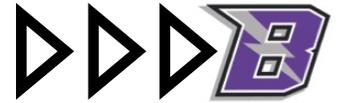
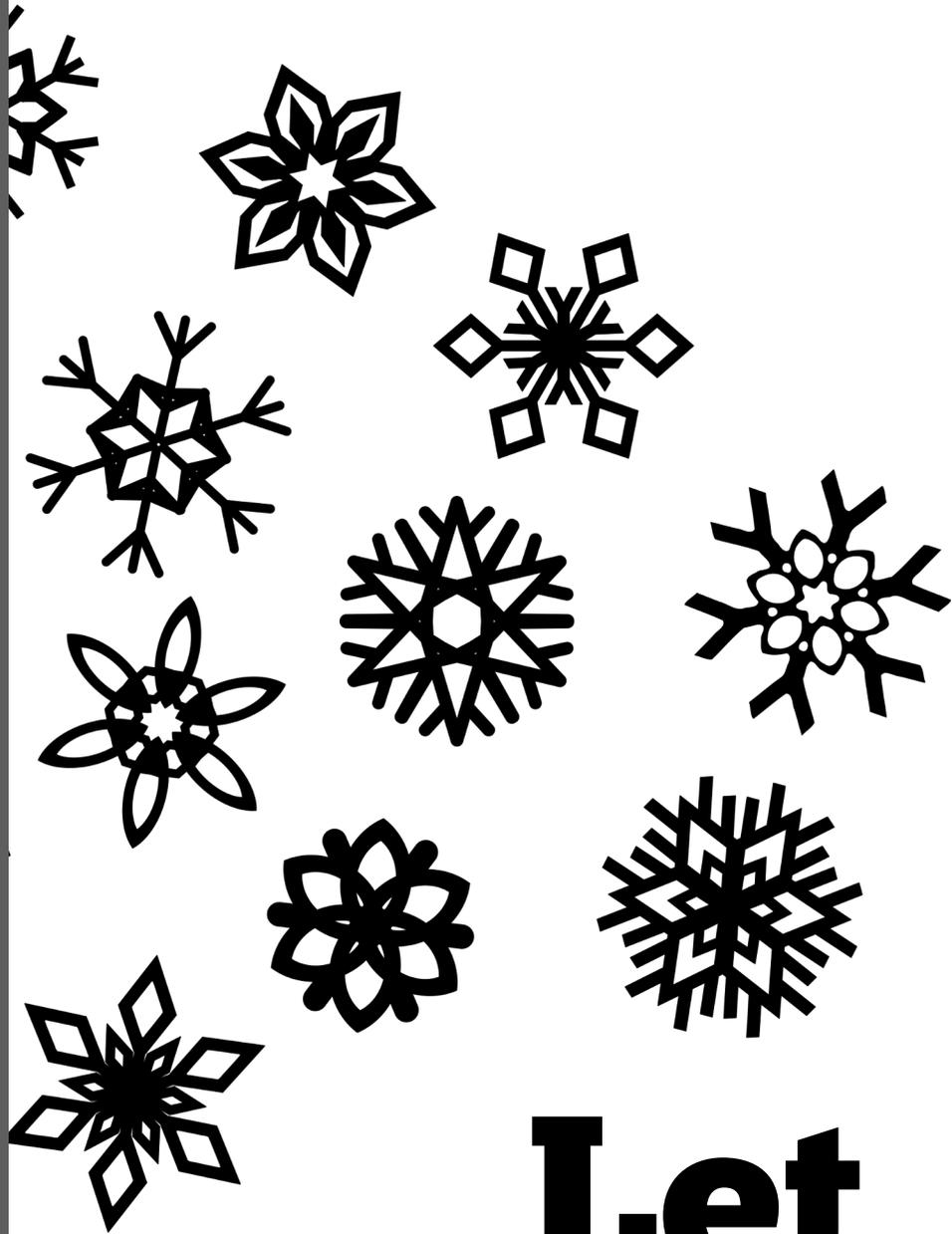


