
BLUE AND GOLD NEWS

JANUARY 2026 EDITION



BATH MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT PAPER

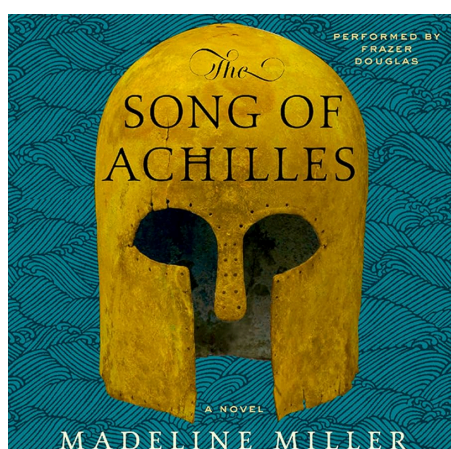
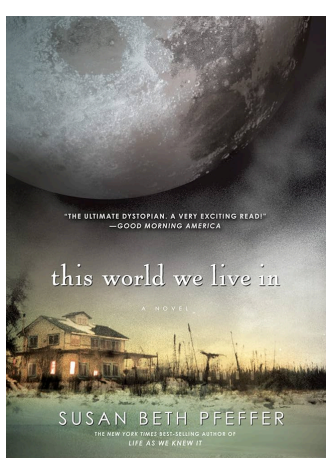
READING Roundup

BY: CAMERON STRUNKN

Sometimes getting your AR points is hard. I get it. Especially when in the winter when all you want to do is curl up in bed. But, AR waits for no one, and you have to get them. Here are a few books that you can read that will keep you reading. These come highly recommended by your peers at BMS.

- [This World We Live In](#) by Susan Beth Pfeffer.– Dystopian
Set a year after the moon collision, Miranda struggles with scarce resources and reunites with her father, stepmother, and new baby, along with unexpected strangers, facing new challenges and deciding on a life-altering path.
- [The Christmas Pig](#) by J.K Rowling – Fantasy and Emotional
Set a year after the moon collision, Miranda struggles with scarce resources and reunites with her father, stepmother, and new baby, along with unexpected strangers, facing new challenges and deciding on a life-altering path.
- [The Uglies](#) by Scott Westerfield– Dystopian
Follow Tally Youngblood as she approaches her mandatory sixteenth birthday surgery that will transform her from an "Ugly" into a "Pretty," a society where everyone is made to conform to an ideal standard of beauty.
- [Focused](#) by Alyson Gerber – Drama
Seventh grader Clea doesn't know why she can't seem to get her homework done on time or why she gets distracted and fails tests. When her parents take her to be tested for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), she is angry and anxious but also hopeful.
- [Caster](#) by Elsie Chapman– Fantasy and Drama
Aza Wu, a girl in a world where using magic leaves physical scars, who enters an underground tournament to save her family from debt and uncover secrets about her sister's death.
- [Song of Achilles](#) by Madeline Miller– Historical Fiction
The book retells the Trojan War from the perspective of Patroclus, focusing on his deep, romantic relationship with the legendary Greek hero Achilles
- The Friday Night series by Same Moussavi– Sports
The series focuses on the intense world of Texas high school football, profiling different players from various cities (Austin, Dallas, Houston, etc.) as they navigate dreams, pressures, injuries, and relationships under the Friday night lights.

I hope you found a good book from this list. Now, get reading! AR is due soon!



JANUARY EVENTS

January 3--Wrestling @ Wapak
January 6 – Boys' basketball vs. Elida
January 6-- Girls' basketball @ Elida
January 8-- Girls' basketball vs Bluffton
January 8--Wrestling @ Shawnee
January 8 –Boys' basketball @ Bluffton
January 10 – Boys' basketball @ Delphos
January 10--Girls' basketball vs. Ottawa
January 13--Girls' basketball @Wapak
January 13 – Boys' basketball vs. Wapak
January 15--End of quarter 2
January 15--Westling vs. Kenton
January 15--Girls' basketball@ Celina
January 15 – Boys' basketball vs. Kenton
January 16-- No school (staff development)
January 17--Wrestling @ Shawnee
January 17– Boys' basketball vs. LCC
January 19--No School--Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 21--Girls' basketball @ Allen East
January 22--Wrestling @ Elida
January 24--Boys' basketball vs. Ottoville
January 24--Girls' basketball @Delphos
January 27 – Boys' basketball @ Shawnee
January 27--Girls' basketball vs. Shawnee
January 29--Girls' basketball @ Kenton
January 29--Wrestling vs. Ottawa
January 31--Wrestling @ Elida Invitational

