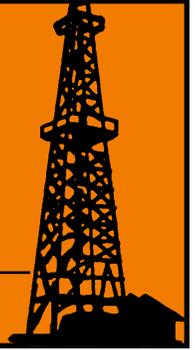


BIG RIG

Merritt High School, November 2015



Spirit Stick Contest

By Daniel Hernandez

This is the first year that in Legacy Week we have had a Spirit Stick contest. Each grade, Pre-K through 12th grade, had to create a stick and decorate it. The winning class of the contest will keep the spirit stick until that class graduates. After that grade graduates, the next Legacy Week will have another contest. This year the Juniors took the win against the Seniors. To win, they each had to yell their class calls the loudest in the rally, and the Juniors won.

Veteran's Day

By: Bobii Schreck

World War I ended November 11, 1919, but fighting had ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied Nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918 is generally regarded as the end of "The war to end all wars."

The Merritt Veteran's Day program was held November 11 at 10:00 A.M. in the new gym. We started it off by having Dewana Wynn read the story of Taps. The story of Taps is the history behind the 24-note melody played on the bugle. Officer Chris Laufer of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol then played Taps on his bugle for us. We also presented our annual slideshow of veterans and we put poppies on the wreaths in remembrance of our loved ones who have fought. We would like to thank everyone for letting us use their pictures of family members and loved ones. We would also like to thank Mrs. Rutherford and the Student Council for hosting our Veteran's Day program.



Merritt Technology Fair

By: Caitlynn Rodriguez

Merritt Schools hosted a Technology Fair on Friday, November 13 from 9-11 A.M.. The elementary Oilers held their Tech Fair in the Merritt Field House Lobby (New Gym), while high school held theirs in the high school commons. Tawn Rundle, the assistant superintendent, was the organizer of this event. She said the fair started last year when Merritt Schools was awarded the Apple Distinguished School Award from Apple. One of the responsibilities for receiving that award was to showcase what Merritt does with our technology.

The Tech Fair became an annual event because of the upgrades and new technology we have each school year. Mrs. Rundle also stated that it shows how classrooms are affected by technology. Tawn Rundle was asked how the Tech Fair helps the students, and she responded by saying, "It allows the students to share with parents and the community what they do. It also helps them demonstrate ownership by public speaking and communication."

The high school had fifteen booths representing technology and their classes. Jordyn Garrett, Corbyn Davis, Austin Pruitt, and Christian Skelton represented the Book Creator app for 7th grade. Book Creator uses Google and images to write your own stories and books. Illustrations and sound can be added to the creations to put a fun and interesting twist to English. The app can be downloaded for free on the Apple App Store and can be air-played onto devices. Freshman, Makayla VanCamp and junior, Sarah Cruzen teamed up to show the app, Pro Create, a graphic design app that lets you create pretty much anything. Sarah said the app was simple and friendly and that many graphic artists use it. You can get the app from the Apple App Store for \$7.99. Zach Beals(12th), Tristan Dornon(11th), Ashlee Carr(11th), and Madison Rutherford(11th) entered in a contest for ORWA(Oklahoma Rural Water Association) this year by making a thirty second commercial .The video was to represent fresh water use and why you should preserve water. After watching the video, they offered small water bottles to really put the idea of conservation out there. They will submit their video in February. The Tech Team was there to offer their services to the community, and The Big Rig had a booth showcasing the online newspaper created by the high school student staff.

The elementary presented 11 booths this year for the tech fair. Mrs. Callaway's Pre-K had a booth over the app, Seesaw. SeeSaw uses the students' iPads to teach student letters and numbers. It also allows kids to play with linking blocks. The 4th grade class had a booth for two apps. Showbie allows the kids to get their assignment/papers online, and Show Me is an interactive white board that can also be used for online spelling tests. High schoolers who did not have a booth to participate in helped out by escorting the smaller elementary kids to and from the event.



