



# RAIDER REVIEW

Newsletter of Lamar Elementary School

## FEATURED THIS MONTH:

Cafeteria Update

Meet the New Teacher

Student Hobbies

Field Trips

Meet the New Students

School Plays

Boys Basketball



## The Real Meaning of Christmas

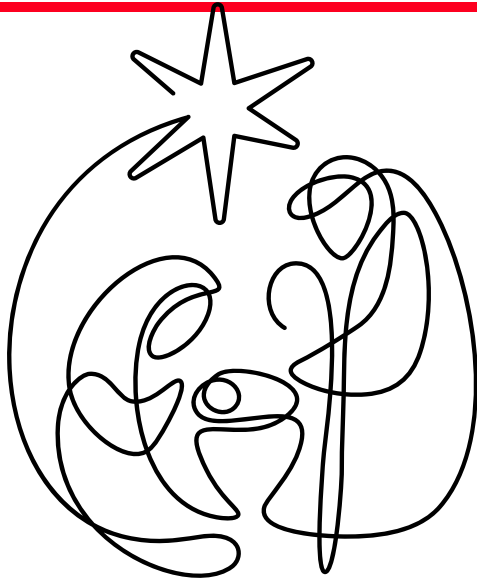
BY: LOGAN BOWERS

The jingle of bells on Santa's sleigh, the gift under the big tree, the hot chocolate on a cold stormy night, a big pink toy plane, and elves mysteriously moving around your house, is this Christmas? Is this actually the real meaning? Let's see what some of our students think.

Liam Causey said, "opening gifts," Bo Moffett said, "worshiping God. Leo Skelton said, "It's time to spend with your family, celebrate Jesus, and receive and give gifts." These may not be all, but they are pretty close.

The true meaning is to celebrate the birth of Jesus, and there's a story that comes with it. The story is, once upon a time there was a woman from the town of Nazareth named Mary. Mary was visited by an angel. The angel told her she was going to give birth to God's son. An angel also appeared to the shepherds who were watching their animals in the fields near Bethlehem.

-STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 2-



## The Real Meaning of Christmas (cont.)

BY: LOGAN BOWERS

The angel told them about this baby who would be God's son, and when they find him he will be in a manger. Right after hearing that, the shepherds set off to find this baby. After some time, three wise men saw a bright star that showed them where God's son was born. They followed it to God's son who would be the King of all Kings. They gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The true meaning of Christmas is the birth of Jesus.

## Christmas Word Search

D K Z I Y W J C Z N Z K K W H  
 S G H G I E L S K F O B S F O  
 J C V P V S K F P O L E G J F  
 H Z C Z W U Z J O F Y E L L D  
 Y E K A L F W O N S R C W E B  
 H J C P O O H O P E G A R G B  
 X E R E E D N I E R D E B N E  
 D U V E F D M N O K A P R A S  
 S A R S L L E B I S U S E J O  
 A T J A O R N A M E N T M X B  
 G T Z N G S A M T S I R H C J  
 D J Y T S T N E S E R P A J X  
 S O P A R Z T R A T S W J J D  
 J E Y F Q B O D G L B V K X O  
 H P W E U Y Y N E V O L F Z U

ELF  
 RED  
 JOY  
 BELL  
 TOY  
 TREE  
 NOEL  
 SANTA  
 REINDEER  
 ANGEL  
 SNOWFLAKE  
 STAR  
 JESUS  
 SLEIGH  
 PRESENTS

CHRISTMAS  
 ORNAMENT  
 PEACE  
 HOPE  
 LOVE

## Cafeteria Renovations

BY: WESLEY EASON

You may have noticed the construction on campus recently. Well the cafeteria is getting redone. Mrs. Ballou said that everything in the kitchen is getting redone because the current equipment is 25 years old! The update will include a new ice maker, new oven, new sinks, a pizza oven, and new fryers. There will be brand new lights, bathrooms, and tables. The stage will also be repainted.

After speaking with Mrs. Ballou, I believe this renovation will be worth the wait. I'm most excited about the pizza ovens!