**The Baxter**

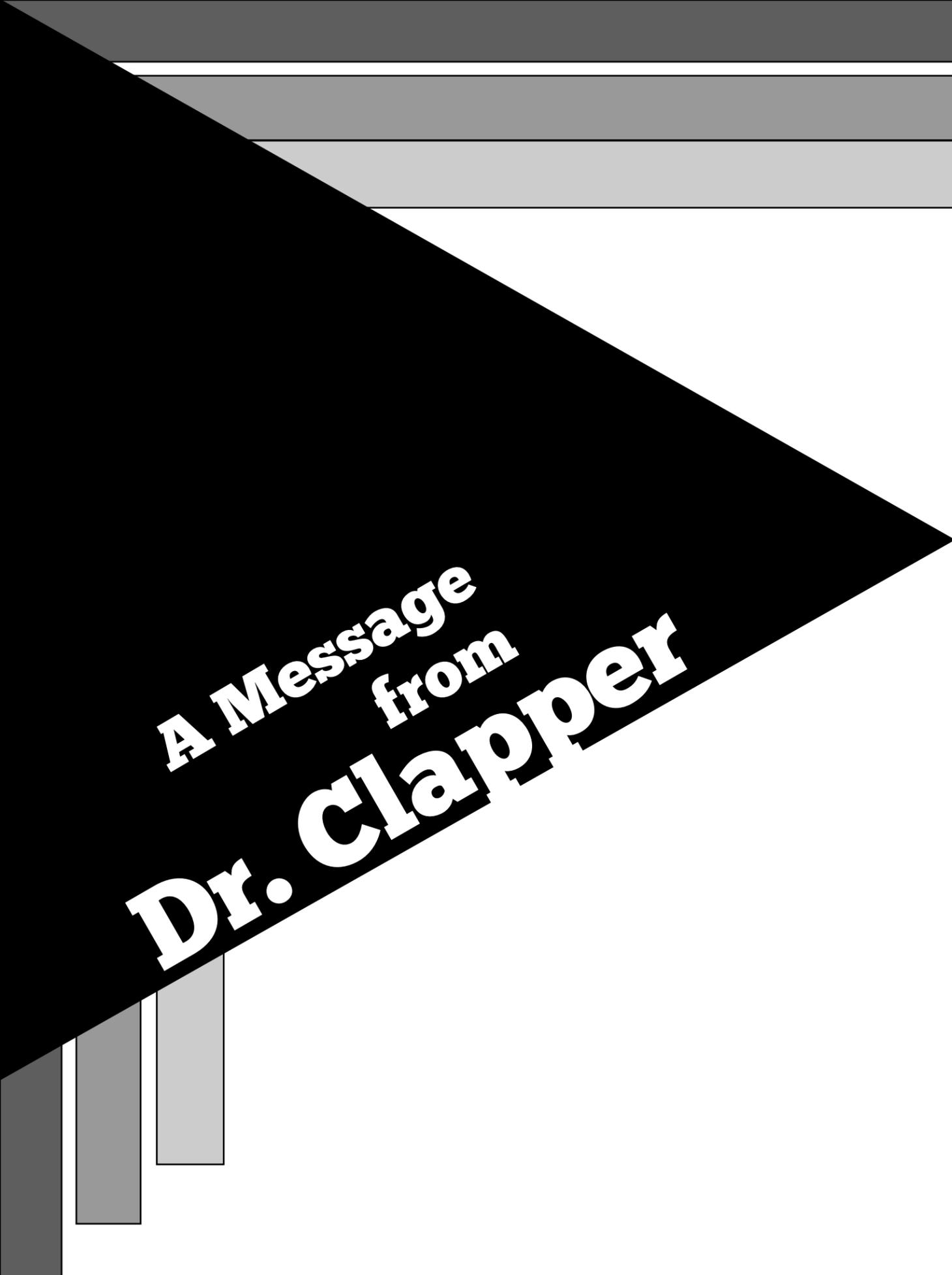
December-January-2022



**B  
R  
O  
A  
D  
C  
A  
S  
T**



**Let  
it  
Snow!**



**A Message  
from  
Dr. Clapper**

At this time of year, we often take time to reflect on our blessings. One of the many things I am thankful for is the caring community of Baxter. The community has a history of coming together to support each other when needs arise. Whether it is a family needing supplies after a tragedy or a student needing school supplies to start the school year. Baxter has a history of coming together to care for one another and especially caring for our kids.