SPORTS

BY: ADDIE BEARD

Hey wildcats, it's time for winter sports. We are going into multiple sports during the winter season! Let's get into it! First up is wrestling. There are only 2 wrestlers on our team this season. They are Wyatt McCoy and Jeremiah Adkins. They have 5 meets in December, 8 in January and 2 in February. So definitely go to one of their meets and support them. Next is basketball.

We have 4 basketball teams at BMS. 7th grade boys, 7th grade girls, 8th grade boys, and 8th grade girls. The 7th and 8th grade boys have the same schedule and they have a total of 27 games including a scrimmage and their season goes until February 14, which is their last game of the season. The 7th and 8th grade girls also have the same schedule. They have had 2 scrimmages and 1 game in November, 5 games in December, 9 games in January, and 5 games in February. They have a pretty long season so go support them, and show some school spirit!



BY: FAITHLYNN ERTEL

Sports. A lot of people play sports, but why?

Eighth grader, Enon Fultz, said he plays basketball and runs cross country. He’s played basketball since he was in kindergarten. His favorite thing about this sport is playing with his teammates. He started playing because his dad played it. He has only done cross country for a year. He started playing because he liked running and competing. He said, with a smile, his dad forced him to participate. His favorite thing about Cross Country is the coaches. They're nice and easy to talk to. He also likes running through the trees and nature.

We also talked to seventh grader, Cameron Gerding, who plays basketball. Cameron says he plays basketball because its conditioning for football. He said his favorite thing about basketball is that it's fun. He likes dribbling best. He's been playing for seven or eight years and he started playing because he saw it on TV and thought it looked fun.

TEACHER of the month

BY: AMELIA FRANCIS

Here at Bath Middle School, we have many amazing teachers and custodians. One of those teachers is Mr. Mayhew, the seventh grade social studies teacher. He is praised for his ability to teach well and help students while keeping it an enjoyable environment in class.

We interviewed Mr. Mayhew about his strategy for teaching, and this is what he said, “You have to be strict but fair. You have to challenge people but be fair. The ability to have a small sense of humor always works.”

One of the things students appreciate about his class is that he kept kids on their toes with randomized participation, everyone could be called on. Students also appreciate his sense of humor as it keeps the class paying attention.

BMS is fortunate to have Mr. Mayhew on staff! Thanks for being our first teacher of the month!



BY: AZKA SHAHID

Every year Bath Middle School hosts a door decorating competition for Christmas. This tradition started in the winter of 2019. The teachers wanted to do something for the students to let them have fun around Christmas time, so they decided this would be a good idea.

BMS Media traveled the halls to see what students were creating and to find out the inspiration behind the masterpieces. First up is sixth grade. Emmalyn Borger, who was decorating Miss Risser's door, said that their inspiration came from some examples Miss Risser found on Pinterest. She also said that the door was going how they had planned and the only thing they changed was that they limited the amount of cotton balls they were gonna use.

In seventh grade, Rihanna Mclellan said that they got their inspiration from Google and Facebook. She said that the door wasn't going as planned because it was a lot more difficult than the group had expected. She also said that they had changed the colors and designs from their inspiration.

Finally, in eighth grade, Addie Beard said that they thought up the idea and they originally thought of doing Home Alone."

AND the WINNER is...



BY: PRESLEE JENKINS

While not new to Bath Middle School, Mr. Tim Clark is new to teaching a career. His career is about teaching kids lessons for their life in their future. Mr. Clark said that his career “is important because it teaches kids life lessons that they can use throughout middle school, high school, and life beyond school...if they listen.

Mr. Clark said he pulls lessons from his past careers and the lessons he learned during those careers. His favorite lesson is the “blame game,” but others are more important such as taking responsibility and having leadership.

