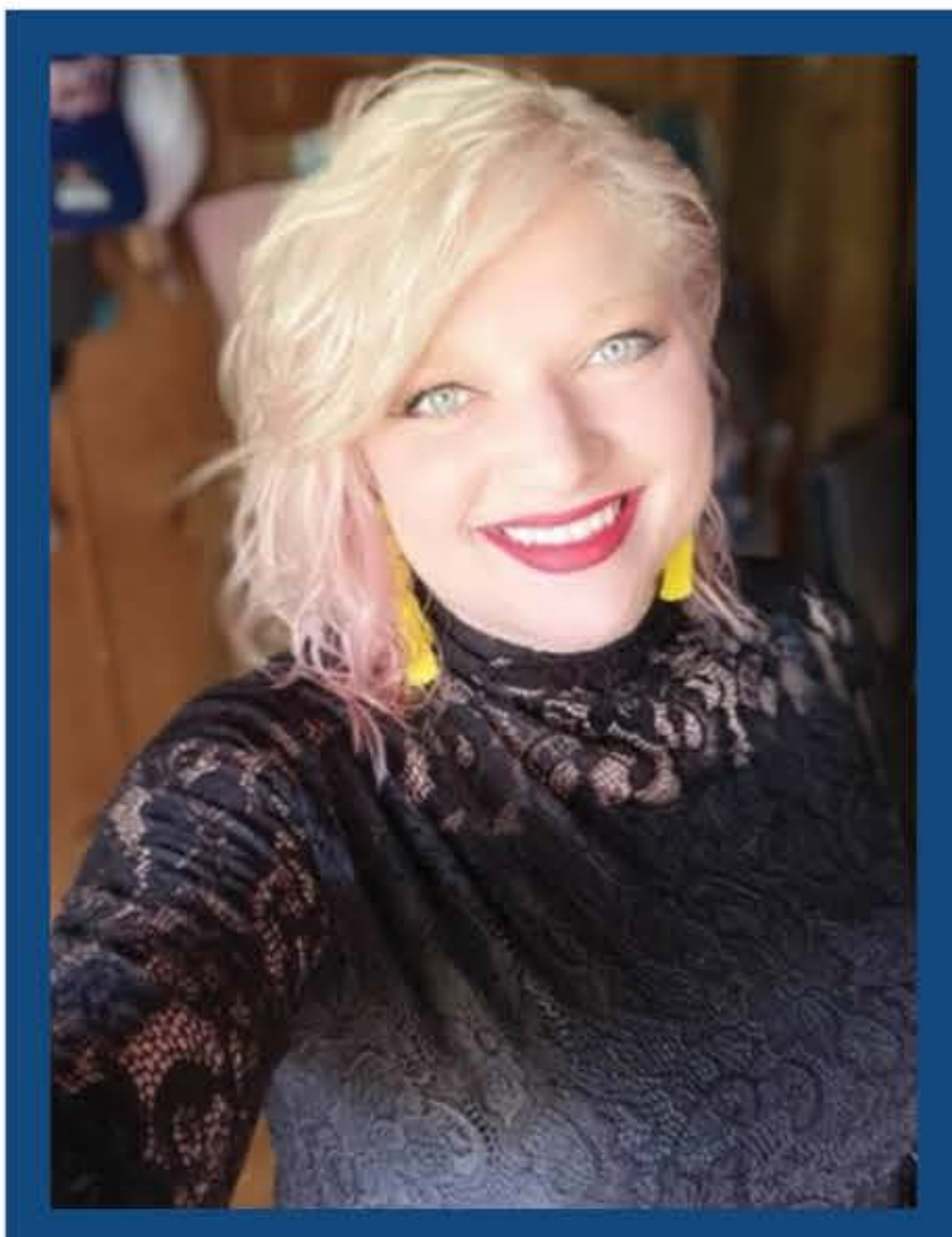


Growing with 4H

The 4H Program has been working with us to develop a deeper understanding of agriculture, nutrition, and leadership. This week, students sowed their own lettuce seeds in miniature greenhouses shaped like hearts. We are all anxiously waiting for the first sprout to appear so that we can plant them in our school garden.



POAGE ELEMENTARY



Welcome back! We are so excited for this school year! This is my 6th year as the principal of Poage (year 15 total in education), and I continue to be blown away by the dedication of our staff and students. Poage is such a special place to be! It is that way because of all

the hard work that our staff and families pour into our little school.