Speaking of caring about kids, if you have been a part of the Baxter Community School District for the past few years, you might have heard something about Capturing Kids Hearts. Capturing Kids Hearts is a framework that we use at Baxter to build positive relationships with students. Many of our students today come to school with unimaginable burdens. They carry with them unreasonable expectations, stress from home, hunger, abuse, and loneliness. Much research proves that these items weigh heavily on students and can significantly impact their educational progress. We also know that if adults in the building can build relationships with students, performance goes way up, and behaviors greatly improve because kids want to be in school.

Students are not the only ones with stressful lives. Teachers, staff, and administrators all have challenges they face as well. The Capturing Kids Hearts framework helps build a school culture that is all about building relationships and focuses on the social-emotional needs of students and educators. This framework has been proven to transform schools, districts, and entire communities. Kids want to be in school when adults know how to connect with them and make them feel valued. Staff wants to work in a place where they feel respected and valued as well.

One of the ways the staff works to build relationships with students is with a warm greeting every morning. If you were to walk the halls of Baxter at 8:10 each morning, you would find teachers, paraprofessionals, and administrators at the doors shaking hands or hugging students, welcoming them to our school each day and expressing how glad we are to have them here. The day continues with sharing good things that are happening in the students' and staff's lives. This personal relationship building is critical to making our students understand that the people at Baxter care deeply for them and are invested in their success not only in the area of academics but in the area of social and emotional well-being also.

All of us at Baxter are focused on ensuring our students know that we care about them and are excited to see them every morning. Not everyone has a perfect day every day, but no matter what happens throughout the day, we love ALL our students at Baxter, and we want them to go home knowing how much we care, and we can't wait to see them again the next morning.

Finally, as we move into the holiday season, remember that we will have a 1:00 dismissal on December 21st for winter break. School will resume on Wednesday, January 4, 2023. Families need to ensure that the school has the most current contact information. The district uses jmc to notify families of any closings. Emails and texts are sent to email addresses and phone numbers that guardians have registered. If there is a delay or closing, information will also be posted on the District's Facebook and Twitter accounts and local television stations.

Speaking of snow, I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and hopefully we don't see any more snow until Christmas Eve. Have a wonderful December and January.

Dr. Mickolyn Clapper

# STUDENT NEWS



## Monthly CKH Award Winners

### Elementary

Students and staff were nominated by elementary staff members for the months of October and November.

**October Students:** Ada Warkentin, Crew Redman, Mason Backus, Nolan Moffit, Easton Stratton, Benton Mortenson, Vinny Dunn, Calvin Hauser, Keith Bowen, Bridger Meyer, Isabelle Seals, Sage Keucker, Annie Maxwell, Lawsyn Milligan, Suzy Whitacre, Paul Schneider, and Lilly Henderson.

**October Staff:** Mrs. Amanda Moorman

**November Students:** Oliver Hutzel, Eli Colungo, Cameron McPherson, Cashton Franke, Arabelle Schnieders, Trey Cannon, Henry Eick, Tanner Moses, Nova Hudson, Seth Hansen, Lydia Tichy, Sloan Hasselbrink, Avery Whaley, Allison Engle, Grayson Singletary, Charlie Winheim, Demi Novak, Alivia Cook, and Madi Laurie.