When asked about his qualifications, Mr. Clark said that that he is old enough to have a lot of life experience in a variety of different areas. Having been a police officer and detective for 30+ years, he's seen the best and the worst that society and humanity have to offer. He's seen good kids turn bad, and bad kids turn good. If he can make a difference or set a good example for the kids in his class, or just one kid in his class, then his effort was worth it.

BY: KAITLYN HADDING

It's time to pick a career! There are many to choose from, so our lovely seventh grade teachers are here to help! So let's dive in and look at some of my, and many others', favorite careers!

To start us off, Mr. Mayhew does community service! The former principal, Mr. Clark, came up with this idea, thinking it would be a good idea since it relates to Mr. Mayhew’s civics class. Mr. Mayhew focuses on doing things for others without expecting a reward!

Next, our seventh grade science teacher, Mr. Clark, was assigned to health. He thinks we need more people to get into the health careers to keep people healthy. Maybe some of the BMS students will go into the healthcare field and become doctors and nurses!

Lastly, we have Mrs. Fortman, who does home ec! She thought it would be a fun way for students to learn how to use the kitchen and its basics. In her class, you learn how to bake cake-mix cookies, and make buckeyes!

These are just a few of many careers to choose from! My personal favorite was cooking! This school is full of talent, and I'm positive you'll find your spark!



BY: AVA CROSS

Do you have a test coming up? Well, if so, you should study so you can get a good grade, but sometimes, it's the way you study that makes the difference. Sometimes the way you study doesn't make the material click in your brain. Some people can study for one day and pass a test, but others might need to study for multiple days.

There are also different resources to help you study. Some of the tools to study from are notes, Kahoot, Bloocket, and more. While these can help, they are often not enough; you usually need to have study habits. Somethings that might help are creating a constant routine, focusing effort, minimizing distraction, and so on.

The ways you study and your habits do matter,. While it might not always seem like it, grades matter for your future. Knowing how to study is important to help you now and in the future.

Celebrating 2025

BY: IZZY REINDEL

The end of the year is like hitting the pause button on a video game—you get to stop and see how far you've come! It's the perfect time to think back over the last year of school, sports, and hanging out with friends. You can remember all the awesome things you did, like getting a good grade on a tough test or winning a big game. It's also a chance to think about the times things were hard and what you learned from those moments.

When asked about her 2025, Brynna, a sixth grader, said the best part was “making a lot of friends.” She went on to say that she had visited Cedar Point for the first time in 2025. In response to whether she played sports, Brynna said, “Yes, I do play sports and I play volleyball and basketball, and all of it is good.”

Quintin, another sixth grader, had this to say about his favorite part about 2025, “Thanksgiving and eating food is my favorite part.” When asked about traveling in 2025, he said, “I went to Columbus for baseball.” Finally, Quintin said that he “plays basketball, football, and baseball.” He said all of the teams’ seasons went ok.

As we leave 2025 behind, take a few minutes to reflect on your 2025. It will help you figure out what you want to do better or more of next year. Hope you are excited about the new chapter of 2026!

new year's TRADITIONS

BY: ISABELLE LUERSMAN

POP! That is the sound of the party poppers that people set off at midnight on January 1st. People have many traditions on this day to celebrate a new year and a fresh start. Some people kiss at midnight to bring luck in their relationship into the next year. Others who are single eat 12 grapes under the table, which is a Hispanic superstition that means you'll find love the next year. Many people, especially those who are goal driven, make New Year's resolutions. Most of these resolutions are personal goals or promises made at the beginning of a new year with the intention of improving oneself or breaking a bad habit. Some common resolutions focus on areas like health and fitness, finances, personal relationships, and self-improvement.

Denmark has a tradition that some people may find strange or unique and this is smashing plates. The tradition is believed to banish evil spirits and get rid of old grudges, and the more broken plates on a doorstep, the more friends a person has. The practice involves collecting chipped and unused dishes throughout the year and throwing them against the doors of friends and family. One silly tradition that people have that has the same idea of the grapes is that people wear red underwear to attract good luck, prosperity, love, and protection in the coming year.

In conclusion, people all over the world celebrate New Years with sometimes weird and silly traditions to give them a fresh start and good luck.

FROM WRESTLER to PRESIDENT

BY: KJARLEE SCHENIDER

Did you know that the sixteenth President of the United States was a wrestling champion?

Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809, in Kentucky. Lincoln had a rough childhood with his mother passing away when he was only nine years old and moving from state to state.

The story goes that when Lincoln was nineteen, he defended his stepbrother's river barge from thieves and threw them overboard. That was only the beginning.

Ten years later, Lincoln was working as a storekeeper at New Salem, and his boss challenged him to fight county champion Jack Armstrong. Lincoln accepted, and the fight was on. From the start, Lincoln proved that he could hold his own. In a show of strength, the six foot four man we know as one of our most remarkable presidents, picked up Armstrong and slammed him down in an effective KO.

It is said that Lincoln fought in around three hundred rounds over the course of twelve years and only losing once to a man named Hank Thompson in 1832 during the Black Hawk War. His tall frame, long limbs, and strength are what is said that helped him so much in his wrestling career.

Twenty-eight years after that, Abraham Lincoln was elected President in 1860. He served from 1861 through 1865 when he was assassinated and laid to rest.

Still to this day, Lincoln is one of the most recognized, with his towering height and iconic top hat, and appreciated Presidents in our history. Though, some people believe that this whole story is a myth and that Lincoln never was a wrestler. A mystery lost in history, if you will.

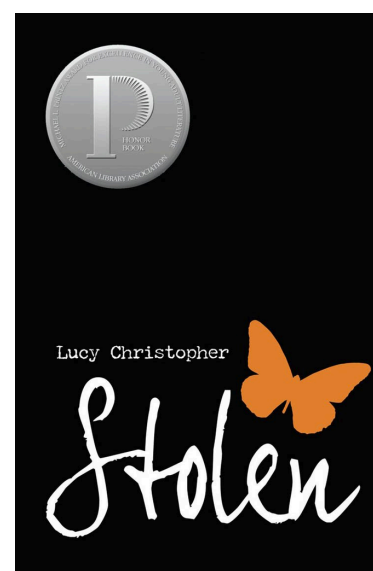
Do you think you could have beaten him?



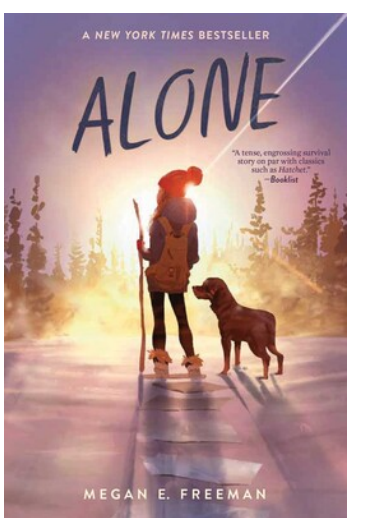
8 Minutes LEFT

BY: PORTER JENKINS

Get ready to buy your tickets for 8 Minutes Left at Encore. If you didn't get your tickets for Rudolph, you now have the chance to watch another amazing production by Encore. The show is on the last weekend of January. It's about the world ending in 8 minutes and it's from the point of view of people and animals, who are experiencing the end by watching it on TV. Don't miss your chance to see BMS's own Kinsey Jordan in action. See you there!



Reading ROUNDUP



BY: EMMA STAHR

One of my favorite books in the library is Alone. It is about a girl who wakes up to an abandoned city, and she has to find how to survive with her dog and no one around to help her.

Another one of my favorites is Stolen. It's about a girl who gets taken at the airport. She doesn't know where she is but she has to find a way out to survive from this kidnapper. She has to face the fear of a being kidnapped by a random person and no one to help.

January Birthdays

January Birthdays!!🎂

Students

Sophia Holland-1st
Ava Hensley-4th
Ace Lopez-Shearn-6th
Brisa Garcia-6th
Linden Campbell-6th
Mason Stalnaker--6th
Karter Castle-7th
Lincoln Siebeneck-7th
Prabsimar Kaur-8th
Abigail Justus-9th
Elijah Turvey-10th
Brynna Postlethwait-11th
Jade Miller-13th
Lakyn Fruchey-15th
Umamah Shahid-16th
Blake Horton-16th
Kylee Nichols-16th
Norah Segovia-16th
Aubrey Lahmers-17th
Syed Hameed-21st
Rihanna Mclellan-24th
Emmalyn Borger-24th
Rhealynn Galvin-25th
Graci Sheffield-25th
Amanda Morales-Fernandez-25th
Raeleigh Kroninger-26th
Camryn Wireman-28th
Scarlett Bartlett-28th
Colton Bardo-29th
Caylee Vaughn-31
Porter Jenkins-31st