Elementary Girls Basketball

By: Bobii Schreck

The elementary girls' basketball coaches are Coach Fletcher and Coach Owen. The girls have won two games and lost four games, and they have six more games to look forward to. The coaches say that they enjoy working with the girls. They enjoy teaching the girls to play and watching them learn to love the game. Coach Fletcher said, "It's both fun and challenging at times."



Elementary Boys Basketball

By: Bobii Schreck

The elementary boys' basketball coaches are Coach Husband and Coach Roberts. The 5th and 6th grade boys have won six games and lost three games, and they have six more games to look forward to. The coaches say the 5th grade is getting a lot better, and 6th grade is working really hard. They are all fun to work with because the kids want to learn and they want to get better. Good luck in your upcoming games!

High School Football

by Sally Schoenhals

I recently sat down with Coach Richardson and asked him a few questions about the past season. I asked him what made him want to coach at Merritt. He replied that he was from Merritt and that our school was a very good school and he wanted to be near his family. He loves coaching at Merritt because it is very rewarding. He has been coaching for fifteen years. He believes he and the players form a very good bond. He states "I'll treat the players with as much respect as they give me." He says this season didn't go as expected, but we have many young boys that have stepped up this year and they received some good experience. He says he plans on improving next year by having the boys working in the weight room and getting much stronger. He plans on working hard in the off season, going to summer camps, and the Summer Pride program.

I didn't want to stop with just one source for information, so I sat down with Zachary Beals, 2016 Senior football player, and asked him a few questions about this season. Zach said he felt this season was a good season, but they could've done better. He felt practices were fun, but challenging. I asked him what steps he believed the team needed to take to be better next year. He replied that the boys need to practice harder and get a more positive mindset. He says Coach Richardson is a very good coach and learning from him has been a good experience.





JH & HS Basketball

Boys Basketball

By: Peighton Timms

The JH and HS boys basketball teams are both coached by head coach Donnie Husband and assistant coach Clark Roberts. When asked about their expectations for this year, Coach Husband said, "Some expectations for this year are that we continue to learn the game and grow and improve as players. I expect us to compete for the championship and make it to the end." Strengths that both teams have are their strong athletic ability, their experience, their good size, and that they're a good group of young men. There are 20-25 returning JH players and two starters plus 15 returning high school players.

Girls Basketball

By: Peighton Timms

Head coach Jeff Fletcher and assistant coach Jarred Owen are the JH and HS girls basketball coaches. "We expect to be more improved compared to last year and I expect us to do much better," said Coach Fletcher. "The girls have a good defense this year but our weakness is that we have some small girls." The JH has three starters plus three to four returning players, and the HS has four starters plus two to three returning players.



**Good luck to a great
season, Oilers and
Oilerettes!**

Junior High Academic

By Jada Galley

Merritt competed at Thomas on October 21 in the OGPAC Academic Meet. A total of eight teams attended: Carnegie, Merritt, Cheyenne, Thomas, Sentinel, Hammon, BFDC, and Canute. The Junior High ended the day with a total of five wins and two losses. When playing Sentinel, it went into sudden death with Merritt answering the final question correctly and winning the match. Ms. Bryant said "We played very well. We played some tough teams and we fought hard on our two losses." Allysa Donaldson was runner up for 5-County MVP. Ms. Bryant is very proud of how well Allysa plays.

Also, on November 18, Merritt went to Leedey to compete in the 5 Country Academic Meet. These games were played as double elimination. Merritt came in second place behind Leedey. They won against everyone up until playing Leedey. They were moved to the loser's bracket and won the loser's bracket. By winning, they were placed back into the winner's bracket to play Leedey. We are very proud of how well our Oilers did.