We have many fun and exciting activities planned for this year. If you have not done so already, please make sure you sign up for your child's classroom Remind. Most information comes home that way. It is also a great way to reach your child's teacher(s). Also, check our Poage Elementary School Facebook page for updates about school related items.

Katie Holbrook, Ed. S
Principal

Free Fallin'

Mrs. Damron's class completed science experiments determining each student's reaction time. They dropped multiple objects to time how quickly students reacted to their fall.



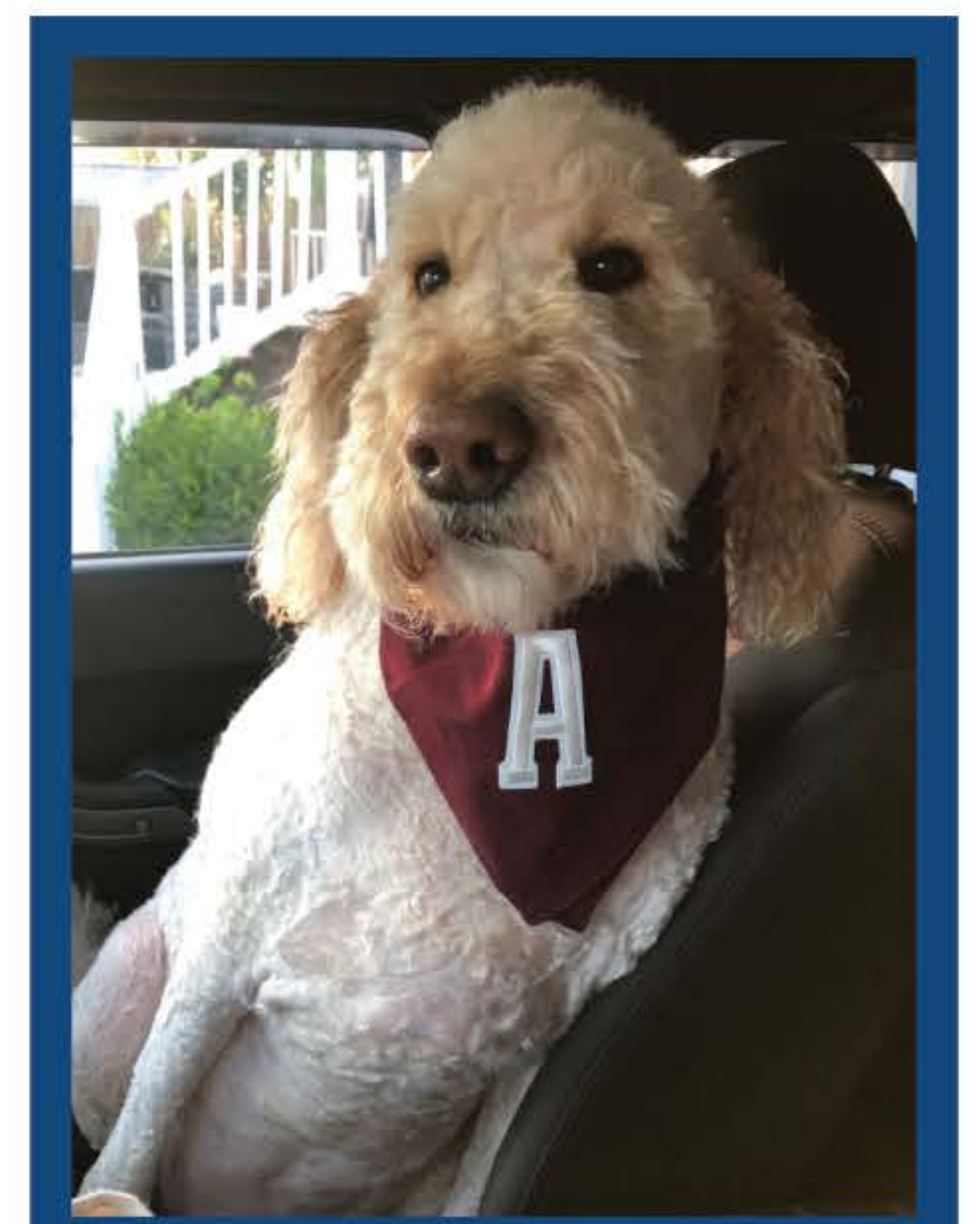
PINK OUT!