## Meet the New Teacher: Mrs. Ethridge

BY: AVA MATTHEWS

Mrs. Ethridge loves teaching Pre-K at Lamar and is dedicated to helping her young students succeed. She has set a few important goals for her class this year. "I want my students to be able to write their first and last names, recognize and know their letters and sounds, and understand numbers," she shared.

Teaching and nurturing children has always been a passion for Mrs. Ethridge, and her enthusiasm shines through in the classroom. When she's not teaching, she enjoys singing and staying connected with friends, especially those she doesn't get to see often.

Mrs. Ethridge's dedication and caring spirit make her a beloved part of the Lamar family!



Mrs. Ethridge, Pre-K teacher

## Student Hobbies

BY: CALLIE WATERS

### Scott Ray: Racing Through Baseball with Heart and Hustle

Scott Ray enjoys playing baseball. He likes to hit the ball and run hard. He enjoys helping his teammates score runs. He started baseball when he was about six, but he is always having fun on the fields. He said he loves spending time with his teammates. His nickname is "Scooter" because he is always running and he can run fast. His sport taught him to work hard and "never give up."



### Caroline Gayden: Dancing with Passion and Purpose



Caroline Gayden enjoys dancing competitively. She has danced solos and danced with her friends. She started dance when she was six. She dances at CMA.

She loves hanging out with her friends. Fun fact about Caroline is she is very flexible. When Caroline first started dance her teacher knew she would be a pleasure. Caroline said her teacher pushed her to her highest achievement. She said, "It's okay to be pushed".



**Showcase Your Hobby:  
Be Featured in the Raider Review!**

**SCAN THE QR CODE AND COMPLETE THE HOBBY SURVEY**



Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,  
 do you no Ware  
 RooDof likes to eat?  
 Deery Queen!  
 I Dote git in trubl  
 at Skool or home.  
 I am hapee and I  
 am sooper gud, I  
 Will leev you a kukeee  
 milk ad kants, I  
 Wot leeps and a Sonik  
 hous. My bruther wots  
 a now Mareo game and my  
 sistr stuf for Braslts.

Name Luke Walker  
 Age 5 Grade K Lamar School

Dear Santa,  
 HW do yu fit in  
 the Chimnee? I  
 wint to the sooper  
 marC it and I saw  
 you! I am a Gud  
 SISTER and I feed my  
 Cats, PLEES mae  
 YU bring me the  
 Game Mareo Cart  
 and a dol, my  
 SISTER has bin bad  
 but not me.  
 Maree Cris mus

