

327 South Woodard Avenue – Absarokee, Montana 59001

www.absarokee.k12.mt.us

Home of the Huskies

Issue # 6 February 2019



Superintendent's report by Mr. Sturm

This month I'd like to talk about generosity. Each year it is overwhelming to see how many people in this community donate to a good cause... our students. Whether it is money for Christmas gifts, coats and winter gear, food, school supplies, scholarships etc, our community is wonderfully giving. There are many who do the right thing and share their good fortune and it's touching to see that happen. Even better, they do it without needing to be recognized. Having a giving heart and doing so in anonymity is something special. Thank you!

I'd also like to recognize the two Students of the Quarter: Maggie Howes and Avery Gates.

Maggie is described as a student who is very helpful, agreeable and wonderful to work with. She volunteers her time to help younger students and does a great job. She is also a kind and caring individual.

Avery is described by her teachers as a student who is responsible, positive, patient and helpful with others. Ms. Gates displays the kind of character every Husky should strive for, that of being honest, hardworking, caring, passionate, creative and respectful. Avery is very organized and cares about doing well in school. She is also active in various extracurricular activities.



Lil Husky News by Mrs. Meredith Feddes

Germs

Tight quarters and containment are only good for the spread of germs. Our students are glad for the weather we have been having, but there are still germs making their rounds in the schools. Please follow the reminders below:

- Stress the importance of handwashing. Germs are invisible, it's difficult for children to understand how dangerous a cough or sneeze can be. Be sure to stress the importance of washing hands, using lots of soap and water, an scrubbing until there are bubbles-before meals and snacks, and after coughing, sneezing, or using a tissue. Many brands of liquid hand soap come in fun designs, scents, or colors, and letting children pick their own can be a fun way to encourage hand washing.
- Use the birthday song method. Each your child to wash this or her hands for as long as it takes to sing the entire "Happy Birthday"
- Cough like Dracula. Children need to learn to always cover their mouths when they cough. Have your child cough into his or her sleeves, not hands, to prevent the spread of germs.
- Keep hands away from eyes, nose, and mouth. Children sometimes absentmindedly put their fingers in their mouth or nose, or rub their eyes. Help your child keep his or her hands away from "germy" areas-eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Set a healthy example. Model all these healthy behaviors-sneezing into your elbows, washing your hands frequently- and your child will follow suit.

I Love to Read Month

February is "I Love to Read" month. There will be further information sent in a flyer, on our Facebook feed and in the weekly newsletter.

Miss Montana

Miss Montana, Laura Haller, will be coming to the Elementary School as part of the Crown to Classroom tour on February 1st at 1:00. During her service as Miss Montana she has been working with the only Children's Miracle Network Hospital in Montana, Shodair Children's Hospital. Using her own experiences and lessons learned from her own life, she hopes to inspire Montana children to follow their passions in life.

Pennies for Patients

Our students will be participating in a service learning experience this month. We will be raising funds and learning about Leukemia. The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's mission is to cure blood cancers and improve the lives of patients and their families. LLS is known for funding groundbreaking research to find better treatments and cures. They provide free information, education and support services for those who have been impacted by blood cancer. They fight for lifesaving policy changes at the state and federal level to ensure access to quality, affordable coordinated care. Students will participate in the "Bring the Change" week. We are not asking for them to go out and get donations, but if you or your child is passionate about this cause they certainly can ask friends and family.

Monday	Tuesday:	Wednesday;	Thursday:	Friday:
Crazy Quarters Day-	Team up for	Dazzling Dimes. Wear	Nifty Nickels Day.	Pennies for Pajamas.
Wear a Crazy Hat all	Leukemia. Wear your	something glittery or	Wear something you	Wear your favorite
day with your	favorite team gear	dazzling for your	find fun and nifty for	pajamas for your
donation.	and bring dollars for	donation.	your donation.	donation.
	the class box.			

February School Activities:

1st-Miss Montana Presentation 4-8-Pennies for Patients 5-Spelling Bee-2pm

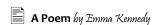
15-No School

18-No School

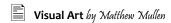
19-Alberta Bair K-2

25-Alberta Bair 3-5

27-Early Release 2:30



Into the water
The frog jumped
As the water rippled
It stole my reflection with it



HS Art- Students recently completed printmaking lino-cuts and are now working on collage skills practice. Collage techniques include mosaic/decoupage, cut-out, juxtaposition, abstract, and typography. In addition to technical skills practice sessions, students are also learning art history as it relates to their individual projects.

