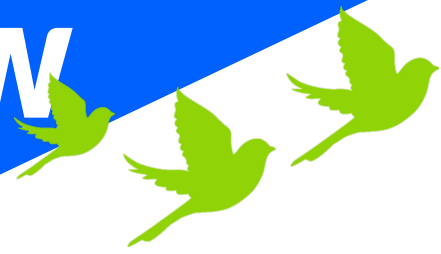


# meet our sparrow



## ***McLoughlin Middle School Sparrow Kallen Mathis***

Kallen is a sweet and affectionate 2-year-old little boy who likes airplanes, trains, and loves to dance. In many ways, Kallen is just like other little boys his age. However, Kallen lives with epilepsy, which drastically affects many aspects of his life.

Kallen's medical struggles first began at birth. Born six weeks early, Kallen was diagnosed with reactive airway disease and spent the first month of his life in the NICU. He was unable to breathe, eat, or maintain his own body temperature. Tests also revealed a heart murmur.

At one year old, Kallen's medical condition took a severe turn for the worse. On May 20, 2014, Kallen had his first tonic-clonic (also known as "grand mal") seizure. This seizure was so severe that it caused him to stop breathing. CPR was performed and Kallen was rushed to the hospital via ambulance. After much follow-up and many tests, a CT scan confirmed epilepsy, consisting of five different types of seizures taking place in all areas of Kallen's brain.

Since this first occurrence, Kallen has continued having seizures, sometimes having multiple seizures per day, ranging in severity. Kallen's seizures can cause him to fall down, have convulsions, stare blankly for long periods of time, and have even caused him to lose consciousness and, as mentioned above, stop breathing.

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Kallen would greatly benefit from a seizure service dog, as well as a monitoring system that will alert his parents when he is having a seizure at night when he sleeps. Kallen's family also hopes to raise awareness of the reality of SUDEP (Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy), which happens to 50,000 people a year in the United States living with epilepsy.

Kallen will be adopted as a Sparrow to McLoughlin Middle School in Medford. Students at McLoughlin will work hard to make a difference in Kallen's life through sponsored community service and fundraising projects.

**Empowering kids to help kids in medical need**

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