And the Winners Are...

Robert Blue students and staff members recently had the opportunity to submit their pet’s picture in the What’s Up @ Robert Blue Pet Contest. The school community then voted on the submitted entries. The race for cutest cat, dog, and other pet were quite close. Here are the winners.

Cutest Cat, Miley: Mrs. Groth, Teacher

Cutest Dog, Buddy: Hannah Demory, 6th Grade

Cutest Other Pet, Penny: Alex Wilson, 5th Grade

Thanks to everyone who shared their special pet with us!
Flips Flops for Haiti
by Marissa Williams

The Girl Scouts are coming together and sending flip-flops to Haiti. The girl scouts neatly colored a box and got lots of pairs of flip-flops. The point of doing this is to learn citizenship to our fellow people all around the world.

We say, “Please help.” If you would like to help, there is the box in the Eagle Pharmacy for you to donate your flip-flops. The flip-flops need to be in good condition. We also would like to thank everyone that already donated some flip-flops.
Q: Why did you go out for basketball?
A: To have fun and help the school

Q: What’s the best part of basketball?
A: The games

Q: What’s the worst part?
A: Not winning

Q: What is your toughest workout?
A: Conditioning

Q: Is it hard to balance school and sports?
A: Yes, you have to know what your grades are to play. Get your homework done to be able to play.

Q: Does your team have any pre-game traditions?
A: No, not really.

Q: Have you ever injured yourself during a game or practice? What happened?
A: I got sent to the hospital because I twisted my ankle.

Q: What advice would you give students thinking about going out for basketball?
A: You have to love the game and practice.
Middle School Sports Spotlight

Maci Pickering
8th Grade

Q: Why did you go out for basketball?
A: To keep busy

Q: What's the best part of basketball?
A: The games

Q: What's the worst part?
A: Running

Q: What is your toughest workout?
A: Sprints

Q: Is it hard to balance school and sports? What tips do you have for other student athletes?
A: No, if you keep your grades up, you can play in games.

Q: Does your team have any pre-game traditions?
A: Break it down

Q: Have you ever injured yourself during a game or practice? What happened?
A: Yes, I pulled a muscle in my back.

Q: What advice would you give students thinking about going out for basketball?
A: Do it!

Hallie Jeske
7th Grade

Q: Why did you go out for basketball?
A: I thought it would be fun and it’s good exercise.

Q: What’s the best part of basketball?
A: Being with my friends

Q: What’s the worst part?
A: Running

Q: What’s your toughest workout?
A: Dirty 30’s- from line to line 7 times in 30 seconds

Q: Is it hard to balance school and sports? What tips do you have for other student athletes?
A: It can be, but pay attention in class so you can get it done.

Q: Does your team have any pre-game traditions?
A: Normal warm-ups

Q: Have you ever injured yourself during a game or practice? What happened?
A: I jammed my finger. I just iced it and it got better.

Q: What advice would you give students thinking about going out for basketball?
A: You actually have to be committed to it. You can’t quit, and it’s really fun.
Wrestlers

Lincoln Miller,
8th Grade

Q: Why did you go out for wrestling?
A: It’s a family sport. My great-grandpa was a state champion and my grandpa was a coach.

Q: What’s the best part of wrestling?
I like winning and pinning someone in the 1st period or overtime.

Q: What’s the worst part?
Getting beat in the 3rd period.

Q: What is your toughest workout?
A: Conditioning- especially stairs and live wrestling.

Q: Is it hard to balance school and sports?
What tips do you have for other student athletes?
A: Not really, the coach will help you. If you need help, ask.

Q: Does your team (or you) have any pre-game traditions?
A: We do warm-ups at the same time. I wear the same shorts and socks.

Q: Have you ever injured yourself during a meet or practice? What happened?
A: I dislocated my elbow during practice last year.

Q: What advice would you give students thinking about going out for wrestling?
A: Do it! If you don’t like it, try something else.

