Absarokee Public Schools

327 South Woodard Avenue – Absarokee, Montana 59001 www.absarokee.k12.mt.us

Home of the Huskies

Issue #4 *December 2018*

Superintendent's report *by Mr. Sturm*

Staff Member of the Year

Congratulations to Mr. Frickel for being selected as the Staff member of the year. Staff are nominated and voted upon by their peers and Mr. Frickel was selected for his dedication and enthusiasm for teaching. Mr. Frickel teaches History and PE and also coaches the Girls Basketball team. He has also been instrumental in creating Professional Learning Communities for staff this year. Every other week staff will meet in groups to discuss ways in which they can improve teaching techniques in an effort to improve student learning.

Student of the Quarter Award

Each quarter two students are selected for the Student of the Quarter award. This quarter Dalton Helmuth and Allissa Martinez were selected. Dalton is always respectful and helpful to other students and staff. He is also very helpful to other students when they have questions. Alissa is an excellent student with a very positive attitude. She works well with her classmates and is kind and willing to make friends with anyone. Congratulations Dalton and Alissa.

Route Bus Driver Needed

We are looking for a Route Bus Driver, Monday through Friday, beginning December 3rd. Starting salary is $16.00 an hour with guaranteed pay for 4 hours per day. A CDL with a Passenger Endorsement is required. Please bring your resume to the High School or contact us at 328-4583 with any questions that you may have.

Future Administration

The School Board is currently discussing the future administrative plan for Absarokee School. I have been teaching and serving as an administrator for 26 years and have decided that it is time to retire. I have business opportunities that I need to devote more time and attention to. Absarokee School is a great place to work and I thank the school board and staff for the past 7 years.

Little Husky News *by Mrs. Meredith Feddes*

Parent/Teacher conferences were well attended and we appreciate being able to visit with parents about their most precious commodity. Please feel free to contact your child's classroom teacher with any questions and concerns.
December is a busy month at school. We have Christmas concerts, MAP testing, and we are also getting ready for a holiday break. This can be a time of great anxiety for children, so please be aware for their need to rest and communicate with the school if something should arise.

Elementary Ski days are coming soon. We will be skiing in January. All students will be going to the hill with us in grades 2-5. If you child doesn't wish to participate in the skiing we will have PE curriculum based on winter activities for them to complete. This is a PE activity and is graded so students must either participate or complete the activities for credit.

Lunch Bunch is held Tuesday-Friday for students who have not completed homework or would like to work on extra work. It is held from 11:30-12:05. We have added an additional work make-up time as well for 3rd-4th-5th grade as well. Students who have 3 or more missing assignments will be calling home to let their parents know they need to stay on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:20-4:00. We are trying to curb the buildup of missing assignments. Homework is meant to be an extension of the learning activity and needs to be done to demonstrate mastery of the skill. If it is undone we are not able to measure progress. We can't accept it not being done. Thank you, parents, for your cooperation.

Fall Athletic Recognition *by Mrs. Steffenson*

Congratulations to **Simon Hanson** for receiving the following honors for this year's football season:
Defensively- 2nd Team Inside Linebacker and **1st Team Kicker** and **Offensively- 2nd Team Fullback** and **1st Team Punter.**
He is invited to play in the **Southern Division 8-Man FB All-Star Game in all four positions.**

Congratulations to **Lexi Meier** for receiving the **2nd Team All-Conference** honor from this year's volleyball season.

Congratulations to **Mallorey Sheppard** for receiving the **1st Team All-Conference** honor for this year's volleyball season. She is also 1 of 7 players selected for **All-State.**

Box Tops for Education *by Finis Sandlin*

Thank you for helping our school be the best it can be! We appreciate everyone clipping and sending in their Box Tops. So far this year the community has helped us earned $445.70 towards our goal of raising $1,000 for our school. Our third and fourth grade classes have earned Pizza Parties and are on their way to winning an Ice Cream Party. Our other classes are working hard and should be earning their parties soon.
We would like to encourage all of our community members to clip and save Box Tops. They can be dropped off at the Elementary School where they will be distributed equally among each class to help them achieve their goals.
Once again, THANK YOU for all of your support!