6th grade- Students are working on the slab construction technique and building ceramic boxes. Later, after firing the clay pieces, they will begin the decoration process with surface glazing.

Elementary- Students are working on various projects such as folk art acrylic painting, Australian Aboriginal dot painting, and printmaking.

Stillwater Valley FFA by Kennedy Ekwortzel

As our Stillwater Valley FFA chapter swings into the new year, there are many upcoming activities to look forward to start 2019 off. The first upcoming event is the Billings Area Chamber of Commerce Ag Appreciation dinner to be held on Jan 18th. Our chapter plans on sending two

representatives to this banquet to support the event and have an FFA presence. Our own Tandy Planichek will present the FFA Creed during the opening remarks of the session.

While these events are taking place, we have some seniors in our chapter that are applying for the State FFA Degree, which is the highest FFA degree you can apply for in the Montana FFA Association. Selection is based on FFA involvement, project work and community service. If the member's application gets approved, they will be recognized at the Montana State FFA Convention in March. Other events to look forward this winter and spring include more district competitions, state convention, and our annual flower auction. We will soon have our greenhouse up and running and it's hard to believe that spring is right around the corner.



Husky Music "Notes" by Debbie Seibert



TRI-COUNTY HONOR BAND is well underway, preparing to represent Montana on tour to the Minneapolis area this spring. Weekly rehearsals are held at Billings Central Catholic High School, making it a VERY late night for our Husky Honor Musicians! This is true dedication!

HUSKY CHOIR members are getting some grrrreat experience, as well as adding to the spirit of the Husky community by singing the National Anthem for home athletics. PEP BAND is also rocking' the gym for home games! Tournaments will be coming up soon and even Jr. High Bandsters are working hard to be able to help out playing the music when most of the High School musicians are out on the floor with the ball team!!

MHSA DISTRICT MUSIC FESTIVAL COMPETITIONS are just around the corner... solos, duets, trios galore are in the thick of preparations, along with the Band and Choir. Mozart, Schumann and Grieg are just a few of the composers represented by the quality pieces being presented by your Husky musicians! More details on how to cheer on our students at District Festivals will be offered as the time gets closer!



Box Tops News by Finis Sandlin

All of our classes have done an excellent job of saving and bringing Box Tops to help their class earn a reward. We could use help from the community for some classes that are falling a little short of meeting their goals. If you have Box Tops at home and would like to donate them to the school, it would be much appreciated.

Box Tops can be found on several name brand products that we purchase for our households. Papermate, General Mills, Ziploc, Kleenex, Green Giant, Go-Gurt, Annie's, Nature Valley, Chex Mix, and Hefty products, just to name a few. Be on the lookout if you purchase any of these household products and save the Box Tops for our school!

Thank you!



Robotics, Maker's Group & Chess Club by Heidi Gunderson

February Maker Group Schedule

The February Maker Group is February 28 from 3:15 to 4:00 in the elementary library. Our activity will be announced. Join us for an afternoon of fun!

Chess Club

Chess club will meet Tuesday, February 12th and Tuesday, February 26th after school. Chess club ends at 4:00.

Robotics Club

The Robotics clubs (High School and Elementary 4-6) went to Bozeman at the end of January. The high school students went to observe and gather tips for next year's competition. We also took advantage of the trip to Bozeman and arranged a tour of the Computer Science Museum and the Museum of the Rockies. The elementary 4th - 5th grade team competed on Saturday, January 26th.



BPA News by Cindy Poppleton

Our BPA students are gearing up for the Montana State BPA Competition in Billings, March 10 through the 12th. All of our 11 BPA students are eligible to participate in the State competition due to their placing at Regionals.

BPA will be selling suckers at most of the upcoming games. Thank you for supporting our BPA students!



SCIENCE FAIR JUDGES WANTED

The annual Absarokee science fair will be held on Wednesday, February 20, 2019. Judges are needed for this event. If you have a background in math or science and would like to volunteer your time please contact Catherine Frazer at 328-4583 or frazer@absarokee.k12.mt.us.



Counselor's Corner by Jodi Heard

SCHOLARSHIPS DUE-

Senior parents please be sure you and your twelfth grader have carefully read each of this year's Senior Updates. There are many national, state, and local scholarships with deadlines fast approaching. Do not let your senior miss out on valuable opportunities. If you have any questions regarding these scholarships please feel free to give me a call. Applying for scholarships is comparable to having a part time job. I am confident that efforts put forth by this year's seniors will be well rewarded.