Elementary Academic

By Jada Galley

On November 5 we hosted the 5th and 6th grade Academic Meet at Merritt. We had six total teams - Merritt, Cheyenne, Leedey, Canute, Hammon, Reydon. The teams competed in competitions to set up bracket play. There were two rounds going on in two different rooms. In the first round of bracket play, Merritt played Cheyenne and won and Hammon played Reydon and won. That placed Merritt up against Leedey in the second round. This game came down to one question and Merritt lost. Also in this round, Canute played Hammon and defeated them. This put Leedey playing Canute for the final round. Canute defeated Leedey in the final round winning the 5th and 6th Academic Team Championship. Mrs. Copeland said "I was very pleased with how the Merritt team did!!! All teams did well and showed good sportsmanship. I think everyone left happy. I was very thankful to our four judges: Tawn Rundle, Robbie Dew, Donna Schachle, and Karen Choice. They did a great job and I appreciate their help. I also want to say a HUGE thank you to the PTO for providing a hospitality room for our judges and other coaches."

High School Academic

By Jada Galley

Merritt High School Academic Team competed at Sentinel on November 4. There were eight teams present: Carnegie, Cheyenne, Merritt, Thomas, Sentinel, Hammon, BFDC, and Canute. They completed play with five losses and two wins. Merritt also competed at Crossings Christian School in Oklahoma City on November 14. These games were played as double elimination. Merritt first played Sayre and lost against them, putting them into the loser's bracket. They played against Watonga, beating them and then going onto play Fairview. They lost against Fairview, putting Merritt out of play.



Red Ribbon Week

By Kurtis Pittman

Red Ribbon Week was on October 26-30. It was about doing everything we can to put a stop to drinking and driving. The person that was able to put Red Ribbon Week together was Jessica Krueger. The reason she put this program together was that when she went to school at Merritt, the school had a program called SADD to teach kids not to drink and drive and to think about the consequences. When she enrolled her kids here, the program had stopped, so she decided to continue the program herself.

Each day was given a different theme for students dress up: Monday was red day- Wear all the Red you Can, Tuesday was Duck Tape Day, Wednesday Was wear Hats to be Drug Free, Thursday was Wear Sunglasses to School, and Friday was Spirit Day where every student wore school colors.

Our goal was and still is to inform people about the dangers of drugs and alcohol and the consequences if they are abused.

Organizational News



Merritt Music Department

by Valora Thomas

The Merritt Music Department has been very busy this season. On November 4th the Merritt 5th and 6th grade had a Five County Contest. The results were: Choir made a 1, Jolea Gilgert 1+, Breegan Barnett 1, Jayden Darrling 2+, Adhara Dobbs 1+, Madyson Mathes 1, Jamie Donaldson 1+, Macy Emmons Boyd 1+.

On November 11th the Veteran's Day program was held in the high school gym at ten o'clock in the morning, and on November 19th they attended the Elk City Festival. On November 24th Halie Davis went to the Western OK Choral Concert at Woodward, OK.

On December 15th the J.H. and H.S. will be having a choir concert at 7:00P.M. in the high school gym. On December 16, all grades have a Christmas Program. First and 2nd grade will preform at 9:00, Pre-K and K+ at 10:30, 3rd and 4th at 12:30 and 5th and 6th at 2:00. All will be held in the high school gym.

Student Council

By Valora Thomas

The Student Council had a food drive this November and raised around 3,300 individual items. They ranged from canned food to boxed food. With the food raised we built sculptures and the winning sculpture was the Minions built by the kindergarten and seventh grade.

Coming up in December is the basketball Homecoming game which is on December 18 in the high school gym.

FCA

By Valora Thomas

FCA, which stands for Fellowship of Christian Athletes, meets every Friday at 7:50 A.M. , and they have a guest speaker come and give a small devotional. They have a small breakfast for whomever comes. Students and faculty and staff are invited to attend. Everyone is welcome!



Gifted And Talented Field Trip

By Kurtis Pittman

On October, 29 2015 the gifted students went to the OKC National Bombing Museum. There were 122 gifted students and 45 adults that attended. The kids and adults took a tour of the museum, the Gates of Time, reflection pool, field of empty chairs, survivor tree, and the survivor wall.