Robotics, Chess Club & Maker Group *by Mrs. Gunderson*

Maker Group: Experiencing Science Hands-On
Maker Group is up and running and we have a full group!

Our schedule for December is:
Thursday, December 13th: Christmas Craft 3:15-4:00 in the elementary library.

Chess Club
Chess club will meet **Tuesday, December 18th** after school 3:15-4:00!

Robotics Club
Robotics club is in full swing!

1st ~ 3rd Grade Robotics
1st through 3rd grade will continue to meet Mondays after school December 3, 10, and 17. On **Monday, February 4th 6:00 - 7:30** we will have an open house for the 1st through 3rd grade Robotics program. Students will present their projects to parents and community members. We would like to encourage everyone to come out and checkout the amazing robots!

4th ~ 6th Grade Robotics
Our 4th through 6th grade program will compete on **Saturday, January 26th** in Bozeman. We will also take a field trip to Bozeman **Friday, January 25th** to watch the state high school robotics competition and tour the Computer Science museum. Parents watch for more information about these events and contact Mrs. Gunderson with questions.

Husky Music "Notes" *by Debbie Seibert*

November was a FANTASTIC month for our Absarokee Music Department!! Congratulations to KAIYA HOLMQUIST, EMILY ROUTEN and KAYDEN CURTIS for being chosen to tour with the Tri-County HONOR BAND this spring. COLTON YOUNG was chosen to be a 1st Alternate and will tour with this elite group if any of the 75 members is unable to.

Thank you for coming out to our Annual VETERANS DAY Tribute Concert!! The performance was a resounding success!! The evening was full of laughter, great music and, of course, honoring our community's Veterans.

Our Absarokee Choir members were treated to a full day of music, friendships and top-quality music education by two of the area's most distinguished Choral Directors. CHOIR DAY was held at Billings Central Catholic High School on Monday, November 19. Students from several smaller schools were able to combine to fill their gym with an amazingly full vocal sound!!

Due to climbing costs of a full dinner, our CHRISTMAS "EXTRAVAGANZA" will be an ENDLESS DESSERT BUFFET, again this year. Tickets for table seating are just $5 and will be available from the District Office from Dec. 1-14. Bleacher seating, as always, will be FREE!

The theme of this year's program is "CHRISTMAS IN A STABLE"...Celebrating with our animal friends!! K-6th Grades, as well as Jr. and Sr. High Bands and Choirs will provide entertainment beginning @ 6:30 PM, Tuesday, December 18, in the High School Gymnasium. We hope to see you there!!

BPA News *by Cindy Poppleton*

We now have 9 members registered in BPA. December 5 will be our first regional competition in Livingston. At this competition, students will compete against all schools in our region, which includes schools in Park County, Stillwater County, Carbon County, Sweet Grass County,

and Wheatland County. Once students place in any of their events or testing, they will advance to State Competition in March being held in Billings. Good Luck to all BPA members!

Art & Design K-12 *by Matthew Mullen*

High School Studio Art
Students are working on their second major project. Many are attempting new media for the first time such as ceramic sculpture and dental alginate casting. Some students have explored abstract acrylic painting processes. Overall, they are learning the importance how to plan and test their processes and also how to learn from their experimentation.

6th Grade Art
Students are learning various acrylic painting techniques such as impasto, sgraffito, wash, under painting, and dry brush. They have been researching artists such as Edward Hopper and Georgio Di Chirico.

Elementary
Here are some of the highlights from the elementary art classes; Third graders completed an American flag collaborative class collage project. Fourth graders are exploring sculpture methods with air dry clay. K, 1st , and 2nd grade are practicing the elements of art in their sketchbooks.

FFA News *by Kennedy Ekwortzel*

October
The FFA has had a fairly quiet month in October. We did have 9 students attend the NILE, where they judged livestock. Our JV team of Tandy Planichek, Taytin Young, Avery Gates, Keagan Sandlin and Trevor Zumbrun placed 5th overall with Tandy Planichek placing 9th out of 125 kids. Congratulations to them for a strong placing!
Competing in the Senior FFA division were Colton Young, Alexia Feddes, Dylan Young and Emily Routen.