Name Jenasya Kersh  
 Age 5 Grade K Lamar School

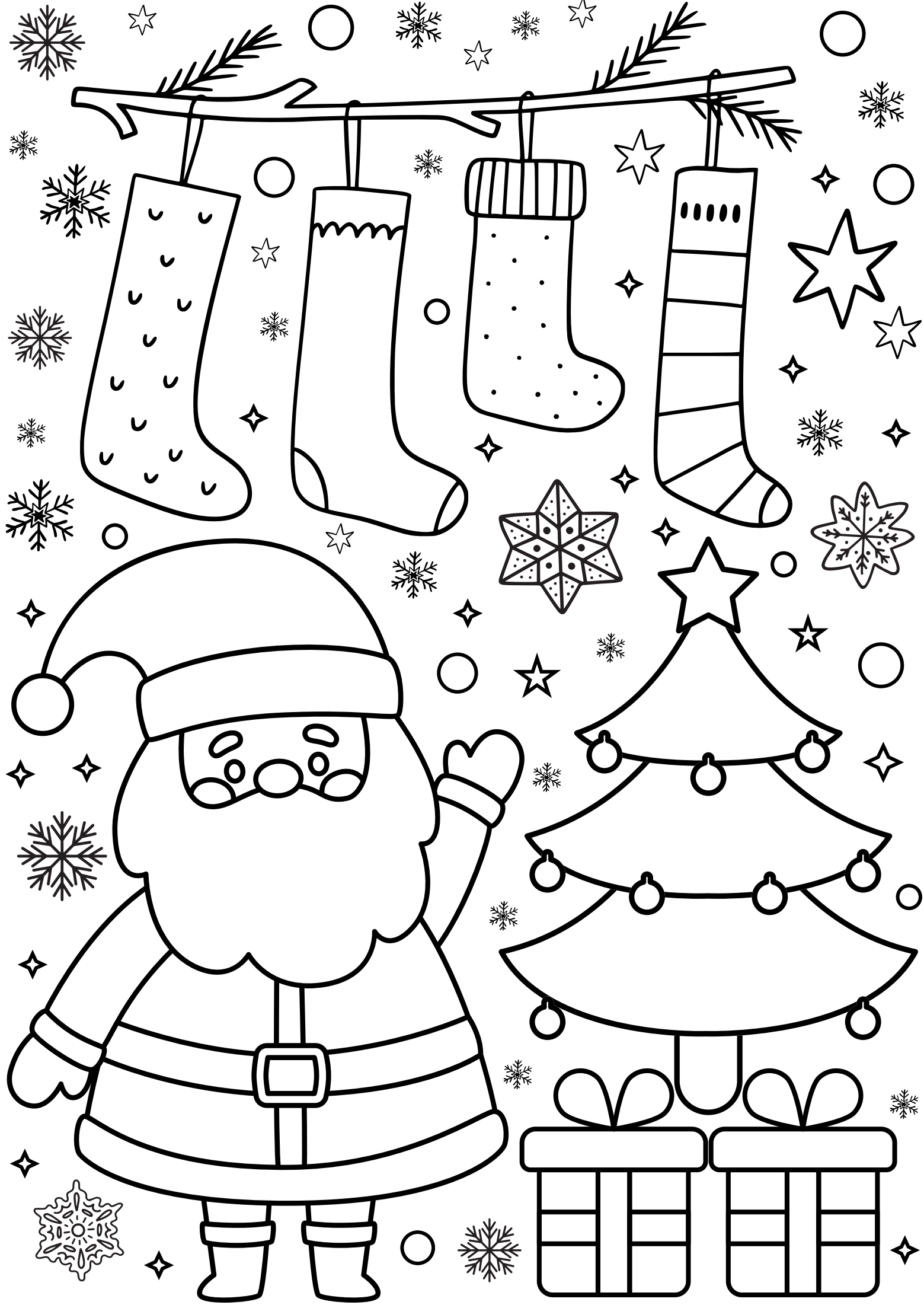
Dear Santa,  
 Do you rilly have mdgic?  
 Do the Elf rilly have mdgic?  
 Evree bodeey in my famleey  
 is good, I am drilly good  
 frind I am a Nice frind.  
 I wot a Litening muqueen  
 car. I wot a Pizza Pania  
 Game. I theek your  
 Grate, I love you, Santa. I  
 am so smart, I Love  
 Skool. I love Mrs. clas.  
 I am rilly exidid about  
 Crismrs.

Name Jude Sisson  
 Age 6 Grade K

Dear Santa,  
 I Love you! I hav  
 Bin d xittel BAD  
 and hav Bin d Lot  
 , UV GUD. I love  
 jeesus and you  
 plees Git me  
 Seven Lol Kitees  
 and the mdreo  
 Cart Game Weth  
 Cuntrolers and a  
 elf toy. Mrs. Long  
 Loves me and  
 so DuZ My MoM.

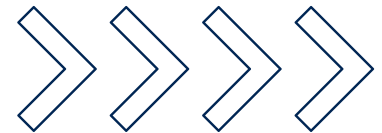
Name Heidi Weir  
 Age 6 Grade K Lamar School





# 1ST SEMESTER FIELD TRIPS

BY: KIRK ROGERS



At Lamar School, all grades go on field trips. This semester's field trips include Pre-K, 2nd grade, 1st grade, and 4th grade.



Pre-K went to Lazy Acres. "The kids had a blast at the pumpkin patch," said Mrs. Clodfelter.



4th grade class had two field trips this semester. They went to the Mississippi Arts and Entertainment Experience to see the Walter Anderson exhibit, and later went to Jackson to visit the Mississippi State Capitol, the Science Museum, and the Mississippi Agriculture Museum.

2nd graders went to the American Village in Montevallo, AL. "It was a really great educational field trip, and the weather was perfect," said Mrs. Hines.