Derek Graham,
7th Grade

Q: Why did you go out for wrestling?
A: I like it and it’s a family tradition.

Q: What’s the best part of wrestling?
I like taking the opponent down.

Q: What’s the worst part?
Getting hit in the nose. It happens a lot.

Q: What is your toughest workout?
A: Running stairs.

Q: Is it hard to balance school and sports?
What tips do you have for other student athletes?
A: Kind of, try hard if you are going out for a sport.

Q: Does your team (or you) have any pre-game traditions?
A: We listen to music to get fired up.

Q: Have you ever injured yourself during a meet or practice? What happened?
A: I hyper-extended my arm.

Q: What advice would you give students thinking about going out for wrestling?
A: Even if the coaches yell at you, it’s helping you get better.

Middle School Sports Spotlight
5th grade students completed a unit on arthropods which includes insects, crustaceans, millipedes, centipedes, and arachnids. As a culminating activity, students created an arthropod of their choice and included a paragraph about how that creature’s specialized parts allow it to live in its environment. Students were also encouraged to use recycled materials in a creative way. Here are just a few of the projects.
When my cat Bella was 14 weeks old, my family adopted Bella and her brother Eddie for Christmas. Bella is a dark calico cat with a diva personality. Eddie is a black cat with just a touch of white on his collar. My mom adopted both kittens as a Christmas surprise.

It was so funny the day we got them. My brother was somewhat afraid of animals because he had been bitten by a dog when he was 3. My mom let them out of the pet carrier and my brother screamed and climbed on top of the couch, where he stayed for an hour.

Bella and Edward (which we shortened to Eddie) also have a brother named Jacob and a sister named Alice (all named for Twilight characters by the Humane Society who rescued them). Four cats seemed too many so the other two were adopted by different families.

Bella has a unique personality. My mom calls her the drive-by kitty because she will walk past so that you can pet her, but won’t stay. She just keeps on walking. Eddie is hyper and likes to run around investigating everything. After he discovered the Christmas tree, he climbed to the top daily and peeked his little head out, looking like a fluffy ornament.
BUILD YOUR VOCABULARY - CAITLIN KIMBROUGH

**5th Grade List**
- allow - to permit
- alter - to make a change to something
- backbone - the human spine
- bald - not having any hair
- patient - to have patience

**6th Grade List**
- partnership - the state of being partners
- foreman - a superintendent of workers
- forgery - a fake or copy
- outlive - live longer than
- outrank - rank higher than
Happy Holidays!
from the ET’s of RBMS
WHO AM I? It’s a blast from the past!!! Travel back in time to see what our Teachers and Staff members looked like back when they were in middle school. (ANSWERS ON PAGE 1?)

Match these people to their middle school picture!

- Mrs. Christopher
- Mrs. Wenzel
- Mrs. Groth
- Mrs. Ascherl
- Mrs. Long
- Mrs. Parrott
- Mrs. Rossow
- Mrs. Lyman
- Mrs. Halgrim
- Mrs. Dooley
- Mr. Ettinger
- Mrs. Smith
- Mr. Swalin
- Mrs. Teeselink
- Mrs. Baluczynski
- Mrs. Johnston
- Mr. Morgan
- Mrs. Rossow
- Ms. Frommelt
- Mr. Schild
- Mrs. Timmerman
**Shriners Hospital Christmas Party** by Marissa Williams

The 9th of December I went to a Shriners Christmas party. Shriners is a hospital that helps kids with disabilities. My brother Mason Williams goes to that hospital, and they had a Christmas party.

My whole family of seven went there from Eagle Grove to Altoona, Iowa. Santa came and gave every special child there a Christmas present and a bag of fruit and candy. Every other child there got a bag of fruit and candy. Anyone could color a picture or decorate a cookie. There was also a band playing Christmas songs the whole time! We had lunch there, also.
Coach's Corner - Winter Sports

Coach Jim McLaughlin
8th Grade Girls' Basketball
How long have you been a coach?
Since 1983.

Why did you become a coach?
Because I like basketball and I like to stay in the game and coach young people.

Why do you encourage kids to go out for your sport?
The activity, enjoyment, competition, and learning life skills through athletics.

Coach Beth Nelson
7th Grade Girls' Basketball
How long have you been a coach?
I have coached volleyball and basketball for a total of three years.

Why did you become a coach?
I became a coach because I love sports and I love being involved in athletics.

Why do you encourage kids to go out for your sport?
No matter what sport you choose to go out for, it is so important to get involved during your middle school years! Sports are an excellent way to teach teamwork, focus, discipline, and they are a lot of fun!! Starting young is the best time to teach those early fundamental skills that can lead to success in high school and beyond.

Coach Linc Morgan
7th & 8th Grade Wrestling
How long have you been a coach?
I have been a wrestling coach for 13 years (8 as a high school coach and 5 as a junior high coach).

Why did you become a coach? I wanted to become a coach to help kids reach their goals...on and off the wrestling mat. It is a lot like teaching...I get to see kids improve from day to day, week to week...it is a lot of fun. I want to give the kids a positive experience on the mat and in the classroom.

Why do you encourage kids to go out for your sport? I encourage all kids to go out for something...we need to get kids involved in our school activities. When kids are involved, they tend to take more pride in their school and it makes school more fun. My brother and I tell the kids interested in wrestling that...we will work hard, but have fun too. This year's group has been a great group. They are the most dedicated junior high group that I have ever coached. They all show up for practice, work hard, and they want to get better. We also have great managers...makes my job easier.
Coach Stein
8th Grade Boys’ Basketball

How long have your been a coach? I have been a baseball coach for 3 years at the freshmen level at Harlan High School, 2 years at the JV/Varsity level at Carlisle High School, and 2 years as the Graduate Assistant Coach at Northwest Missouri State. So this is my 8th year in coaching, but my first year coaching anything besides baseball (although I played basketball and football in high school).

Why did you become a coach? I became a coach because of all the coaches that have impacted me and my life growing up. I had the privilege of playing for some great coaches, who were also great people. They improved me as a player, as well as a person and that made me really want to be able to do for others what they did for me.

Why do you encourage kids to go out for your sport? I encourage kids to go out for basketball to have fun, to learn about/how to play the game, to be active, to learn the value of teamwork, to enjoy competition, and hopefully to improve their skills and knowledge of the game so they can continue playing when they head to high school.

Coach Swalin
7th Grade Boys’ Basketball

How long have your been a coach? This is my first year as a coach.

Why did you become a coach? I have wanted to be a coach since I was in high school. I loved playing sports and being part of a team. Now I get to be a part of a team as a coach.

Why do you encourage kids to go out for your sport? I think sports are very important for children and young adults to participate in. It teaches them about hard work, pushing themselves, and being a good teammate. All students should participate in a sport or multiple sports while they are in school.

ANSWERS TO BLAST FROM THE PAST

5. Christopher 14. Teeselink
6. Ettinger 15. Timmerman
7. Dooley 16. Lyman
8. Smith 17. Rossow
9. Wenzel 18. Long
Q: What is your name?
A: Jaxson Brady-Hobart

Q: What grade are you in?
A: 7th

Q: Where did you move here from?
A: Clarion

Q: Why did you move to Eagle Grove?
A: We just decided to move here

Q: What are your hobbies?
A: Hanging out with friends, wrestling, and football

Q: How would you describe yourself in one word?
A: Fun

Q: What is your favorite school memory?
A: I don't have a favorite

Q: What is your favorite subject at RBMS?
A: Science

Q: Tell us something that is different at RBMS than at your old school.
A: Here you type in your number at lunch, at Clarion you get your card scanned

Q: What are you looking forward to this school year?
A: Meeting a lot of new people

Q: What is your name?
A: Delilah Gonzalez-Szpak.