In November, the big event is the John Deere Ag Expo on the campus of Montana State University. We currently have 26 members signed up to compete in a variety of competitions over the 3 day event.

We will begin selling Martinson's of Montana Candy in November. This is our annual fall fundraising effort and would appreciate hearing from you if we can send a member your way to receive your order. Candy will be delivered in time for Christmas. They make great stocking stuffers!

November
As the Stillwater Valley chapter came into the months of October and November, there were many activities to keep our chapter busy.
The beginning of October held little activity, but we had much to look forward to as the National FFA Convention was to be held soon. Our chapter, along with the Joliet, Bridger, and Park City chapters set out on our own bus with the 91st Annual FFA Convention in their sights. The students that attended from the Stillwater Valley FFA chapter included: Zacc Degele, Brandon South, Tymber Jensen, Raelynne Barnett, and Justin Helbert. On the way there, they toured Mt. Rushmore, Wall Drug, the Corn Palace (Mitchell, SD), AgCo (Jackson, MN), Keystone Steel and Wire (Peoria, IL), which manufacture Red Brand fencing wire, Monsanto Learning Center (Monmouth, IL), and Sukup Grain Handling and Storage manufacturing (Sheffield, IA) and many other exciting places. We also don't want to forget about the many, many, many acres of corn and soybeans that are also present in the Midwest. While in Indianapolis, the students attended career success workshops, visited an incredible agricultural trade show where they were able to visit with people from industry and college representatives from around the US. Also, students had the opportunity to take in a Garth Brooks concert at Lucas Oil Stadium (home of the Indianapolis Colts). On the last day of convention, they were able to be present as the President of the United States addressed the FFA members at the 9th general session of the convention.

Upcoming events include the John Deere Ag Expo to be held in Bozeman Nov 15-17th, District competitions on December 5th, and we will be conducting our annual candy sales. These sales help support the expenses that come with competing, traveling, which in-turn helps students become leaders for the future.

FCCLA News *by Carolyn Story*

Due to scheduling complications FCCLA has postponed our annual fall food drive. We plan to schedule it for some time next year. Stay tuned for updates.

Members are choosing projects for our state conference in March. The venue has been changed to the campus of MSU in Bozeman and the agenda has been shortened to two days. It is a good opportunity for the students to get to know the campus. We will also take advantage of the opportunity to eat at the new Rendezvous dining center.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

Counselor's Corner *by Jodi Heard*

Junior Guidance Appointments

All juniors are required to sign up for a junior guidance appointment in the month of December. During each visit students will have a chance to review their transcript, talk about practicing and signing up for the ACT/SAT tests, and discuss their post-secondary plans. Students will also be pre-registering for next year's classes. ***It is important that each junior attend an appointment to ensure they are on a successful track for their senior year.***

Senior Updates

Each month since September the seniors have each received a Senior Update. These monthly updates list all scholarships that are made available to Absarokee High School. Each scholarship's award, requirements and due dates are listed. Also included in each update are colleges that will be visiting AHS and campus visit days available for the students to attend.

Parents please make sure you are reviewing and discussing each of these Senior Updates with your child so valuable opportunities are not missed.

Rural Employment Opportunity/Rural Montana Saves Program

REO can offer money for seniors who need cash for college. REO can match seniors with a public agency, school or non-profit organization for up to twelve hours of work per week. Students will gain valuable job training and skills in a career field.

The Rural Montana Saves program is a matched savings program that helps families with limited incomes pay for work-related education, or self-employment expenses. In this program, each participant will open a matched savings account with a participating credit union, earn a $3 match for every $1 saved, and save up to $500 and earn a $1,500 match.

For more information on REO call 1-800-546-1140 or email info@reomontana.org.