The Gate of Time represents the time and day the bombing happened. There were 168 chairs in the field of chairs and each chair represents a life that was taken. The survivor wall was the only wall on the building that still stood after the bombing happened and the survivor tree was the only tree from the bombing that survived and is still alive today.

It is an excellent museum with a very emotional message. It will leave an impact on your life.



CHEER

GO TEAM



Merritt Junior High 2015-2016 Cheer Squad

by Sally Schoenhals

Emilee Dornon, Blakely Barnett, Mackenzie Mong, Allison Justus, Shelby Thomas, Lexus Criswell, Brooke Puckett, Avery Simon.



GO TEAM SPIRIT pageborders.org



Make Your Mark!

By Jacky Olivas & Daniel Hernandez

“What is Legacy Week?”

Legacy Week is the week of kindness, where upper classes and lower ones get to interact with each other for a whole week, and we all get to make our mark. This is the second year Merritt Schools has celebrated this week, and we hope to make this a traditional celebration.

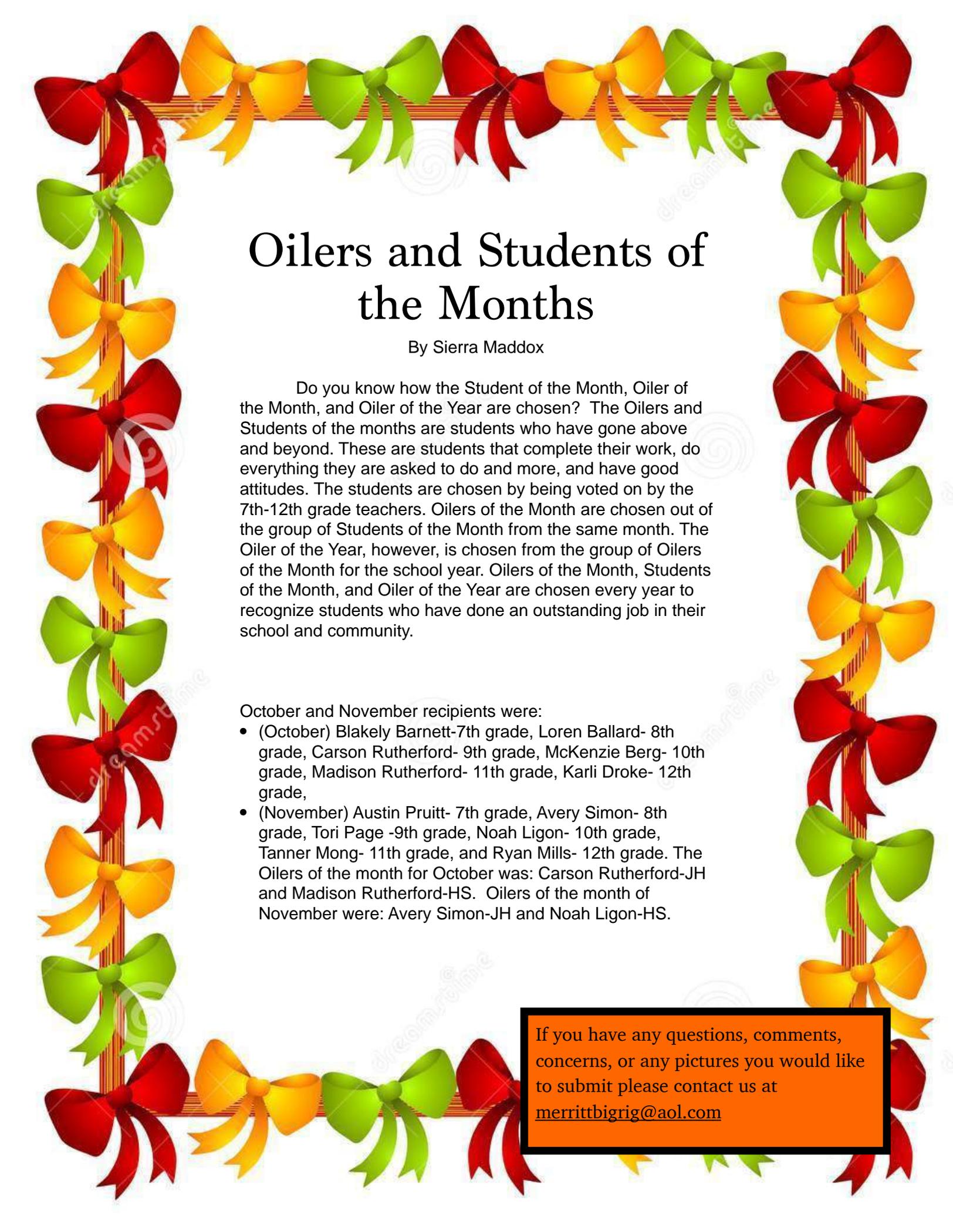
The teachers’ goals were for the upper classes to be good examples for the lower classes, as well as forming relationships with the kids, so that they can be comfortable coming up to older kids to ask for help. For some teachers it was to make the students see how much they’ve progressed since they were that age.