CHANGES TO THE FAFSA FOR THE 2019-20 APPLICATION CYCLE-

The 2019-20 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) season began earlier than previous FAFSA application cycles. Since Oct. 1, 2018 students have been able to fill out the FAFSA for the 2019-20 schoolyear. In addition, applicants no longer need to estimate income and tax information and are able to retrieve their data directly from the IRS. Students now have information about their Expected Family Contributions earlier, helping them as they are going through the college application and selection process.

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS AND GIRLS STATE

Boys and girls state has taught students important lessons in leadership, citizenship, sportsmanship, and help to develop them into effective future leaders of Montana. High achieving juniors with strong leadership skills are encouraged to apply. Please Contact Ms. Heard for more information.



Quick Draw and Art Auction by Kayce Arthun

~Save the Date~

The 29th Annual Quick Draw and Art Auction will be held in the Absarokee High School Gymnasium on Saturday, March 16th. Doors open at 5:30 with entertainment beginning at 7:00 pm, the live auction will start at 8:00 pm. All proceeds benefit our graduating seniors in furthering their education.

This year's entertainer will be Daniel Kosel, a singer/songwriter, country and blues singer currently living nearby in Roberts, MT! Daniel is a Seattle born, Montana raised vocalist, poet, song-writer, guitarist, recording artist, and touring musician with multiple original albums available worldwide.

If you are interested in purchasing a table or tickets or donating art, please contact Kayce Arthun at (907)440-9612



Board Minutes by Tanya Lester

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING - December 10, 2018

The Board of Trustees of School District 52 & 52C met at a regular meeting on Monday, December 10, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. in the High School Board Room with the following in attendance: Chairman Diana Scollard, Clayton Young, Carolyn Hutson, Justine Dawson, Donna von Nieda, Kyle Sandlin, Eric Esp, Mike Pasecznyk, Terry Ekwortzel, Superintendent Sturm, Principal Feddes, and Tanya Lester, Clerk. Also present were Heidi Gunderson, Chris Gunderson, Tonya Steffenson, Danielle DeSaveur, Shon DeSaveur, Jordan Hickethier, Brian Young, Nikki Mix, Tim Zumbrun, Johna Zumbrun, Catherine Frazer, Nicki Reissig, Sarah Russell, Trenton Russell, Sheri Eixenberger, David Arthun, and Tami Biorn. Chairman Scollard recognized all visitors.

Young/Pasecznyk moved to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2018 regular board meeting as written. Esp/Sandlin moved to approve the minutes of the November 26, 2018 public interview as written. Chairman Scollard assumed both motions.

Young/Ekwortzel moved to approve the agenda as set. Chairman Scollard assumed the motion. Young/Von Nieda moved to pay all presented elementary bills. Ekwortzel/Sandlin moved to pay all presented high school bills and approve the activity account. Chairman Scollard assumed all three motions.

There was no public comment in the first round. In the A.D. Report Tonya Steffenson described the Secret Santa project that the basketball teams have taken on for the past few years. It will be at the December 22nd game. She also highlighted that this year many of the Saturday

game are going to be scheduled earlier in the day to make travel easier. The last thing on her report was to present the board with a copy of the Husky Howler that Mrs. Poppleton's class has been working on this year.

The only item of business under old business was hiring of Junior High/High School Principal. Tim Zumbrun was the only internal candidate to apply. After the interview on the 26th of November, Mr. Sturm recommended hiring Tim Zumbrun for this position.

Young/Esp moved to hire Tim Zumbrun as Junior High /High School Principal for the 19-20 school year. Motion carried. Supt. Sturm suggested that the board work on negotiating a contract next month. There will also be three other positions that will need to be advertised for in January: Part-time superintendent, full-time vocational agriculture teacher, and a part-time elementary special education teacher.

In the first item of business under new business, Supt. Sturm read the resignation letter of bus driver Beth Price. Young/Esp moved to accept the resignation. Motion carried. Letter is attached as part of the minutes.