**November Staff:** Mrs. Kristy Dee



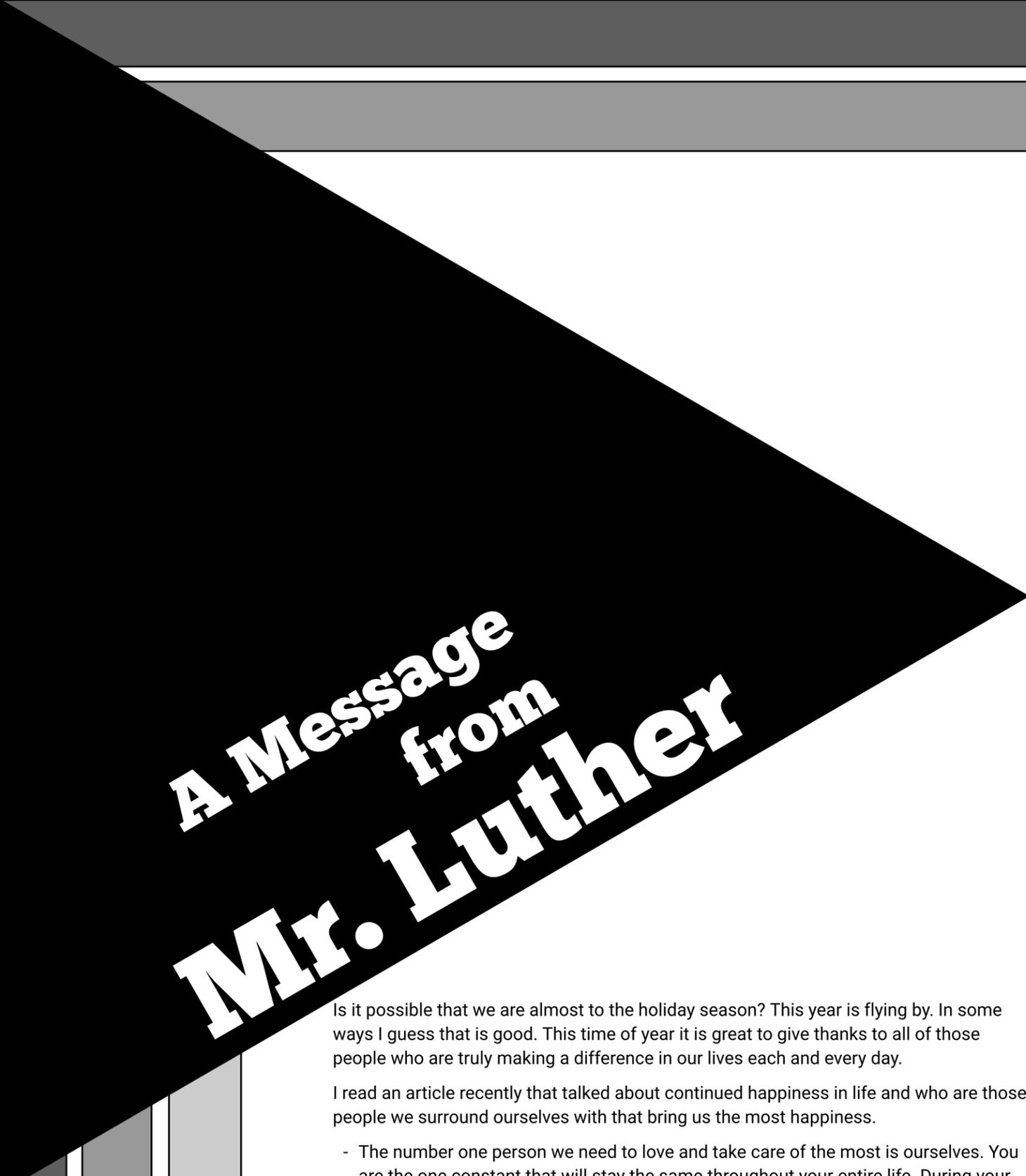
### Secondary

Students and staff were nominated by secondary staff members for the month of October.

**October Students:** Elsie Hauser, Camden Moffit, Grayson Scroggins, Zach Damman, and Sammy Irwin.

**October Staff:** Mrs. Amber Langmaid





# A Message from Mr. Luther

Is it possible that we are almost to the holiday season? This year is flying by. In some ways I guess that is good. This time of year it is great to give thanks to all of those people who are truly making a difference in our lives each and every day.

I read an article recently that talked about continued happiness in life and who are those people we surround ourselves with that bring us the most happiness.

- The number one person we need to love and take care of the most is ourselves. You are the one constant that will stay the same throughout your entire life. During your life's journey, never forget you control you. Your choices, decisions, your responses, are yours. Love who you are and share that person with as many others as you can.
- Your spouse or life partner is next. This will be the person you will share the greatest part of your life with. If you are lucky you will get 40,50 or 60 years with this person. My grandmother told me years ago the key is not to find the perfect wife but to be the perfect husband.

