

THE BULLDOG PRESS

NOT THE NEWSPAPER CALHAN NEEDS, THE ONE WE DESERVE!

VOLUME 1, EDITION 1



Calhan Middle and High School
Calhan, CO
SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER, 2016

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BULLDOG OF THE MONTH

By **Kyleigh Smith '22**

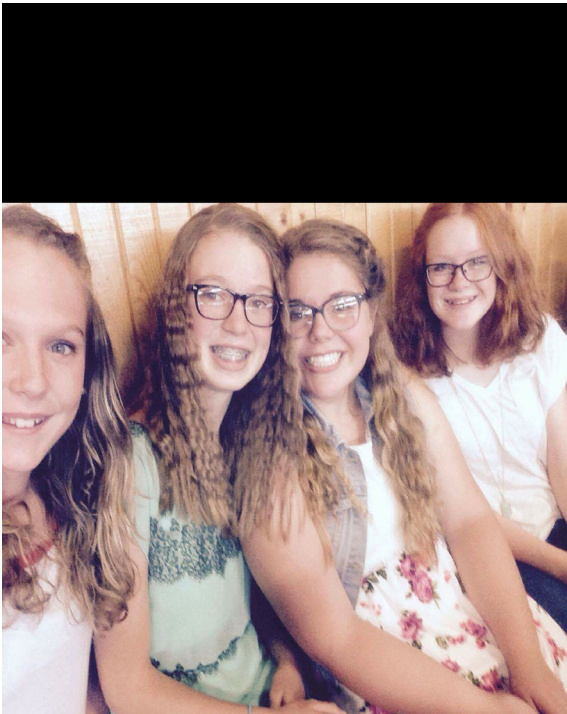
Lainey Clark, an 8th grader at Calhan Middle School, was nominated to be student of the month by three of our marvelous teachers and staff.

“Lainey is always on time to class and works to her fullest. She is very focused and has a great attitude,” agree Ms. Doyle and Ms. Parker.

“Lainey loves to read and work hard. She can be fun but when it comes to school she is very serious,” says the librarian.

Lainey Clark has been nominated student of the moth for September... you could be next!

Keep up the good work work! LET'S GO BULLDOGS!



Picture taken by: Serina Graham
Pictured from left: Serina Graham, Lainey Clark, Natalie Parks, Natalie Hlatki.



Picture taken by: Natalie Hlatki
Pictured: Lainey Clark

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Retrica

Blast From The Past: How Halloween Began

By Natalie Hlatki '21

For most of us, Halloween is our favorite time of the year. Who doesn't love the day where you get free treats, and get to dress up? However, Halloween wasn't always a day for candy. It actually has a long, sometimes dark, past with vandalism and human rituals.

Halloween originally started as a festival called Samhain, held by the ancient Celts, around two thousand years ago. Samhain was a time the ancient Pagans would harvest their supplies and crops to last through the winter. While they would throw harvest festivals, the Druids would build huge bonfires. The bonfires would attract insects, thus naturally bats would also be a present guest at these festivals. Historians believe that that is how bats were incorporated into our present day Halloween.

During that time, England and France celebrated their New Year on November 1st; people believed that the mortal realm and the spirit world overlapped, with the ghosts of dead people walking among the living. Medieval people believed that the dead were responsible for the destruction of crops and the spreading of illness.

The Roman way of honoring their dead was known as Feralia, which occurred at the end of October. Romans, English, and Irish also introduced the practice of "souling," which is when the poor would travel door to door, begging for treats in exchange for prayers offered on All Souls Day.

Halloween in America wasn't that popular until the turn of the 20th Century. In fact, Trick or Treating was not widespread until the 1930s. With the influence of the baby boom generation, Halloween became an annual event, mostly focused around younger children.

School parties and trick-or-treating made a large comeback; in this way communities could participate in celebration at a relatively low cost.

Today, Halloween has become a six billion dollar business, with its only competitor as Christmas. As a worldwide holiday, Halloween is always changing, but only 3000 years ago, it was a Pagan festival. How the times have changed!

Middle School Teacher of the Month

By Natalie Parks '21 and Natalie Hlatki '21

We all have a favorite teacher; sometimes we have to let that one teacher just how exceptional they are.

We took a poll of the middle schoolers, having them choose between four teachers for teacher of the month. After questioning forty-eight students, the unanimous champion was Mr. Mitchell. Since so many kids voted him as teacher of the month, we decided to interview him, so as to get to know him better.

We began with a question that always gets an interesting answer: "Did you want to be a teacher?" Surprisingly, his answer was "no"; when he was younger, he wanted to be a musician, and he still pursues his hobby, playing the guitar, piano, and more.

When we asked: "What subject would you teach if you could choose?" Mr. Mitchell replied with: "Either history or math." It is nice to know he teaches us a subject he enjoys.

Lastly, we wanted to know: "What is your teaching philosophy? How did you climb to the top of this competition of teachers? His answer was a great one: "I would say, order and discipline in my class, but from someone who cares." We thought that was a fantastic answer. Thanks for your time and dedication to Calhan School, Mr. Mitchell.



Secretaries in Action

Natalie Parks '21

Hello, world! We are here to announce not only the teacher of the month, but also the secretary of the month! For this month we would like to congratulate Mrs. Brittany Clark. Liking your job is an understatement. Mrs. Brittany loves her job, mostly because of the children. In her perspective kids are what keep her going through each and every long day.

We asked Mrs. Brittany if she liked interacting with people, and she quickly answered: "Yes!" Lastly I asked Mrs. Brittany where she gets her shoes, because I know that all of you are raging to know this juicy detail. She buys them at Shoe Encore, eBay, and Plato's Closet! There you have our very fashionable secretary of the month!

Next, we would like to congratulate our longest secretary here at Calhan School, Mrs. Cheryl Cofer. She has been working here for forty-four years, yet her dream job was not to become a secretary; she actually wanted to be a pharmacist. Her role model is a lady named Janice Chess, another secretary that she knows.

Thank you, Mrs. Cofer, for staying with us for so long. It is truly such a pleasure having you here as one of our greatest secretaries.

Calhan Food Drive for Local Families

By Rose Baker '22

On October 11th – 14th, the Calhan School hosted a food drive sponsored by the LEO Club and Ms. Katie Parker. There was a food box in each room in the middle school and elementary rooms. All the food collected went to the food pantry in Calhan.

Collections was separated into categories: on the 11th and the 12th, the suggested items to bring food were canned items, ramen, or even fresh veggies. On the 13th and 14th it was suggested to bring personal care items like toothbrushes, deodorant, or hair brushes.

As a special treat, middle schoolers could acquire twenty points of extra credit from Ms. Parker if you brought food or personal care items. Thanks to everyone who participated in the food drive. Your donations meant a lot to these families!



Creepy Clown Sightings

By Hailey Reynolds '21

Lately, clowns have been appearing all over the United States, but they not the friendly, paint-your-face clowns. These are creepy clowns, the kind that can give you nightmares.

Scary clowns first started appearing around the southern region of the U.S.A. At first, the clowns caused no harm, until reports were made on how they tried to lure kids with money. Then they made threats on social media and were seen carrying weapons. Officers in the southern region began to arrest clowns that were causing chaos. They came to the conclusion that the clowns still weren't a threat; they thought people just were scared.

Now, the attack of the clowns has spread across the nation. On October 5th, near Garden of the Gods around 7:40 a.m., a homeless man and his wife stumbled across two clowns, one holding a broken glass bottle. After the man told his wife to take off, he punched one clown in the face. The clown responded by smashing him in the head with the bottle, resulting in the man having a deep cut on the side of his head; part of his ear had to be sewn back on.

After that, the police started making multiple arrests if someone was seen wearing a clown costume.

Wrestlers Seek New Mat to Practice Greatness **By Rose Baker '22**

Calhan Wrestling Coach Trevor Newton is sponsoring a fundraiser to raise money for a new wrestling mat. A new mat usually costs around \$10,000 dollars; currently we have raised \$6,000 toward this objective. The team's goal is to raise at least \$2,000 more by this winter.

The fundraiser is selling a custom car sticker for Calhan School. They have various options to support areas of the school such as band, basketball, football, track, etc. You can custom order the size to 4.5 inches to 6 inches, as well as change the color to red, blue, black, purple, pink, or yellow.

Support our Calhan wrestlers by donating to this fundraiser!

Fine Arts Entertain Us in Many Venues **By Lainey Clark '21 & Natalie Parks '21**

Just in case you wanted to know (and we know you do), there are the big events coming courtesy of Calhan's Fine Arts!

On November 12th, there will be a veterans' assembly. Please make sure to be respectful during this assembly, because these veterans did the same for you. Honor band auditions will be held on November 18th. All band members 5th grade and up will be going. Good luck, Bulldog musicians!

Then on December 14th, we will be having the secondary school band and choir concert at 6:30 p.m. Please support these young musicians as they have been working very hard learning their music.

Finally, on December 15th, the elementary will serenade you with their beautiful voices! Please come to support them as well! While there are no big art events in the near future, but here

Make Your Wellbeing a Priority **By Zelina Diaz '17**

Not all toxic people are cruel and uncaring. Some love us dearly but do not know how to express how they feel. Many have good intentions. Just the same, most are toxic to our being simply because their needs and way of existing in the world force us to compromise ourselves and our happiness.

These people aren't inherently bad, but they aren't the right people for us. Hard as it is, we have to let them go. Life is hard enough being around people who bring you down. As much as you may care, you can't destroy yourself for the sake of someone else.

Make your own wellbeing a priority. That may mean breaking up with someone you care about, loving a family member from a distance, letting go of a friend, or removing yourself from a situation that feels painful. You have every right to leave, creating a safer place for yourself.



Make Your Own D.I.Y. Acrylic Paint Cover

By Hailey Reynolds '21

Have you ever wanted to really stand out in class? Making a splash design acrylic paint notebook cover is a simple and exiting way to stand out. When you're making this "Do It Yourself" (D.I.Y.), you need the following items: 3-4 different colors of acrylic paint, paint brushes, a black Sharpie, and labels.

First step is to squeeze the acrylic paint onto a pallet or plate. Place a sheet of paper under the front cover of the notebook before painting. Now, dab on the paint in one corner of the notebook. Make sure that when dabbing on the paint, it's in big gobs of paint.

Blow in an upward motion on the paint to make the splash-looking effect (spread it out). After the paint dries, draw designs with the Sharpie over the acrylic paint. Finally, glue a label on the cover or the splash, then your acrylic paint notebook cover is completed!

MAPS Testing: Stress or Stretch?

By Emmary Britton '22 and Kyleigh Smith '22

You might believe that MAPS tests are very unnecessary and even ridiculous. In reality though, the testing is much more purposeful than you may have thought. In the next few paragraphs you will learn how students from 3rd to 12th grade feel about MAPS. Also, we will learn how vitally important they can be, not only for students, but for teachers as well.

In order to understand the difference better, we conversed with Mr. Burnside. He explained that "MAPS is used to help a student better understand what they need to work on, as well as tell the teacher what to teach more." Unlike most students and teachers, he is not stressed about the dreaded MAPS testing. In fact, he will say: "I am excited to see the accomplishments within our student body."

Students on the other hand were quite nervous for the tests. Ciara M (or CJ) exclaimed, "I'm a little nervous because I'm not sure how hard the test will be."

Brady C added: "I am also nervous because I'm not sure how I will do." Fifth graders Kaitlyn L and Kyndi R agreed wholeheartedly as well as Matthew S (6th). Naomi G (6th) on the other hand, had a different opinion. She said: "I am happy to take the test because I am confident that I will do well."

We also interviewed two 7th graders, Kimberly L and Zachary P. They had other opinions such as "we don't like it because it takes too long and causes lots of stress." Three high schoolers Sierra K, Kiley R, and Jaiden G agreed but also added: "I feel confident and I am ready."

Songwriting Master Embraces Student Creativity

By Kyleigh Smith '22

Mrs. LeeCathryn Highfield, our Calhan songwriting director as well as choir maestro goes above and beyond every single day, teaching two amazing classes to both middle and high school students. During songwriting class, each student creates his or her own song words, along with the fun of adding a tune to it.

"Creating my own song alongside my peers is an interesting new experience for me," states Zenobia Daniels. Songwriting is an enchanting class, one which I enjoyed it so much! A huge thank you to Mrs. Highfield for her time and consideration toward her class as well as providing time for the newspaper to interview her.

The Re-Ride Loop

By Kole Stagner '21

The Re-Ride is a local country band that originated in Ramah, Colorado. Klint Stagner is the lead vocalist and lead guitar for the band, so it is easy for me to acquire credible information. Re-Ride will next perform at Ramah, on the 22nd of October, starting at 8:00 p.m. As performing is the band's calling, on the 28th and 29th of October at Lulu's Inn, starting at 8:00 as well. To call for bookings, call (719)-651-1485. Their Facebook page is at [facebook.com/reride](https://www.facebook.com/reride) if you want to look at their upcoming and past events. For information, email me at stagnerkole@yahoo.com. Thanks for reading the Re-Ride Loop!