One of our very special teachers is fighting a tough battle right now. Mrs. Amy Lynch was diagnosed with breast cancer during the summer. Her surgery date was September 23, 2021. Our Pioneers wanted to show their support for her the day before her surgery, so we held a school wide Pink Out in her honor! We know she will beat this disease and be back in our building before we know it!



Staff Spotlight

We want to give a HUGE thank you to Nurse Tiffany Callihan! A school nurse's job is never easy, but throw a pandemic on top of it, and it can be wild! She handles it all with grace and efficiency. We are so thankful to have her (and Henry) at Poage!



ASHLAND EARLY EXCEPTIONAL CHILDHOOD CENTER



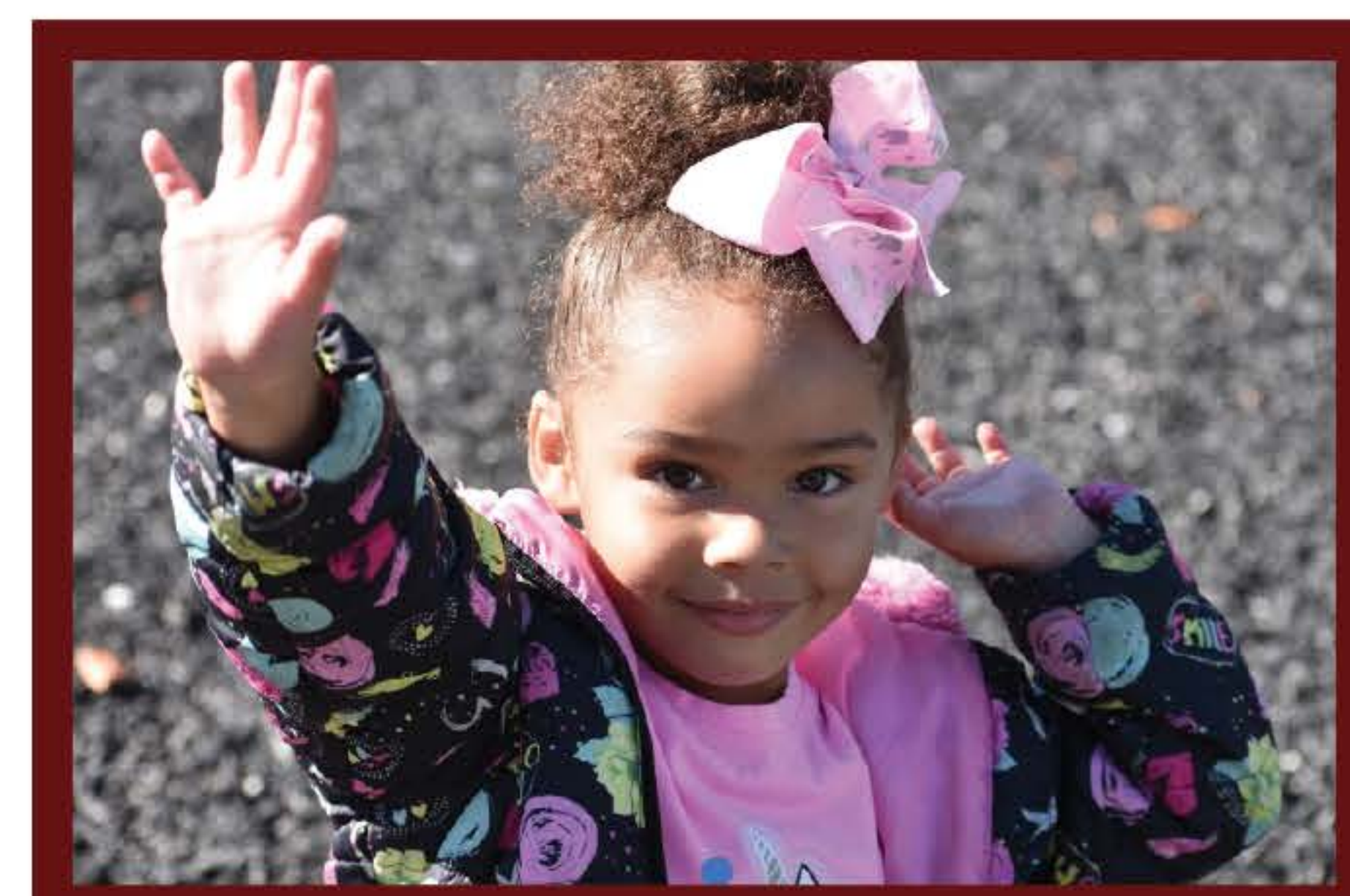
I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful summer. I also hope you are relaxed, recharged and ready to start a new school year. I am so delighted that you are part of our amazing school family. I welcome and value your positive energy and dedication to excellence in education, and I look forward to working with you and your child(ren). I know things are still a little different with Covid regulations, but we will continue to push through these difficult times and make the most of it. I want you to know that we strive as, a school family, to keep everyone safe and healthy each and every day. We will continue to give every child the tools they need to succeed and be ready for kindergarten.