1st grade went to the MCM-Meridian and the MAX. "The kids loved it and learned a lot at the Walter Anderson exhibit," said Mrs. Randall.

Field trips will continue next semester. Stay tuned for more updates ahead!



## New 5th Graders at Lamar Elementary

BY: MAGGIE NEWLIN

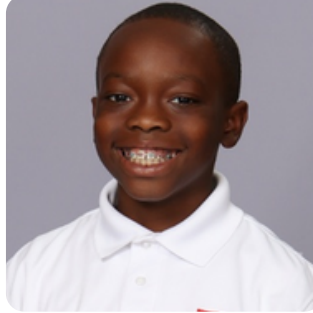
LAMAR ELEMENTARY WELCOMES NEW 5TH GRADE STUDENTS TO THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR.

Remaining new students will be featured in the next issues of Raider Review



"I like Mrs. Syner because she is a very nice teacher."

**Caroline C.**



"I like Lamar because it is very fun and nice."

**Braxton R.**



"I like my teachers."

**Allie P.**



"I like the A.R. and the reading."

**Ricky E.**



"I like my teachers."

**Micah G.**



"I love recess!"

**Swayze P.**

WELCOME  
TO LAMAR



# The Remarkable Raider Award: Celebrating Excellence at Lamar Elementary

BY: ADDIE WALKER

The Remarkable Raider Award is an unique achievement that is only given at Lamar Elementary. It recognizes students who exhibit the school's core values—the three R's: **Responsible, Resourceful, and Respectful**.

This semester, the award has been proudly presented to Carolyn Kyle (5th grade), Amelia Gabrelcik (4th grade), and Rose Mary Stump (2nd grade). Each recipient shared their excitement upon receiving the award, describing the moment as "very surprising!"

The award itself is a beautiful, shiny trophy that carries a rich history. Its base displays the signed names of past winners, many of whom are now excelling in high school and beyond. The winners take the award to their homeroom where it is displayed until the next deserving student is announced.

This semester's winners shared the people who motivated them to strive for excellence. Amelia was inspired by her friends, Gabi Dearing and Melodie Smith. Carolyn found encouragement from Kate DeBardeleben, and Rose Mary credited her grandmother, Ms. Pollman, as her inspiration.

The Remarkable Raider Award is one of the many traditions that set Lamar Elementary apart, fostering a culture of excellence and making the school a truly special place to learn and grow.



# The Importance of Leadership: A Personal Perspective

BY: CAROLINE TATE

Leadership plays a vital role in our school, community, and state. At its core, leadership is about guiding a team or group of people toward a common goal. Great leaders don't just share their opinions; they discern what is right and inspire others to act accordingly.

For me, leadership hits close to home. My dad, Jeff Tate, is a senator who works hard to pass laws that make our state a better place to live. That's what being a good leader is all about—making decisions that positively impact the lives of others. My dad once said, "Each year there are a lot of big decisions that have to be made. I think about what is best for East Mississippi and for the people here, and I vote to try to help them."

Next year, his plans to help East Mississippi include efforts to lower income taxes, gas taxes, and grocery taxes—changes that could benefit countless families.

Leadership isn't just about holding an official position. Anyone can be a leader by setting a good example, whether it's organizing a group, standing up for what's right, or helping someone in need. Great leaders, like my dad, listen to others, respect their opinions, and strive to make thoughtful decisions that improve the community.

Leadership matters because it has the power to change lives. Whether on a small scale or a big one, good leaders make a difference every day.



**The Tate Family.**  
Leigha, Jeff, Ella, and Caroline



**Senator Tate**  
District 33

# A Spotlight on Lamar School's Amazing Plays

BY: MADISON MARTIN

Lamar School's plays have become a cherished tradition, adding something special to the school community.

This year's 2nd grade play, "Once Upon a Lilypad," featured a delightful cast of characters, including toads, flies, fireflies, turtles, Papa Frog, Mama Frog, Freda, Francy, snakes, and crocodiles. The play conveyed an important message: **listen to your parents and stay safe.**

A big thank you goes to the parents who helped set up the play, one being Mrs. Jackie DeFatta who shared, "If I could describe setting up the play in one word, I would say easy because all the teachers did the heavy lifting." Teachers worked hard to prepare the scenes, even incorporating a digital screen to enhance the performance.