Staff

Mike Estes-(Superintendent) 3rd
Melinda Henderson (SAFY) 4th
Kathy Bishop-(Cafeteria) 6th
Tami Niemeyer-(Nurse) 17th
Shawn Sommers (Psychologist) 18th
Joe Newland-(Custodian) 26th
Dena Valenti-(ESC) 28th
Ashley Nickles (6th grade) 29th



New Year & A New Beginning!

by: Chloe Jordan

How did January get its name? According to Wikipedia, January got its name from a Roman god named Janus. Janus was the Roman god of beginnings, endings, and doorways. The name came from the Latin word Ianuarius, the word means “the month of Janus,”. The name is fitting because January is the first month of the year, symbolizing a new beginning. If you didn’t know how January was named, you know now.

SOCIAL MEDIA *good or bad?*

BY: ELLIE HARDIN

Hey Wildcats! Welcome to the Wildcat’s roar where we will talk about what your opinion is on different topics! Now, let’s get started. Today’s topic is social media. Five billion people worldwide use social media every single day. That is a lot of people! Billion is a hard number for the human brain to comprehend. To put it in perspective a thousand seconds is about seventeen minutes, a million seconds is about eleven days, but a BILLION seconds is about **thirty-two years**!! (Now multiply that by 5!!) So five 5 billion is a very, very large number!

As many know, social media can be very degrading. The definition of degrading is causing someone to feel degraded or to lose self-respect. When it comes to teens, or anyone really, self respect is very important because without it you will lose the love that you are meant to have in yourself! So if social media makes you lose that, you should most-likely delete it.

Social media also can be very dangerous. There have been many incidents when social media is just not safe. There have been 210 million people worldwide who have had a seriously unsafe experience because of social media. Social media gives teen FOMO, meaning fear of missing out. rBown health says “. **FOMO** has become a common theme, and often leads to continual checking of social media sites. The idea that you might miss out on something if you’re not online can affect your mental health.

”When you are a teenager being included can be hard. Sometimes when you are a teenager it really does feel like you are always trying to fit in, but you should never feel like that! You should always be yourself! But!!! Sometimes you have plans and can't hang out with friends , or maybe don't even get invited. It can be hard to be okay with it. That can be very sad sometimes leading to another problem with social media--mental health.

However, there re some good things about social media. You can get information much more quickly than ever before!. When you have social media you can look at news channels or even accounts that have trusted true information, and know what is going on in today's world. Another way social media can help is that it can help with creativity! When you are on social media you can see many different types of videos: dances, crafts, sports, humor and so much more!

The University of Rochester Medical Center. says, “Many young people today use social media to engage with causes that matter to them. ‘Social media gives teens a way to explore how they fit into pivotal movements and to fight for issues that will shape their future,” says Gansner. “That sense of purpose and belonging can be deeply meaningful for their development.”” Teens who are active with community service projects and causes that are meaningful to them have better mental health and a stronger self-image. Social media can help a teen gain the confidence to just be themselves. Truly amazing!

It is important to find a balance between social media use and time spent IRL (in real life). If you think you have a problem with socail media usage, reach out to an adult.

New Year's RESOLUTIONS

BY: KEN’NYA JARMAN

New Year's is a day a lot of people celebrate. Many people use the day to make resolutions for the new year. This is a good time to start thinking about what you don't like and want to change. Maybe you spend too much time on electronics and need to go outside more. Perhaps you want to focus on getting better grades or maybe making a new friend. Your resolution can be anything that will make you better in the future or change something about your life that you're not satisfied with now.

To succeed with a new resolution it's best to start small and be realistic. Also, be specific with your goal. For example, instead of saying you will eat healthier, aim to drink eight glasses of water a day or to add a new vegetable to your meals. Furthermore, you will be more successful if you map out how you will achieve this goal, not just what the end goal is. Be sure to celebrate little successes as you work toward your new year’s resolution. Aim for progress over perfection realizing that setbacks happen. Good luck!