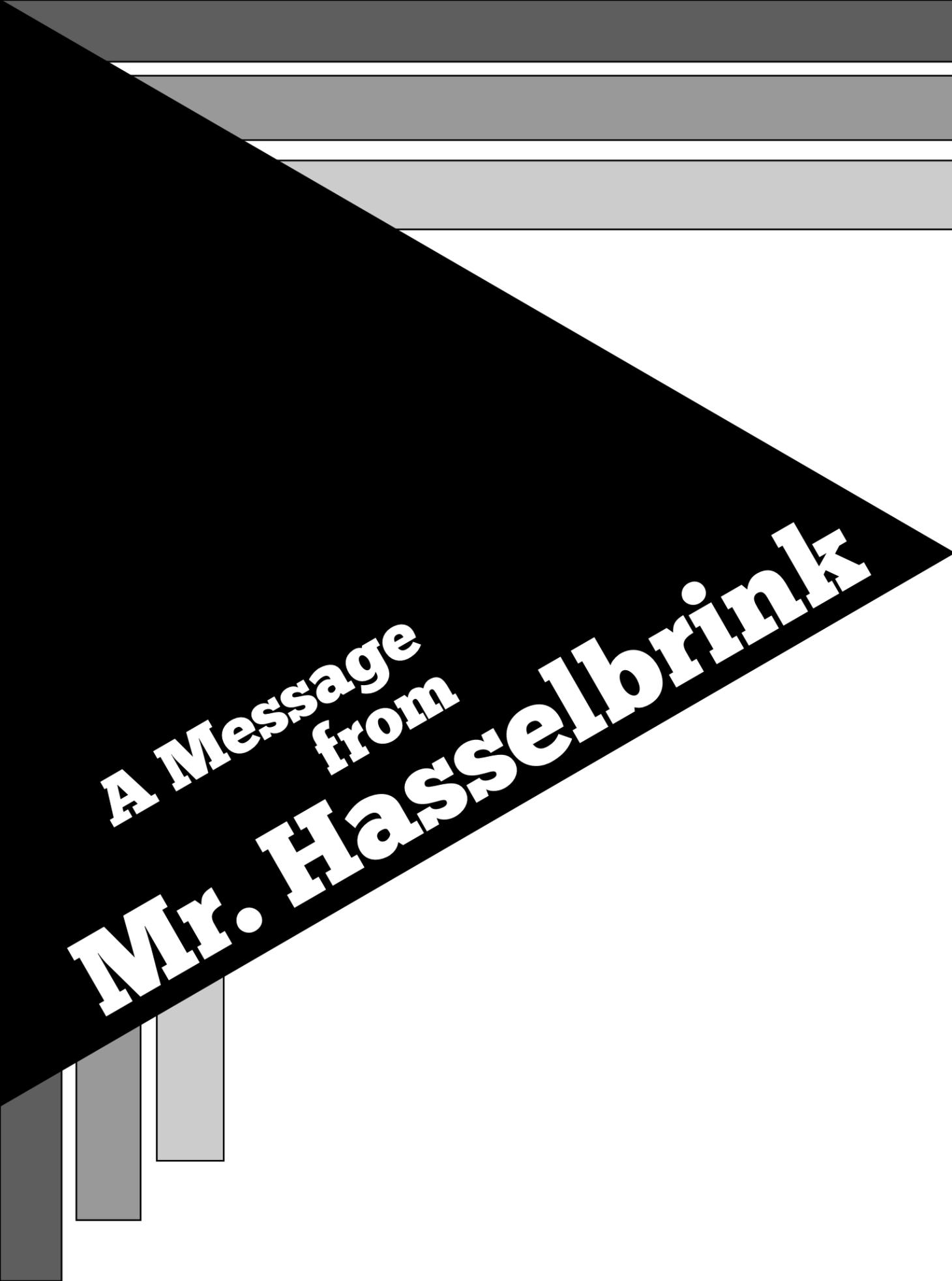
- As most of you know, I outkicked my coverage. And I have been so blessed to have Kristin work at Baxter for the past 7-8 years. She is an amazing educator and has made such a huge impact on so many of our students. She has brought the passion to read to so many. I am lucky to have Kristin with me both at work and at home.
- But the main reason I bring up the article is that our work family lands at number 3. In life, we spend more time with our co-workers than we do with our parents, kids, or friends. These relationships mold us and can change us. People sometimes don't think through the work culture or who they will be working with before taking a job. I am so lucky to have all the people we do at Baxter CSD. We have people who care about kids. We have people who work extremely hard to meet the wide range of needs of students. We have people who come with positive attitudes. The teaching profession is in real trouble. As a country and state, we need to make some sweeping changes to value teachers. These are the people that will influence your children more than anyone else besides you as parents. These are the people that can make positive changes in our world. We should be doing everything we can to bring quality people into our profession. Education needs the best of the best. But right now we are not showing them that. And even as a small Iowa school district, we need to think outside the box to attract the best teachers we can. This being my 31st year in education, I have never been around a teaching staff with such quality, passion, empathy, caring, and skill, as the one we have right now. I believe we are beating the trend across our country. What we put on our teacher's plates is extensive. 7 different 45-minute classes, each needing prepped differently. Within each of those classes, they have a vast span of academic needs. They also have to meet all the social-emotional needs before we even begin to address the academic goals. They have to build assessments, have a professional development plan, contact parents, go to meetings, manage student behaviors, and bring their content to life to keep students excited and interested. I usually call our teachers rockstars, but maybe magicians is a better term.