We are looking forward to another incredible and productive school year. Our highly qualified and devoted staff have been planning and preparing for your child(ren). Our enthusiastic office team is busy everyday registering new families, ordering needed materials, and providing the resources so our staff can be the best that they can be. Our hard working and conscientious custodians have spent the entire summer thoroughly cleaning the facility and work hard each and every day to keep your child safe. We have so many exciting activities and events planned for your child and your family.

Teresa Conway,
Director

Fresh Faces

Each year brings positive change. This includes a few additions to our school family. We are delighted to welcome Tosha Hairston, our new IECE teacher, and Ann Lewis, our new health coordinator/nurse. Mrs. Hairston brings several years of experience and will provide a strong nurturing kindergarten readiness environment. Nurse Ann brings a solid skill set and a gentle, sensitive approach to meeting children's health needs as well as 15 years of experience. Welcome Mrs. Hairston and Nurse Ann.



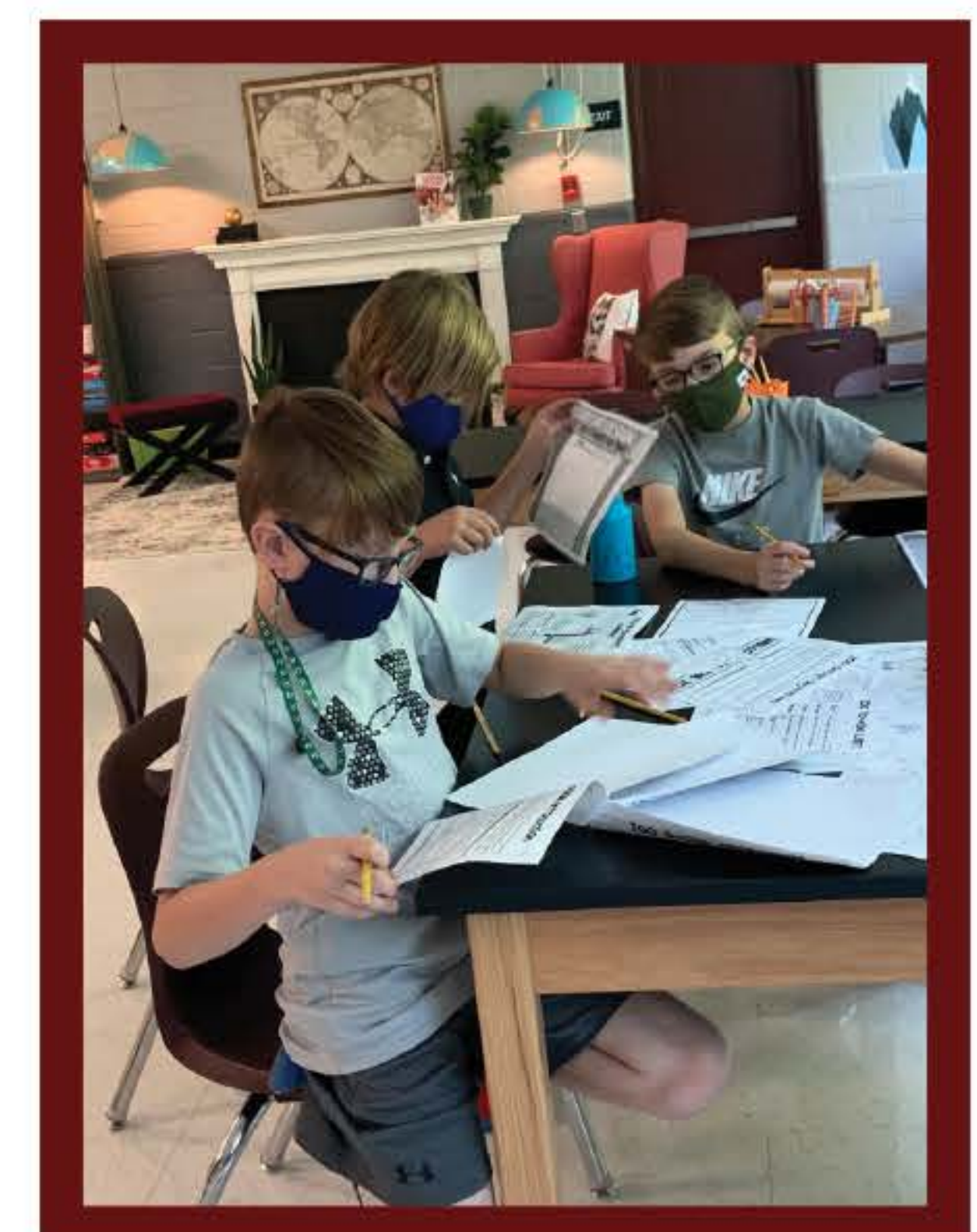
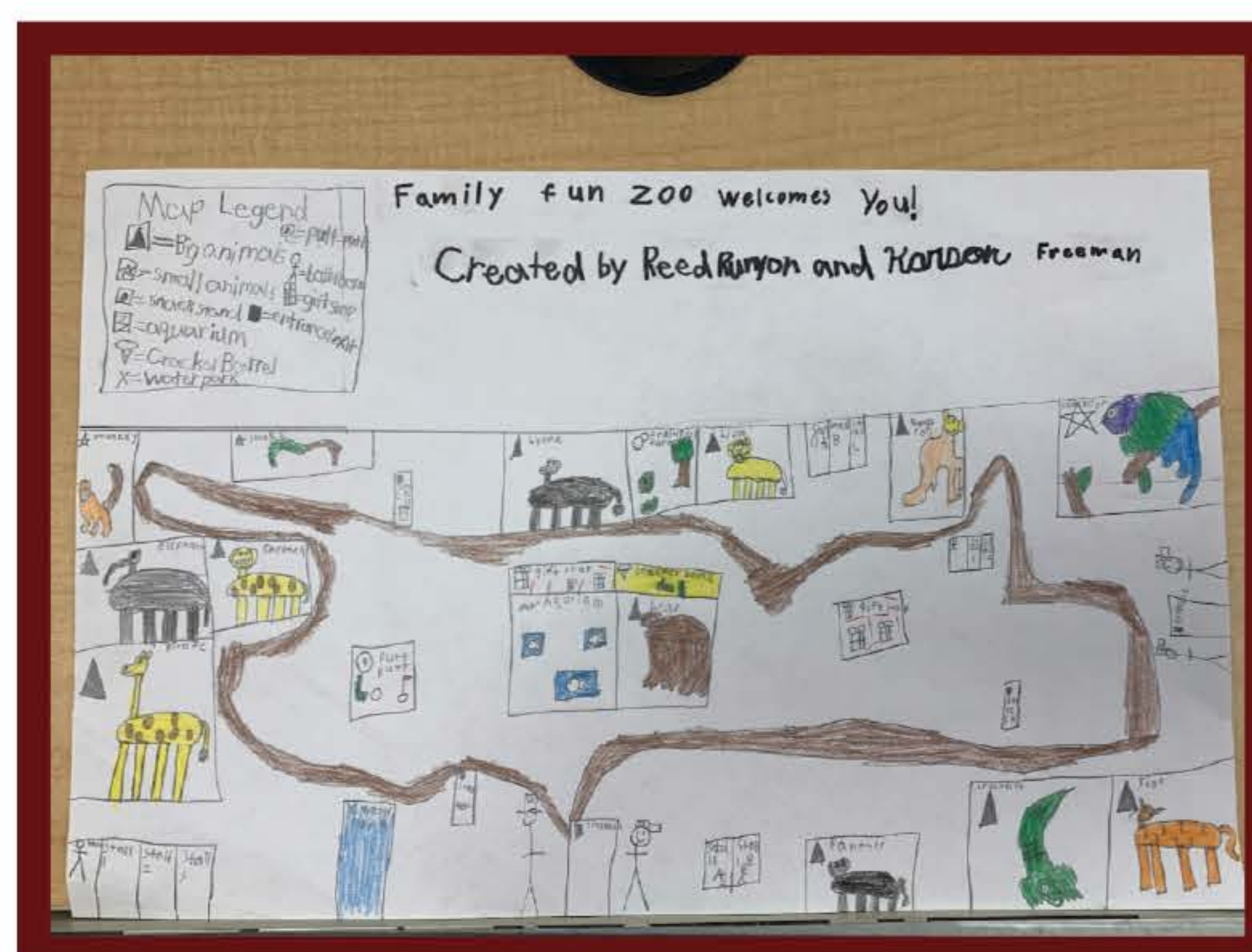
Director's Message

