



# Parent Newsletter

## Lunch Menu

- Mon 3-20 Cheeseburger on a WG bun OR Ham and Cheese Sub
- Tues 3-21 Roasted Pork with Gravy & Soft Pan Roll OR Honey Mustard Ham Wrap
- Wed 3-22 Breaded Chicken Patty OR Popeye Salad
- Thurs 3-23 Pancakes & Fruit Topping with Scrambled Eggs OR Turkey Sub
- Fri 3-24 Cheesebread Dunkers w/Marinara Sauce OR Yogurt Pak
- Mon 3-27 Chili Crispito OR 7 Layer Salad
- Tues 3-28 Corn Dog OR Chicken Caesar Salad
- Wed 3-29 All American Burger OR Deli Sub
- Thurs 3-30 Chicken Nuggets with Soft Pan Roll OR Taco Salad
- Fri 3-31 Fish Sandwich on a WG Bun OR Yogurt Pak

## VISION

Ballard empowers all learners.

## MISSION

The Ballard Community School District will educate the whole child, providing the essential knowledge and skills necessary to be a successful and responsible citizen in the 21st Century.

Parents/Guardians,

As you know, parent/teacher conferences have been taking place this week. I hope you all benefit from visiting with your child's teacher and are able to hear some positive comments, get questions answered, and address any concerns you may have.



Please note, March 27-29, students at Ballard East will complete the Iowa Assessments. These tests help us evaluate our school programs and students. We ask that you encourage your child to do their very best and ensure that they get a proper breakfast and plenty of sleep during this testing period. We would also ask that you keep outside-of-school appointments to a minimum during this week. Make-up times will be scheduled, but testing goes much smoother when all students are present for the entire testing session. Thank you for your continued support as we encourage our children to "Do their best, when they test." The school/parent relationship and partnership in educating the children in the Ballard community is vital to our children's future. Thank you again for your support and partnership. Please continue to guide and support your child's learning by ensuring that he/she:

- 1) Attends school daily and arrives on time, ready for the day's learning experience
- 2) Completes all homework assignments given by teachers
- 3) Reads daily to develop a love for reading and to improve literacy skills
- 4) Shares school experiences with you so that you are aware of his/her school life
- 5) Informs you if he/she needs additional support in any area or subject
- 6) Knows that you expect him/her to succeed in school

Students - Enjoy your Spring Break and come back ready to finish the school year strong!

Mike Manock, Principal

## Dates to Remember:

NO SCHOOL	March 10
Spring Break	March 13-17
Opera	March 24
Iowa Assessments	March 27,28,29
Guest Author & Learning Luau	March 30
Vocal Concert	May 11

**All 3rd, 4th, & 5th grade students & parents...**

**Ballard East**  
**Learning**  
**Luau**

**Thursday, March 30th • 5:30 - 7:30**

## Breakfast Menu

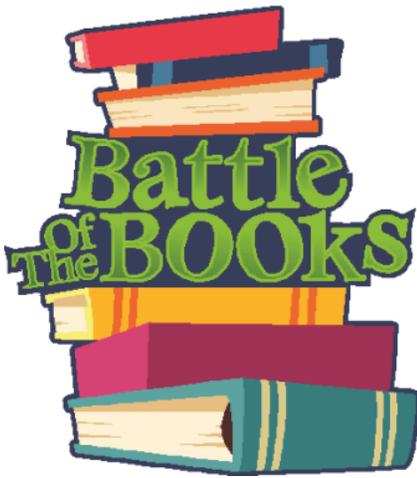
### Hot Breakfast:

- Mon: Breakfast Pizza
- Tues: Biscuit & Gravy
- Wed: Breakfast Stick
- Thurs: Granola Topping Yogurt Parfait
- Fri: Cheesy Ham Melt & Tri-Tator

### Cold Breakfast:

- Choice of Cereal & Whole Grain Toast

All served with vegetable selection, fruit, and choice of milk.



Ballard East would like to proudly recognize our 5th grade Battle of the Books teams who participated in the Ames Public Library's Battle of the Books competition held on March 2nd. Of the approximately 36 teams participating, Ballard East entered 7 teams to participate, with three of them making the final round! The three teams who advanced were: **Ballard Blazers** (Ava Vance, Rylee Sherder, Jakson Fleischmann, Stephen Lawler), **Book Bosses** (Memphis Inglett, Makayla Cornelius, Caleb Wood, Zach Horness), and the **Novel Knights** (Mia Hilleman, Amelia Gogerty, Adelaide Crisler, Rachel Huisinga, and Isabell Lowe)

Our team of Ava, Rylee, Stephen, & Jakson - the Blazers, won the entire competition! It was a great competition and we are proud of our winning team and ALL of our participants for their hard work and great sportsmanship!



## Fifth Grade Prepare for the Transition into Middle School and Sixth Grade

The fifth grade students at Ballard East Elementary are excited to be embarking on the final leg of their elementary school experience. While there is much to be excited about, many students and their parents approach this special time with many concerns regarding the transition into sixth grade and the middle school setting.

During the last few weeks of fifth grade the life skills curriculum dedicates itself to assisting fifth graders with issues related to the upcoming transition. A wide range of coping tools will be introduced and students will have several opportunities to become more familiar with how things will be different for them as sixth graders. Some of the major features of these final weeks as fifth graders will include:

- The annual Leadership Reaction Course trip to Camp Dodge
- The annual field trip to the Middle School
- Special panel Q&A session with sixth graders
- Meet and greet sessions with Middle School principal, dean of students and counselor
- Specific curricular activities designed to help fifth graders successfully transition into life as a Middle School student
- Back to school night for sixth grade students and their parents

The overall goal in all of this is to have fifth graders leaving East Elementary well prepared for their life as sixth graders. This means setting the students and their parents up for a summer free of worries and anxiety over the upcoming transition into sixth grade. If you have questions or specific concerns over the transition from fifth to sixth grade, please feel free to contact Michael Macki at Ballard East Elementary.