I have not ever addressed teacher pay in a newsletter article, but after driving by a sign this week that said " Burger King Assistant Manager - \$50,000 a year. A new teacher in Baxter would earn around 35K. I just felt defeated. No wonder teachers are getting out of the profession. No wonder so many schools have still not filled all their spots for the current school year. I know there are so many ways to support and recognize our teachers, but a quality wage is a great start. I love our Baxter Family. We have shown for many years this has become a destination school for many educators. And this is because of the people in our building, our school board, and our community.

- The last 3 groups in this article were parents, children, and friends. With these groups we find we spend less and less time with our parents or kids as we get older. We may lose our parents way too soon. Empty nesting happens quicker than you think. As we progress through life our friend groups constantly change. But what is important to remember is quality over quantity. Make each holiday count. Reach out to those who are important to you and let them know that! Be thankful for those who have influenced you and have loved you. There is no better time than the holidays to say thanks.

I am so thankful for so many things happening at Baxter and the talents and gifts of our students, teachers, and coaches. I am so grateful for all our Baxter Family! I wish all of you a wonderful holiday!

Mr. Rob Luther



**A Message  
from  
Mr. Hasselbrink**

Happy Holidays from Baxter Elementary. The school year is flying by, but so many great things happen each day. Our students actively engage in high-quality learning opportunities and receive daily support from our multi-tiered system. Our focus over the first few months of school has been analyzing assessment data to better inform our daily decision-making about the needs of our students. We have focused on starting with the end in mind, meaning that we ensure that the assessments in which students are taking are a fair and indicative reflection of the intended learning goals. This in turn provides information about our instructional practices that we can refine to ensure mastery of each learning objective. When students are unable to achieve the learning objectives, we enlist our layers of support to ensure that they receive the skills necessary to achieve mastery. Our teachers have worked diligently to ensure that our assessments provide clear data on the understanding of the knowledge and skills of each student in our elementary school.

Our first trimester just ended, and I wanted to thank our families for making it a priority to attend our parent-teacher conferences. We had 98% participation this fall and will aim for 100% of our spring conferences. Our hope is that these conferences are informative and meaningful, as they are planned purposefully and intentionally. We want to partner with our families in multiple ways to help ensure positive outcomes for all of our students. These partnerships will help provide another layer of support to our students to encourage growth and proficiency. If you ever have any questions, please reach out to your child's teacher. We want to encourage a bridge between our school and our families.

If you are on Facebook, I encourage you to check out the Baxter Elementary page, as we share our story about the daily experiences in our classrooms and school. Some highlights from the last couple of months include monthly student awards assemblies, weekly STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) lessons, starting of D.A.R.E. for 5th-grade students, and implementing a Math WINN time to parlay with our daily Reading WINN time. Our Baxter Elementary Winter Concert is set to take place on December 15th on the STAGE in our East Gymnasium. We are eager to return to the stage and excited to showcase our students and their talents.

I hope when you read these newsletters you feel the same pride that I feel each and every day working in this school and district. Being a teacher is no easy task, and I appreciate all they do each and every day to ensure that our students have exactly what they need to be successful in and out of the classroom. They emphasize the importance of building relationships to show students that they care. I am proud of all that is occurring in our classrooms and school and proud of the community that we serve. Also, want to thank the parents and families of our students who support them in many ways to allow them to be the best they can be each day.

Have a great Holiday season, and as always please reach out if you need anything.

Mr. Zach Hasselbrink  
Elementary Principal

# Counselor's Corner

Mr. Travis Dee

Secondary School  
Counselor

641-227-1205

[tdee@baxter.k12.ia.us](mailto:tdee@baxter.k12.ia.us)

## Mental Health Resources

Baxter Community Schools would like to inform our families about the following services that may be available to them.