Some of the games, activities, and projects the upper classes did with the lower classes during Legacy Week were:

- Handshakes
- Creating banners for Legacy Week
- Canned goods sculptures
- Special talents
- Kind/unkind game
- Playing tag
- Help on their math
- Read them stories
- Completed projects
- Made story books
- Took pictures
- PE
- Making Veterans’ video
- Coloring
- Class calls

Upper Class	Goes to	Lower Class
4 SCloud	went to	PK Callaway
4 Shockey	went to	PK Chaney
4 Suanny	went to	PK Skelton
7 Wear	went to	K Wilson
7 Ray	went to	K DCloud
7 Givens	went to	K Poole
12 Foshee	went to	K+ Barnett
8 Skelton	went to	1 Broadbent
8 Brown	went to	1 R Fletcher
8 Pepper	went to	1 Sanders
9 Yarbrough	went to	2 Smith
9 Roper	went to	2 Splawn/Criswell
9 Custer	went to	2 Kiener
11 Bryant	went to	3 Goodman
11 T Rich	went to	3 Husband
11 B Rich	went to	3 Burson
12 SPartain	went to	5 Copeland
12 Brady	went to	5 Sullivan
10 Mooney	went to	5 Porter
10 Bollinger	went to	6 Calloway
10 Rutherford	went to	6 Shepherd





Oilers and Students of the Months

By Sierra Maddox

Do you know how the Student of the Month, Oiler of the Month, and Oiler of the Year are chosen? The Oilers and Students of the months are students who have gone above and beyond. These are students that complete their work, do everything they are asked to do and more, and have good attitudes. The students are chosen by being voted on by the 7th-12th grade teachers. Oilers of the Month are chosen out of the group of Students of the Month from the same month. The Oiler of the Year, however, is chosen from the group of Oilers of the Month for the school year. Oilers of the Month, Students of the Month, and Oiler of the Year are chosen every year to recognize students who have done an outstanding job in their school and community.

October and November recipients were:

- (October) Blakely Barnett-7th grade, Loren Ballard- 8th grade, Carson Rutherford- 9th grade, McKenzie Berg- 10th grade, Madison Rutherford- 11th grade, Karli Droke- 12th grade,
- (November) Austin Pruitt- 7th grade, Avery Simon- 8th grade, Tori Page -9th grade, Noah Ligon- 10th grade, Tanner Mong- 11th grade, and Ryan Mills- 12th grade. The Oilers of the month for October was: Carson Rutherford-JH and Madison Rutherford-HS. Oilers of the month of November were: Avery Simon-JH and Noah Ligon-HS.

If you have any questions, comments, concerns, or any pictures you would like to submit please contact us at merrittbigrig@aol.com