The 3rd grade play was a brand new production, written by Principal Honeycutt with music by Mrs. Chesney. Titled "America, A Star Spangled Production," the play celebrated the spirit of our nation through songs, stories, and smiles. It highlighted themes of exploration and patriotism, taking the audience on a journey through American history.

With such dedication from students, teachers, and parents, Lamar's plays continue to be a source of pride and excitement. And the best part? There are still many more amazing performances to look forward to!



# Turkey Trouble: A Feast for Laughter

BY: ANDY DEBARDELEBEN

The 5th-grade play is one of the most exciting and humorous productions at Lamar, known for its hilarious plot about turkeys going on strike while other foods compete for the spotlight at the center of the plate. What many don't realize is the tremendous amount of work that goes on behind the scenes to bring this play to life.

Student Kirk Rogers shared, "I thought it was a great play, with lots of fantastic singing and acting." Garret Bowers said, "I loved the play! The turkeys were my favorite part." Callie Waters agreed, "The turkeys were my favorite because they were so funny."

Scan the QR code to enjoy a short clip from the 5th grade's practices and get a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the fun and hard work that made this play so memorable.



SCAN TO WATCH!



## THE POWER OF REFLECTION: LAMAR ELEMENTARY'S WORD OF THE YEAR

BY: GARRET BOWERS

This year, the word chosen to inspire Lamar Elementary is reflect. Rooted in the wisdom of Proverbs 27:19, "As water reflects the face, so one's life reflects the heart," reflect reminds us of the importance of looking inward to grow and learn.

Students at Lamar have embraced this theme and shared what reflection means to them. Logan Bowers reflected on his friendships, saying, "My reflection is making my first friends. I think the ability to reflect is good."

Franklin Davis looked back on last year's Olympics, recalling, "Our tent blew away, but we still kept going and playing. Being able to reflect is something we should all do in life. I think being able to reflect is to not take things for granted."

Wes Harman added, "I've learned a lot. It's good to reflect on the past to learn from your mistakes." These insights show the profound impact of reflection on personal growth and resilience.

Reflection is a vital life skill, helping us learn from the past and prepare for the future. As the artist Claude Monet once said, "It is on the strength of observation and reflection that one finds a way."

Let's all take a moment to reflect on our own lives, embracing this year's theme and striving to live with purpose and gratitude.

"AS WATER REFLECTS THE FACE, SO ONE'S  
LIFE REFLECTS THE HEART,"

PROVERBS 27:19

## LAMAR VARSITY BASKETBALL

BY: KATE DEBARDELEBEN

Basketball is underway at Lamar. The varsity boys and girls teams have had a great season so far, but there is still lots more ball to play. Jacob Ginn is the new head boys basketball coach. He said, "There are a lot of things to be excited about this season." He shared the four pillars of what Lamar's basketball culture is built on:

- 1. Humility** - Do what others don't.
- 2. Discipline** - Maximize our time.
- 3. Toughness** - Stay in the fight.
- 4. Trustworthiness** - Do your part no matter what.



COACH GINN

"I am held to these standards as well," he added. "These are the standards we are trying to build and what we are standing on."

Part of building a team includes having some fun too. Coach Ginn says he enjoys having the team over for dinner, going to movies with the team, and finding fun things outside of basketball to help make sure the team is a cohesive group that sticks together.

He encourages all elementary students to go out and play basketball. He also asked students to come out and watch the games and cheer on the team this season.







## Raider Review Newsletter Staff



FRONT ROW (FROM LEFT) ADDIE WALKER, CAROLINE TATE, MADISON MARTIN, AVA MATTHEWS, KATE DEBARDELEBEN, WESLEY SUMRALL, AND MRS. SYNER

BACK ROW (FROM LEFT) MRS. CASTLE, CALLIE WATERS, GARRET BOWERS, ANDY DEBARDELEBEN, KIRK ROGERS, LOGAN BOWERS, MAGGIE NEWLINE, AND MRS. DEBARDELEBEN

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS

