



BLUE JAY CORNER

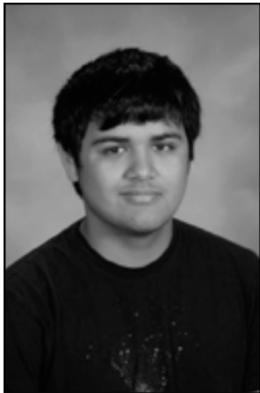
Second Quarter Citizenship Awards



Gabriel Abbott
Freshman



Kelcie Gaines
Junior



Christopher Sticken
Senior



Payton Schomburg
Senior

National Honor Society and Rock Port High School faculty nominated students who demonstrated exceptional citizenship in regards to service, leadership, and character, and then Rock Port High School teachers voted to select the four individuals. Students chosen for the NHS Citizenship honor receive a gift or gift certificate sponsored by a local business. The sponsors include Casey's, Food Country, McDonald's, River Rock Lanes, Stoner Drug, Subway, Trail's End (Dusty Trail), and Wood's Shed. Thank you to these businesses for their support, and congratulations to these young men and women for their outstanding character.



Mr. Calvin Nicholls

By Ashley Christian

What is your major? Secondary Social Science Education

Where are you from? Auburn, Neb.

What do you like about Rock Port? The class size and the smaller school environment

What are your hobbies? I like to coach my baseball team, the Auburn Bombers

Why do you like History? It's good to know past events to better the future

What made you want to teach? My college professors pushed me to be the best teacher candidate I could be.

Jadyn

Grade: 4th Grade

Teacher: Mrs. Gilson

Moved from: Plattsmouth, Neb.

Favorite food: Chicken Nuggets

Favorite class/subject: Writing

Best thing about Rock Port: Activities

Favorite Color: Purple

By: Rachel Vogler

BLUE JAY corner

Student newspaper of Rock Port R-II Schools
600 S. Nebraska Street
Rock Port, Mo. 64482
Layout/Editor: Ashley Cue
Adviser: Amy Skillen. **Staff:** Abbie Hale, McKenna Barnhart, Abby Bradley, Ashley Christian, Jentry Freemyer, Preston Jones, Jacie McMahon, Riley Vogler, Darius Skillen, Makenna Farmer, Lauren Kelly, Mackenzie Lager, Rachel Vogler

Martin Luther King Day Facts

1. MLK entered college at the age of 15.
2. He was imprisoned more than 30 times.
3. Illinois was the first state to declare this a holiday
4. Utah was the last state to make it a holiday
5. Over 1,000 streets are named after him.

By Abby Bradley

CHAPTER TWO OF EIGHT

KALI: A Polar Bear's Tale

AUTHOR: CAROLYN MUELLER | ILLUSTRATOR: JEREMY PATTON & JAYNE BALLEW



Chapter Two:

It was a cold day. The month of March offers no promise of budding trees or sprouting daffodils when you live high above the Arctic Circle. Not many people make their home there, but James had grown up in those parts and was used to the weather. Snow blanketed the ground, but the thin light of early spring allowed James better visibility to look for caribou and wolverine, anything he could hunt and bring back to his village.

James had been a hunter for most of his life. The Inupiat people of Point Lay, Alaska, on the coast of the Chukchi Sea, rely on skilled subsistence hunters like James and others. Alaska Native People along the northwest coast of Alaska hunt marine mammals, birds, fish and other land animals to keep their families healthy. Commercial food, which can be purchased for a few dollars in the lower 48 states, is very expensive there: noodles can cost \$13, and red or green peppers as much as \$10 each. What the meat hunters bring back is vitally important to the villagers' survival.

That day in March, James and his friend drove their snowmobiles 40 miles outside of Point Lay. He would have been happy to find any animal to bring back for his family and village, but a large animal, like a caribou, would be best. And that's when he saw the polar bear.

Being an Alaska native, James was legally allowed to hunt marine mammals like polar bears. Of course, it was rare for him to take a bear. In his lifetime as a hunter, this bear would only be his ninth.

James did not take killing a polar bear lightly. These animals were respected and revered in Inupiat culture. But James was tasked with providing meat for his village, so he took what opportunities that luck and nature presented to him. He shot the bear.

When the bear was down, James approached it. Once certain that it was dead, he rolled it over. That's when he noticed something different. The other eight bears that James

had hunted had all been large, burly males with gigantic paws and teeth. This bear was a bit smaller, and on its stomach was a row of dark teats. This bear was a nursing sow. "Somewhere," he thought, "she has a cub."

James was crushed. He had not realized that the bear was a female, especially a nursing mother. "We've got to find the den," James said to his hunting companion. "There's a cub out here, and it won't survive for long without her."

The two men set out through the bitter wind and spring sunlight, until they saw the opening of a polar bear den.



Ask Zoo Keeper Julie

Where do mother polar bears sleep?

The mother bear excavates a small snow cave in a snowdrift just big enough for her to turn around in, and the snow will naturally close the entrance tunnel for her.

How long do polar bears nurse?

Polar bear cubs will nurse for at least 20 months.

Newspaper Connections

Check the local newspaper to find the time of sunrise and sunset and the average number of daylight hours for your town. Use the Internet to find a newspaper for Point Lay, Alaska to find the same information and compare. Collect this information over several months and graph the range of daylight hours for comparison.



Standing in the (KMA) Hall of Fame

By Riley Vogler

On Friday, January 5, members of the Rock Port 2008 girls' track team and the Parrish/Jackson family gathered in the gym to add the 2008 girls' team into the KMA Sports Hall of Fame. Members of this team included Abbey Lawrence, Leslie Alitz, Kori Sheldon, Elyssa Ellison, Makayla Vette, Stephanie Burge, Dixie Garst, Laura Graybill, Hannah Vette, and Kaci Demoff. The coaches were Jan Burke, Amanda Raithel, and Phil Vogler. Scoring a total of 58 points to claim first place, this team

is the most recent group of female athletes to bring home a state track championship. The girls competed in several events such as the mile and two mile, the 800 meter run, the 4x200, 4x400, and 4x800 meter relays, shot put, discus, and high jump. In memory of former student and state champion Kyleigh Parrish, the group dedicated a special piece of history to Blue Jay Hall. A brand new track and field record board now sits in the hall and will do so for years to come.

ROCK PORT SCHOOLS

WILL BE IN SESSION

Friday, February 16

to make up the snow day from January 11.