**Capstone Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.** – (641) 792-4012 -- 1123 1st Avenue E., Ste. 200, Newton <http://www.capstonebh.com/>

The mission of Capstone Behavioral Healthcare is to promote mental health and reduce the impairments associated with mental disorders, substance abuse, and chemical dependency by providing education, prevention, support, and treatment services. Serves adults and youth.

- Ages 2 and older – Specialized Therapy
- Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)
- Play Therapy • Ages 6 and older – Therapy and Med Management
- Behavioral Health Intervention Services (BHIS)
- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- Substance Abuse Counseling

**House of Mercy** - (641) 792-0717-- 200 N. 8th Ave. E., Newton <https://www.mercyone.org/desmoines/house-of-mercy/>

Offering individual and small group substance-related / addictive disorders treatment and mental health programs to individuals and families in need of these critical supports. Our goal is to exceed client expectations while helping them to create a healthy lifestyle and sense of personal self-worth and well-being.

- Ages 5 and older
- Mental Health Counseling – Trauma- Informed Care
- School-Based Counseling
- Substance Abuse Counseling

**Integrated Treatment Services** – (641) 792-0045 --- 303 S. 2nd Ave. W., Newton <http://integratedtreatmentservices.org/>

One-stop service provider offering a variety of outpatient evaluation and treatment programs including OWI evaluations, DUI classes, substance abuse treatment programs (including co-occurring substance abuse/mental health disorders) for children and adults, as well as socialization, anger management and employment training programs.

- Ages 5 and older
- Mental Health Counseling
- Behavioral Health Intervention Services (BHIS)
- Substance Abuse Counseling

**Optimae LifeServices, Inc.** - (641) 787-9133 -- 1730 1st Ave. E., Newton <http://www.optimaelifeservices.com/>

Providing health care and human services for individuals with disabilities and mental illness, equipping our customers with supports and services that encourage empowerment and community integration. Community Based programs include supported community living, behavioral health, nursing and home health, peer support – providing the quality of care we would want for our own families.

- Ages 12 and older
- Diagnosis and Therapy

## 2022-2023 ACT Test Dates

ACT Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline	Standby Deadline
February 11, 2023	January 6, 2023	January 20, 2023	February 3, 2023
April 15, 2023	March 10, 2023	March 24, 2023	April 7, 2023
June 10, 2023	May 5, 2023	May 19, 2023	June 2, 2023
July 15, 2023	June 16, 2023	June 23, 2023	July 7, 2023

# News from the Kitchen!

This Fall, Baxter was granted a local foods grant to purchase meat and vegetables from local farmers. So far, we have enjoyed fresh local lettuce and apples. More local items will be featured soon!

Mark your calendars for our Holiday Meal, Thursday, December 8th. Guests are always welcome! Check-in at the office, and the adult meal price of \$4.15 can be charged to your family lunch account or paid in cash.

Due to the ever-changing supply challenges, it is not possible to post the lunch menus far enough in advance to list them in the newsletter. Instead, they will be available online at <https://www.baxtercsd.com/calendars>. Scroll down to the lunch calendars. Printable links will be available there as well!

Expect to continue to see our rotating flavors of Homemade pizza on Fridays! Some of our Taco menu items will be featured on Tuesdays for Taco Tuesday, and many of our fresh sandwiches and burgers will be moved to Wednesdays to accommodate our fresh bread deliveries better. Don't forget we have a great breakfast too!

Feedback is always welcome! I can be reached at [tclarke@baxter.k12.ia.us](mailto:tclarke@baxter.k12.ia.us) anytime! Thank you!

Tace Clarke, Food Service Director



Dear Parents and Families:

Get ready! The Scholastic Book Fair is coming our way (YAY!). Choosing their own books empowers kids and inspires them to become Bolder, Prouder, and Stronger Readers. AND—as always—every book they buy earns rewards for our school.

Here's what you need to know about the Fair, which will take place from 12/5/22-12/9/22 in the library.

This year, say goodbye to cash and hello to **eWallet**—your child's digital payment account. Before the Fair, set up eWallet for worry-free, cash-free purchases. Anyone can contribute! Share each child's eWallet so friends and family can add funds and give your kids more books to enjoy.