The 2021-2022 school year brings many changes and new faces to Ashland's CATS Academy. The CATS program offers enrichment opportunities to Ashland's gifted and talented students, challenging them both academically and creatively. Formerly from Poage Elementary, Jeff Kennard, Michele Graham, and Barb Shivel have joined CATS and are eager to work with current CATS students and hope to expand the program by identifying and welcoming new students. We are excited to reveal the changes to the CATS program and building during our upcoming open house.



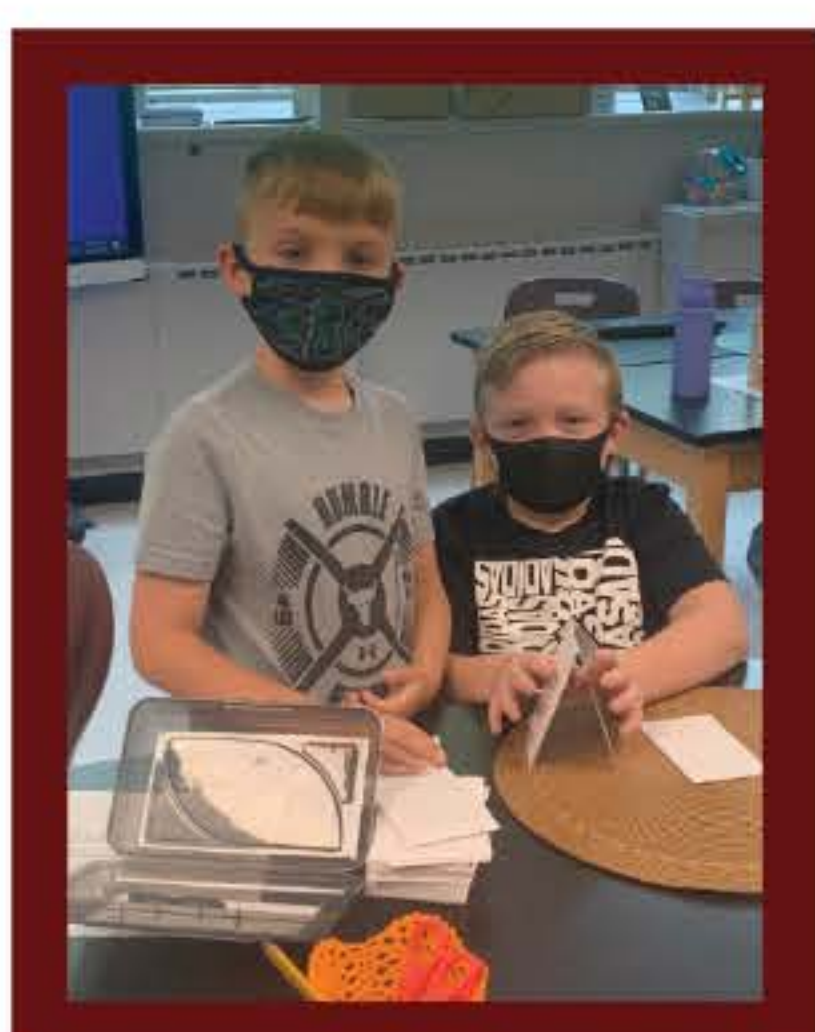
Solving and Designing

Practical engineering and problem solving have been a focus for some CATS students so far this year. They are working together to learn that sometimes original plans do not work and we have to re-think our designs to create a more successful product. Students have been working hard creating and developing amusement park rides, wind powered vehicles and even imagined and designed their own zoo.