Board Minutes *by Tanya Lester*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING – October 8, 2018

The Board of Trustees of School District 52 & 52C met at a regular meeting on Monday, October 8, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. in the High School Board Room with the following in attendance: Chairman Diana Scollard, Clayton Young, Donna von Nieda, Carolyn Hutson, Justine Dawson, Eric Esp, Mike Pasecznyk, Kyle Sandlin, Terry Ekwortzel, Superintendent Sturm, Principal Feddes, and Tanya Lester, Clerk. Also present were Heidi Gunderson, Tonya Steffenson, and Brande Young. Tim Zumbrun and Chris Gunderson joined the meeting later. Chairman Scollard recognized all visitors.

Carolyn Hutson asked that her name be corrected from Cook to Hutson in the minutes. **Young/Pasecnyk moved to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2018 regular board meeting as corrected. Chairman Scollard assumed the motion.**

Young/Pasecnyk moved to approve the agenda as set. Chairman Scollard assumed the motion. Young/Dawson moved to pay all presented elementary bills. Esp/Sandlin moved to pay all presented high school bills and approve the activity account. Chairman Scollard assumed both motions.

There was no public comment or AD report. Under the first item of old business, Supt. Sturm presented what current substitutes are paid and highlighted the difficulty the school is having in getting substitute teachers. After much discussion, **Ekwortzel/Esp moved to change regular sub pay to 14.00/hour, long term sub and short notice pay to 15.00/hour, and long term sub pay with a currently employed paraprofessional or certified sub to 16.25/hour. Long term pay is to include any absence that is greater than 2 continuous weeks or more than 10 school days. Motion carried. Sandlin abstained.**

The next two items of business included the second readings of the attendance policy and the sexual harassment policy. No changes were recommended.

The first item of new business was a discussion about the cost for senior citizens to attend all extra-curricular games. Supt. Sturm brought up an idea that has been implemented in other school districts to allow seniors free admission to regular season home games. This would not be implemented until the 2019-2020 school year if passed and it would not change anything for the District Volleyball Tournament that we host or any football playoff games. Those games are regulated by MHSA. **Young/Pasecynk moved to allow senior citizens 62 years or older free admission to regular season home games for the 2019-2020 school year.**

To offset the lost revenue concerning the decision to allow seniors in for free, it was discussed to look into reserved seating in the gymnasium and sponsors/donors for the athletic department. It was decided to form a committee of Diana Scollard and Clayton Young to talk to teachers, parents, and the community to see how any of these ideas would work. They will bring recommendations back to the board.

In the last item of new business Supt. Sturm announced that he is planning on retiring in the spring. He would like the board to start visiting with current teachers, administrative staff, and other employees to get their input how much administrative staff is needed at this time. Advertising for replacements to move Mrs. Feddes or Mr. Zumbrun to full-time administration or for hiring a new Superintendent would need to be started early 2019. A work meeting to further discuss the topic will be held on November 5, 2018 in the high school library.

There were two committee reports. The first report was from the Facilities Committee. Clayton Young met with Jimmie Lester to go over projects that have been finished and make a list of projects that still need to be addressed. Those projects that still need to be addressed include: Hot water heater for the high school locker room, new mower, sidewalk repairs, new playground equipment installation, air control system updates, hallway carpet/tile at the high school, elementary locker room update, chain link fence straightened at the elementary, sprinkler system along the highway and volleyball field, refinishing the parking lot ends, and the track surface. Meredith brought up a carpet issue at the elementary. The board prioritized the list and asked that the carpet issue at the elementary be looked into.

The next report was from the Curriculum Committee. Mike Pasecynk, Carolyn Hutson, and Donna von Nieda met. They discussed putting together an inventory of the current curriculum materials to set items up for a more consistent rotation. Hutson also asked the committee about what the school is doing to meet the needs of our gifted and talented students. Heidi Gunderson explained how she is working dual credit and AP classes in programming. It was also mentioned that some of these student are using the Montana Digital Academy classes to meet their needs. Meredith addressed how the elementary works with their students.
In his report, Supt. Sturm started off with an explanation of the Professional Learning Communities (PLC) that the teachers have started. The teachers were divided in into 6 to 8 groups. They meet every other week to discuss issues and strategies. They will also be scheduling time to sit in on each other's classes to observe firsthand what they are discussing in groups. Next, he mentioned that he is in contact with the Stillwater County Commissioners about some issues he has with the reshaping that was done on the Stillwater River Road. After that, he spoke about a grant that we have applied for and received to improve graduation rates. A consultant was in the school on Friday and will be coming back six more times. The last item in his report was discussion about the November Board meeting and the fact that it is scheduled at the same time as the Veteran's Concert. It was decided to move the meeting up to 5:30 PM so everybody could attend the concert at 7:00PM.

