



327 South Woodard Avenue – Absarokee, Montana 59001

www.absarokee.k12.mt.us

Home of the Huskies

Issue # 5

January 2020

Superintendent Report & Lil Husky News *by Meredith Feddes*

There have been some wonderful things that have happened in our school over the last month. We had Career Day in the junior high-high school. There were excellent community members who presented information about different careers to our students. Thank you volunteers for joining us and sharing with our students. The efforts of Ms. Heard and Mrs. Gunderson helped make this a fantastic opportunity for our students to see what is needed for them to pursue their career goals.

Our first grade teacher, Mrs. Sturm, was inducted into the Miles City Hall of Fame for basketball. Her team was the first in school history to advance to the National Tournament. Congratulations Mrs. Sturm!

Mrs. Griffin will be helping out in the elementary with meetings, discipline and other duties as the Lead Teacher. She is covering for Mrs. Feddes when things come up in her role as superintendent.

We will be developing a committee to help guide our decisions around the Sandstone building's current issues. Board members will be asking for participation from the community in different areas. We will be discussing at upcoming board meetings, so if you are interested please come to the meetings. We currently have the preschool joining us in the elementary building and the daycare is in the Cobblestone building. We would like to extend our appreciation to the Cobblestone Committee for allowing us to share the facility.

We are ending the first semester the week after winter break. Please be aware of your student's grades either in Infinite Campus or through contact with your student's teacher. WIN time and the efforts of your students has made a difference in our ineligibility list and missing work, but we would like to see no student on these lists at any time.

The elementary students finished their last fall exploratory and are going to present to family, friends and community what they have learned on January 8th at 5:30. Please join us in the elementary gym to see what they accomplished in the first semester. We will start a new learning experience for the second semester in January and again have four learning days. If you are interested in helping with Wildlife, AG in the classroom, Baking/Cooking, Science Experiments or Strategy Games, please contact us at the elementary. We would be glad to have speakers or helpers for all four days! Our 2nd-5th grade elementary students will be skiing three times again this year, January 9th, 16th and 23rd. Please

make sure your students have warm clothes and a lunch on the day of skiing. This is always a fun break in the winter for our students, while getting some additional physical education skills outside the classroom.

Jump Rope for Heart is an activity we participate in every other year for the education and service learning opportunity. Students will be asking the community for donations for the American Heart Association. Thank you in advance for helping them learn about the benefits of heart health while contributing to a worthwhile cause. We will have our activity day on February 12th. Look for the exact times in the February newsletter.

Mr. Zumbrun completed his K-12 Principal's degree as the end of the fall semester at Montana State University. Congratulations Mr. Zumbrun!

There will be some adult education classes starting in the new year. Please watch the newsletters for further information. Mr. Yates will be providing a hands on learning experience in the shop and Mr. Mullen will be offering a painting class. If there are others interested in providing a class to the community please stop by the office and visit with Mrs. Feddes.

JH/HS Principal *by Tim Zumbrun*

The first thing I'll say this month is "Thank You Tracy Esp"! For years, Tracy has worked at Absarokee Schools and recently let us know that she would like to spend some time doing other things. Tracy has completed many tasks over the years and you might never know where you'd find her next. I've seen her work in the kitchen where she helped feed our staff and students. I've seen her cleaning the hallways and classrooms. I've seen her sweating her tail off in the middle of the summer heat while detailing buses. Lastly, Tracy worked in the office at the High School for many years as the High School Secretary. Because of her office location, she was the first one to welcome visitors to our school, the first to answer a phone call from a parent (some of them not so kind), the first to know that your child wasn't at school, the first to deflect phone calls from solicitors, the first to comfort a sick child who came to the office and many other varieties of personal interactions (some not so pleasant). She also dealt with copious amounts of paperwork, files and state reporting requirements. For all you've done for this school and community Tracy - THANK YOU!! It is my hope that you and Eric will have the opportunity to enjoy

more time together and drop a line in the water whenever your heart desires.

Because of the efforts of Mrs. Heidi Gunderson, Ms. Jodi Heard and our many volunteer presenters, our "Career Day" was a success. We had 18 presenters here on December 11th and students were offered the opportunity to choose 4 different occupational areas to attend. Presenters discussed various aspects of their chosen profession and answered questions for students. Following, I spoke to many students who all agreed the day was an enjoyable learning experience for them and suggested that we need to do it again. We are already reviewing suggestions for improvement and plan to conduct a similar program next year.