Just Getting Started

Elsewhere at CATS Academy, students have been practicing problem solving, honing their questioning skills, working collaboratively, and thinking like scientists this year. They have been using their prior knowledge of science to complete experiments like making butter and various STEM challenges. We like to tell our students that this is only the beginning of our adventures in CATS!



ACT Scores Are Tops In Region

Blazer High School and being the best seem to be synonymous these days. Whether it is on the athletic field or in the classroom, our students seem to be succeeding in all facets of life. Recently, the Kentucky School Report Card was released. As the accountability tool used by the state, it is used to determine if a school is making adequate progress in their academic programming. Blazer High School was ranked number one in the area for ACT scores!



The ACT is given to high school Juniors (this year's Seniors) at school and used for accountability purposes. This test is important because it is used as the primary examination for college admittance in the state of Kentucky. After a very trying 2020-2021, Blazer students proved that hard work and dedication to their studies was paramount during this difficult time. Not only were our scores #1 in the area, but also showed improvement in all areas.

Congratulations to our students, staff, and parents for working so diligently last year to reach such an impressive achievement!

Upcoming Events at Ashland Blazer

November 11 - Veterans' Day Ceremony
November 18 - ASVAB Testing
November 20 -28 - Thanksgiving Break



The Ashland Independent School District submitted a Trauma-Informed Plan to ensure compliance with the state's School Safety and Resilience Act (Senate Bill 1). The mission of this plan is "to continue to evolve as a trauma-informed district where all adults recognize the impact of trauma on student learning by understanding and responding in ways that support the emotional and physical well-being of all students." In a trauma-informed school, the adults in the school community are prepared to recognize and respond to those who have been impacted by traumatic stress. Those adults include administrators, teachers, staff, and parents. One of the ways that this plan is being implemented is through the Relatives As Parents Program.

UWNEK Relatives As Parents Program (RAPP) is a community of individuals and families working together to encourage and inform grandparents and other relatives who have taken on the responsibility of surrogate parenting due to the absence of the parents. RAPP is funded by United Way of Northeastern Kentucky. Sessions are approximately 1 hour in length and consist of a meal, resources, and community speakers. This program houses relatives/grandparents from the Ashland Independent School District, Fairview School District, and Boyd County School District. Workshops typically take place in September, November, March and May. Due to COVID-19, the sessions are currently virtual and can be found on Facebook under a group search of "UWNEK Relatives As Parents Program."

RAPP

VIRTUAL SESSIONS FOR 2021-2022

Session 1- September 13th-17th-Understanding the Brain to Better Understand Our Kids+Trauma Informed Care

Session 2- November 8th-12th - Anxiety and Self-Care: For the Grown-ups and the Kids

Session 3- March 14th-18th- Teaching Kids to be Their Own Hero: Self- Advocacy

Session 4- May 16th-20th- Cyber Safety with Mike Lemon

Boyd County
RAPP
Relatives As Parents Program
Funded by United Way of Northeast Kentucky

Must complete 3 of the 4 session surveys and overall survey to be eligible for door prize.

FREE
GIVEAWAYS

For more information on AISD's Trauma-Informed Plan and/or future programming information, please contact your schools Family Resource and Youth Service Center at:

Rose-Linda Stafford, Coordinator
South Ashland Family Resource Center
(Charles Russell, Poage, Oakview Elementary)
606-327-2797

Karen Gearheart, Coordinator
Ashland Youth Service Center
(Ashland Middle School)
606-420-0740

Beth Martin, Coordinator
Ashland Family Resource Center
(Hager and Crabbe Elementary)
606-327-2748

Brittany Brown, Coordinator
Ashland Blazer Youth Service Center
(Ashland Blazer High School)
606-327-6061