Q: What grade are you in?
A: 6th

Q: Where did you move here from?
A: Colorado

Q: Why did you move to Eagle Grove?
A: My family is here

Q: What are your hobbies?
A: Riding horses, soccer, basketball, acting, dancing, and drawing

Q: How would you describe yourself in one word?
A: Ecstatic

Q: What is your favorite school memory?
A: Hanging out with my friends

Q: What is your favorite subject at RBMS?
A: Science and social studies

Q: Tell us something that is different at RBMS than at your old school.
A: I have more friends in Colorado than here

Q: What are you looking forward to this year?
A: Getting all A's, more friends, and the talent show
Q: What is your name?  
A: Cyprian Szpak

Q: What grade are you in?  
A: 8th

Q: Where did you move here from?  
A: Sharon, Colorado

Q: Why did you move to Eagle Grove?  
A: My dad brought me here

Q: What are your hobbies?  
A: Drawing and Creating

Q: How would you describe yourself in one word?  
A: Creative

Q: What is your favorite school memory?  
A: In the middle of 6th grade to the end of 6th grade, we had a sub for half of the year

Q: What is your favorite subject at RBMS?  
A: Art

Q: Tell us something that is different at RBMS than at your old school.  
A: There are eight classes here, but 7 classes there

Q: What are you looking forward to this school year?  
A: Getting to know more people

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Q: What is your name?  
A: Vanessa Wicket

Q: What grade are you in?  
A: 5th

Q: Where did you move here from?  
A: Green Bay, Wisconsin

Q: What are your hobbies?  
A: Arts and crafts.

Q: How would you describe yourself in one word?  
A: Spiderman.

Q: What is your favorite school memory?  
A: When I went on a field trip to a basketball game

Q: What is your favorite subject at RBMS?  
A: Art

Q: Tell us something that is different at RBMS than at your old school.  
A: Tickets

Q: What are you looking forward to this school year?  
A: Christmas Break
Q: What is your name?  
A: Fernando

Q: What grade are you in?  
A: 8th

Q: Where did you move here from?  
A: Mexico

Q: Why did you move here?  
A: Because my mom works here

Q: What are your hobbies?  
A: Sports

Q: How would you describe yourself in one word?  
A: Weird

Q: What is your favorite school memory?  
A: Soccer in Hampton

Q: What is your favorite subject at RBMS?  
A: ELL & Math

Q: Tell us something that is different at RBMS than at your old school.  
A: Everything

Q: What are you looking forward to this school year?  
A: Work

Q: What is your name?  
A: Preston Carr

Q: What grade are you in?  
A: 7th.

Q: Where did you move here from?  
A: Webster City

Q: Why did you move here?  
A: Both my parents have a job here.

Q: What are you hobbies?  
A: Call Of Duty and homework.

How would you describe yourself in one word?  
A: Funny.

Q: What is your favorite school memory?  
A: Spending time with friends at recess.

Q: What is your favorite subject in RBMS?  
A: Math, likes doing problems and solving them.

Q: Tell us something that is different at RBMS than at your old school.  
A: Teachers here are really nice. [In Webster City] they are really strict.

Q: What are you looking forward to this school year?  
A: Having fun.
Students, Staff, and Teachers were asked to fill in the blanks for the following Mad Lib.

**Adjective Miss Person’s name verb on her tuffet,**
**Eating her type of food and type of food.**
**Along came a animal**
**And verb down beside her**
**Verb Miss same person’s name away.**

**Taylor Lowe, 8th Grade**
Pretty Miss Selena waked on her tuffet, eating her pizza and peas.
Along came a dog
And ran down beside her Skipping Miss Selena away.

**Chase Blasi, 7th Grade**
Huge Miss Chase ran on her tuffet, Eating her pork liver and liver onions.
Along came a manatee
And jumped down beside her Spinning Miss Chase away.