In her report, Principal Feddes let the board know that Mr. Mullen is taking the elementary art classes to Tippet Rise. She also showed the board the standards that are used for grading in the elementary and that there will need to be a little modification to them to make them more understandable for parents that are using Infinite Campus. She also let the board know that teachers, including Heidi Gunderson and Jessica Griffin have been attending ELA proficiency meetings.

Again, there was no public comment. Chairman Scollard went over the calendar for the next month.

Having no further business, **Esp/Pasecznyk moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 P.M. Motion carried.**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING – November 5, 2018

The Board of Trustees of School District 52 & 52C met for a work meeting Monday, November 5, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. in the High School Library with the following in attendance: Chairman Diane Scollard, Clayton Young, Justine Dawson, Carolyn Hutson, Eric Esp, Terry Ekwortzel, Mike Pasecznyk, Kyle Sandin, Principal Feddes, and Tanya Lester, Clerk. Also present were visitors: Jimmie Lester, Donald Arthun, Catherine Frazer, Tonya Steffenson, Jordan Hickethier, Tim Zumbrun, Johna Zumbrun, Heidi Gunderson, Chris Gunderson, David Arthun, Drea Obert, and Jodi Heard. Chairman Scollard recognized all visitors.

Chairman Scollard started the meeting with an explanation that Superintendent Sturm has informed the School Board that he intends to retire at the end of the year. The board is to asking the teachers, staff and public for their input on the future administration plan for Absarokee Public Schools.

Donald Arthun said he had heard rumors that there was already a plan in place. It was explained by Chairman Scollard, Vice Chairman Young, and Principal Feddes that no plan had been made and that everything is still in the discussion stage.

Principal Feddes explained that she has both her principal and superintendent endorsements and that Tim Zumbrun will be finishing his principal endorsement in the fall of 2019 and continue working on his superintendent endorsement after that. Both Mrs. Feddes and Mr. Zumbrun would be willing to step up to fill administrative positions.

Donald Arthun asked if Mr. Zumbrun would be retiring from the military to fill a full-time administrative position. He is concerned that he not be available all of the time if he were still in the military. Tim indicated that if he were offered the position he was planning to retire.

Currently, Superintendent Sturm is high school superintendent and principal. Principal Feddes is elementary principal and special education teacher. While Mr. Zumbrun helps out with behavior as dean of students.

It would be possible that Mrs. Feddes could be elementary principal and superintendent while Mr. Zumbrun could be the high school principal. This would leave the district with two full-time administrators, but that a vo ag teacher and an elementary special education teacher would need to be hired.

Mrs. Obert mentioned that three full-time administrators would be top- heavy for a school our size, but that only two might not be enough. Von Nieda and Esp spoke about the possibilities of a "head teacher" position or a half-time superintendent separate from the principals to help out with having newer people in the administrative positions.

Next there was discussion about population at the school. Mr. Zumbrun has done a project for one of his classes and has looked at the numbers and it looks like in the short-term our population may be declining. In closing, Chairman Scollard asked that anyone that had input on what they would like to see please contact a member of the school board to make their voices heard.

Having no further business, **Ekworzel/Pasecynk moved to adjourn the retreat at 7:37 P.M. Chairman Scollard assumed the motion.**

Absarokee Schools
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BOXHOLDER

The Absarokee Music Department proudly presents

"Christmas in the Stable"...Celebrating with Our Animal Friends

Tuesday, December 18th at 6:30 pm in the AHS Gym

Featuring:

Kindergarten through 6th Grade

Junior School High Band & Choir

And the

Senior High School Band & Choir

There will be an ENDLESS DESSERT BUFFET for $5 per person.
Tickets for table seating will be sold in the Absarokee High School Office beginning December 1st.
Bleacher seating will be FREE!!!