Homecoming 2021



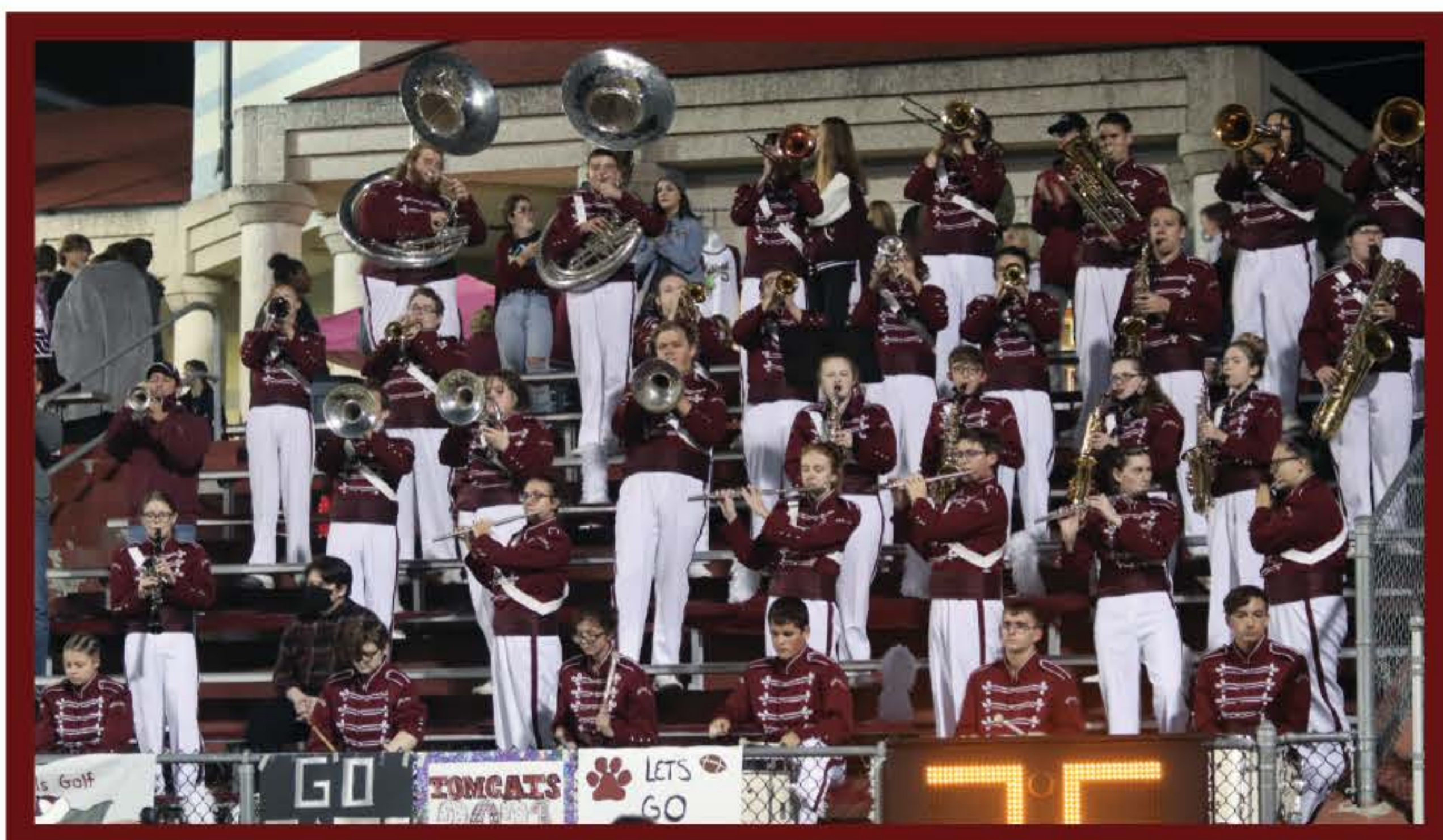
Kinsey Duncan, escorted by her father Jarrod, announced as 2021 Homecoming Queen.

"It was an honor to win a peer nominated award and see people accepting me for me! I encourage everyone to take pride in their authenticity and it will always pay off."

-Kinsey Duncan



Ricky Padron returns a kick-off against Bourbon County.



The Pride of Ashland plays during a first quarter timeout.



Soloist Max Robinette during the halftime performance.



Varsity Cheerleaders Hannah Greene and Chloe Frame help lead sideline cheers.

Homecoming Club Banners



WINNERS

Most Humorous - International Thespian Society

Most Original - Blazer Theater Art Society

Best Use of Theme - Pep Club

1st Place - Art Club

2nd Place - Health Occupations Students of America

Grand Champion - Pep Club