**Mrs. Frommelt, 5/6 Special Education**
Flamboyant Miss Toto exploded on her tuffet, Eating her tangerine and watermelon.
Along came a platypus
And argued Miss Toto away.

**Alex Nessa, 5th Grade**
Fast Miss Alex ran on her tuffet, Eating her peanut butter and jelly.
Along came a cheetah
And walked down beside her And jogged Miss Alex away.

**Ms. Halgrim, Associate**
Extraordinary Miss Stacy rode her bike on her tuffet, Eating her tuna and cheese.
Along came a monkey
And skipped down beside her Frolicking Miss Stacy away.

**Delilah Gonzalez-Szpak, 6th Grade**
Pretty Miss Angelica ran on her tuffet, Eating her hot dog and lasagna
Along came an elephant
And sat down beside her Playing Miss Angelica away.
Strange Laws in Iowa

In Marshalltown, it is illegal for horses to eat fire hydrants. *Mmm…*

You cannot catch more than 48 frogs- a day. *Well, that’s um, like, ok then…*

You cannot hunt with ferrets. *Wasn’t really planning to…*

You cannot use sparrows as targets- unless you’re training a hunting dog!

Random State Laws

In Washington, you cannot own a non-human primate.

In Hawaii, building Atomic bombs is subject to a fine.

In New York, “tampering” with a horse’s tail earns a year in jail.


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Q: What is your name?
A. Sarah Groth

Q: Where did you grow up?
A. Marshalltown, IA

Q: Why did you become a teacher?
A. I like working with kids everyday and watching kids learn and grow.

Q: What is your least favorite thing about teaching?
A. Getting up early in the morning.

Q: Is the subject you teach today, is that your favorite back when you were a kid? If not, what was your favorite?
A. Yes, in middle school.

Q: What is your favorite day of the week? Why?
A. Thursdays, because it is “Glee” night.

Q: What do you do on the weekends?
A: Spend time with my husband and baking, and going to wrestling tournaments every Saturday.

Q: Do you think about kids on the weekend?
A: Yes, I do. Especially while at wrestling tournaments and while running.

Q: What do you do in the summer?
A: Spend time with family and go on vacations and run a lot.
On Friday, January 11, the students of Robert Blue Middle School who met their goals for positive behavior and homework completion celebrated with an afternoon of fun as they participated in the X Games. Students competed against other grade level ETs by playing a wide range of games including Doctor Dress-up- a race to wear doctor garb, Spread the Germs- groups of three blowing germs (cotton balls) out of their hoop, and Bucket Head- bouncing tennis balls into (new) bedpans! It was an exciting way to end the quarter.
THE X GAMES

X GAME ET Winners

8th Grade Winner:
Mrs. Wenzel

7th Grade Winner: (Tie)
Mrs. Johnston & Mrs. Long

6th Grade Winner:
Mrs. Teeselink

5th Grade Winner:
Mrs. Smith
Q. What is your name?
A. Janea McKinley

Q. Where did you grow up?
A. Story City, IA- near Ames

Q. Why did you become a teacher?
A. I have always wanted to be a teacher! I love helping people.

Q. What is your favorite thing about teaching?
A. Spending time with 5th graders.

Q. If you weren't a teacher, what would your dream job be?
A. I don't think I could be anything else! Maybe a band teacher!

Q. Is the subject you teach today the favorite back when you were a kid? If not, what was your favorite subject?
A. I loved reading, but really loved all subjects.

Q. What is your favorite day of the week and why?
A. Monday: Fresh start. I am motivated and ready to go. Friday: Time for the weekend!

Q. What do you do on the weekends?
A. Plan for the next week! I also read and spend time with family.

Q. What are your three favorite things?
A. Books! My computer, and family

Q. What is your favorite book?
A. I don't have just one favorite! I love a lot of them.

Q. What do you do in the summer?
A. I have always taken classes in the summer. I hope to read a lot this summer!