If you can't make it to the Fair, **shop at our school's Online Book Fair**. All orders ship directly to your home; shipping is free for book orders over \$25. Your online orders will also benefit our school.

Visit our Book Fair homepage to learn more and get started with eWallet and online shopping: <https://www.scholastic.com/bf/baxtercommunityschool>

The countdown to more enjoying your book fair books is on! Catch you at the Fair!

Happy reading,

Mr. Pickett

Permission to reproduce this item is granted by Scholastic Book Fairs®.  
©2022 Scholastic Inc. All rights reserved. 2580250 F22 • 2580301



## Save the Date!



**March 21 | 5 - 7 PM**

All ages welcome!



# ATHLETIC NEWS



Baxter Bolt Winter sports programs have officially started! Reminder to follow Baxter activities on Facebook (Baxter CSD) and Twitter (@BaxterBoltsAD) for event updates, announcements, results, and more. For access to winter and spring athletic schedules, please contact Scott Pierce ([spierce@baxter.k12.ia.us](mailto:spierce@baxter.k12.ia.us)).

Please join the Baxter Hall of Fame Committee in honoring the 2022 Baxter Hall of Fame Members in between the varsity girls' and boys' basketball games on December 20th vs GMG. JV girls will start the night at 4:30 pm in the west gym, JV boys follow in the east gym starting at 5:45 pm, and varsity girls will start at 6:00 pm followed by varsity boys around 7:30 pm. The following people will be inducted this year:

- Lexi Breon

- 1st Team All-Conference Soccer
- 2nd in State in Goals Saved with 374
- 1st Team All Conference Basketball
- All-Time Assist leader in CMB Basketball with 283
- All-Time Single Season CMB BB Free Throw leader with 79.1%



- Heather Jessen

- 3 Sport State Qualifier - XC, Track, and Softball
- Member of 1st CMB State Softball Team
- 2X State Track Qualifier in the 3000
- 2X State XC Qualifier
- 3 Sport athlete at Southwestern C.C.



- Clayton Weltha

- 1st Team All-State Linebacker
- 2X State Track Qualifier in Discus
- Member of first undefeated CMB Football Team
- Played TE at Wartburg College
- Part of 2 Wartburg College FB Conference Championships



- Jeff Hoskins

- Coached Baxter Girls BB to Undefeated Regular Season - 1983-84
- Coached back to back Girls BB Sectional Championships 1984-85
- Coached multiple Baxter State Track Qualifiers
- IHSAA Mo Kelly Award Winner
- 25 Years as the Voice of the Raiders and Bolts



Throughout the games, the inductees will be available in the west commons where you can congratulate them and take a look at their memorabilia tables.

**BAXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT --- PARENT/GUARDIAN NOTICE SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973**

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits discrimination against persons with a disability in any program receiving federal financial assistance. In order to fulfill obligations under Section 504, the Baxter Community School District has the responsibility to avoid discrimination in policies and practices regarding its personnel and students. No discrimination against any person with a disability should knowingly be permitted in any of the programs and practices of the school system.

The Baxter Community School District has the responsibilities under Section 504, which included the obligations to identify, evaluate, and, if the student is determined to be eligible under Section 504, to afford access to appropriate educational services.

If the parent/guardian disagrees with the determination made by the professional staff of the school district, he/she has a right to file a grievance and to a hearing with an impartial hearing officer.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) also specifies rights related to educational records. This Act gives the parent or guardian the right to:

1) Inspect and review his/her child's educational records; 2) Make copies of these records; 3) Receive a list of the individuals having access to those records; 4) Ask for an explanation of any item in the records; 5) Ask for an amendment to any report on the grounds that it is inaccurate, misleading, or violates the child's rights; and 6) A hearing on the issue if the school refuses to make the amendment.

If there are questions, please feel free to contact the Equity/Section 504/ADA Coordinator for the State St., Baxter, IA 50028, (641) 227-3103.

Baxter Community School  
202 E. State St.  
P.O. Box 189  
Baxter, IA 50028

Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
Permit No. 13  
Baxter, IA 50028  
CAR-RT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cory Robinson - President

Colette Kunkel

Deb Meyer

Jon Northrup

Kim Tichy

Mickolyn Clapper- Superintendent

Julie McWhirter - Board Secretary

**BOXHOLDER**  
**BAXTER, IA 50028**