The second item of business was discussion of football and volleyball contract for the 19-20 school year. Superintendent Sturm started by reading the resignation letter from Cathie Webber as assistant high school volleyball coach and Wyatt Planichek as assistant high school football coach. **Ekwortzel/Sandlin moved to approve both resignations. Motion carried.** Letters are attached as part of the minutes. Superintendent Sturm brought up junior high football coaches. **Young/Von Nieda moved to approve contracts for Mark Pederson and Shon DeSavuer as junior high football coaches. All elementary trustees voted in favor.**

Next up was junior high volleyball coaches. Superintendent Sturm said there had been some concerns during the year but he would recommend rehiring Brooke Heaps and Nikki Mix for the next school year. Hutson moved to offer Brooke Heaps and Nikki Mix contracts for junior high volleyball. The motion died for lack of a second. Dawson felt she did not have enough information to make a decision. Due to the fact that Brooke was unable to make the meeting, Nikki was asked if she would like the meeting closed. She said yes. As her right to privacy exceeds the merits of public disclosure, Chairman Scollard closed the meeting at 7:20 P.M. to go into executive session to discuss the junior high volleyball program. The meeting was reopened at 7:55 P.M. Von Nieda/Dawson moved to offer Brooke Heaps and Nikki Mix contracts for junior high volleyball coaches as recommended. All elementary trustees voted in favor.

Superintendent Sturm presented Chris Gunderson for head football and Brian Young as assistant football coaches. Sandlin/Ekwortzel moved to approve contracts with Chris Gunderson and Brian Young as recommended. Motion carried. Superintendent Sturm presented Nicki Reissig as head high school volleyball coach. Esp/Young moved to approve a contract with Nicki Reissig as recommended. Motion carried. We will be opening positions for assistant high school volleyball and assistant high school football coaches.

The third item of business was School to work contracts. Superintendent Sturm has had requests from high school senior about the school to work program. He had spoken to Jodi Heard and asked if she was interested in the position. She would not take it on by herself, but if he were willing to help she thought they could work it out. **Ekwortzel /Pasezcynk moved to offer contracts to Jodi Heard and Dusty Sturm to split the duties and stipend for the school to work program. Motion carried.**

Under the next item of business Superintendent Sturm read a request for a sabbatical from Tracy Esp. Pasezcynk/Ekwortzel moved to approve the request. Motion carried. Esp abstained from the vote. Letter is attached as part of the minutes.

The fifth item of business was a request to void a payroll warrant from November 2017 in the amount of \$23.09. Young/Von Nieda moved to approve void of warrant. Chairman Scollard assumed motion.

Under the last item of business under new business, Superintendent Sturm presented the board with the bids that he had received from the 3 brands of buses: Bluebird - \$98,250, International - \$91,951, and Thomas - \$99,668. He has asked the drivers their opinion. No one has a definite favorite and we currently have one of each at this time. The board would like to add under carriage storage to this route bus which will change the price. **Esp/Sandlin moved to approve purchase of an International route bus with under carriage storage. Motion carried.**

Committee reports started with a report from the Building Committee. Superintendent Sturm went over the list of items and whether they were currently getting pricing or in progress. Next the committee to deal with reserved seating and sponsor banners reported on pricing information.

In the Superintendent's Report, Superintendent Sturm read a letter from the AEA union about their intent to negotiate this year. He commended Mrs. Frazer and her Science Olympiad team for the performance this year. In the Principal's Report, Principal Feddes reported that Roberts' School came to observe our teachers using the CKLA curriculum on October 30th.

Chairman Scollard went over the calendar for the next month. In the second round of public comment, Mr. Zumbrun gave out Kudos for the FFA kids that placed well at District FFA in Roberts. Sandlin congratulated the junior high girls' basketball coaches and team on a great season. Ekwortzel mentioned that he would like the board to provide hams for extra-curricular staff like they have done in the past.

Absarokee Schools 327 South Woodard Ave Absarokee, MT 59001 Non-Profit Organization Standard U.S. Postage PAID Permit No 9 Absarokee, MT 59001 ECRWSS

BOXHOLDER

Absarokee Child Development Clinic

The developmental areas that will be screened are:



*motor skills *cognitive development *vision

*Speech/language *hearing

Children 3 to 5 years of age will be given the Developmental Indicators for the Assessment of Learning (DIAL-3). Screening may take up to one hour.

The clinic will be held at:

Cobblestone Building Thursday, March 14th 8:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Appointments Necessary!!

Please call the Absarokee school at 328-4581 to schedule an appointment for your child.

If you have questions, please call Kaitlyn Mattson, Child Development Coordinator, at 322-5298.