Congratulations to the JH and HS Science Olympiad teams for their recent success. Our JH team won first place in the "small schools" category for the 4th consecutive year. They placed 5th overall out of 64 teams. The HS team placed 3rd among small schools and were 13th overall, competing against schools from across the state. Appreciation goes out to Ms. Catherine Frazer and Mr. Chris Gunderson for the many, many extra hours they put into helping our students be successful in this program. Highlights of the event are provided elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Junior High completed the district-wide assessments (MAP testing) just prior to the holiday break and overall scores indicate most students have experienced positive growth. I'd like to commend our students and staff for their hard work. For those students that had some regression in their test scores, perhaps it was just a bad day for them. There are many factors that can affect testing performance, so we hope for positive growth in the Spring assessment session. After the break, our high school students (9-11) will take their district-wide assessments. Juniors are also scheduled to take the ACT test on March 24th.

Basketball season is underway, so please check out our school website for basketball schedules and pick an afternoon or evening game when you can come cheer on our boys and girls teams. We'd love to see you in the stands!

Get Fit with Main Street Commons *by Donna Mattson*

Cardio & Strength Intervals

All fitness levels welcome. Bring water, a mat and hand weights.
Monday, Wednesday & Fridays 8:00 to 9:00 a.m.

Fitness Class at Nye Community Church


Cardio & Strength Intervals

All fitness levels welcome. Bring water, a mat and hand weights.
Tuesday & Thursdays 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.
January through March

Close Up *by Johna Zumbrun*

The Absarokee High School Close Up program will be holding their Annual Workers auction on Saturday February 1st 2020 during the Park City game. The auction will be held between the varsity girls and the varsity boys game. We will be auctioning off 14 workers this year. The proceeds from the auction go directly to the students to help send them to Washington D. C. in April.

Husky Music "Notes" *by Debbie Seibert*

A huge THANK YOU to such a supportive community! Our Christmas Programs were a resounding success last month!! The Elementary students showed that they  are a group of budding "stars" ...with solo upon solo captivating the crowd. The EXTRAVAGANZA performed the following week was absolutely beautiful... to the eyes AND the ears! Compliments are due to the TOUCH OF COUNTRY caterers who made the evening delicious as well as entertaining for those enjoying dinner. "Great job!" to all our Husky musicians.

The Absarokee Schools CONCERT CHOIR helped spread Holiday Cheer by taking their "show on the road" last month. Columbus Assisted Living and Care Centers, as well as the hospital, were the recipients of beautiful Christmas caroling. The students also caroled at Absarokee's own Shipp's Assisted Living and the Elementary School!! Thank you, Husky vocalists!!

HONOR BAND rehearsals begin this month. Kaiya Holmquist and Jamie Tucker travel weekly to Billings in order to rehearse with 75 other high school musicians. This elite performing group is preparing to represent Montana while on tour to Salt Lake City this spring!

Preparations are also underway for DISTRICT FESTIVAL Competitions. Band, Choir, Duets, Trios and Solos are rehearsing some very challenging pieces. In spite of schedules limiting students' ability to participate in Music this year... our Band and Choir members are poised to make a great showing at these MHS A adjudicated performances again this year! PEP BAND is prepping some younger students to add to our sound in the near future!! When athletes are on the Basketball court, only a very few band members are left to try to rock the house!! Community members are welcome to help, also! Dust off those instruments and contact Debbie Seibert for some music!! GO, HUSKIES!!

Visual Arts *by Matthew Mullen*

High School Beginning Art Studio - Students are currently working on lino-cut printmaking projects. Students have designed original holiday greeting cards.

High School Advanced Art Studio - Students have completed observational still life studies and face portraits. Some students are exploring oil painting, printmaking, clay sculpture and pencil illustration. Students have researched artists such as Yang Yong Liang, Franz Marc, and Georgia O'Keefe.

High School Graphic Design - Students are using Adobe Illustrator & Photoshop to create post card and holiday card designs. Their design skills and knowledge of design software has improved greatly during this course.

Elementary - Students have been working on printmaking, watercolor, and oil pastel artworks.

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

Generous Donation by Ryan Guinn!

Check out the beautiful oak table Ryan Guinn made for the high school library! He made this custom built and designed table for this space. Students can now use the table for laptops and studying. If you are in the high school, please stop by the library and check out his work. If you see Ryan in the community, please congratulate him on his wonderful project!



Robotics Club

Our high school robotics team attended their first competition for the state tournament in Butte, Montana on November 23rd. We were the only all-girls team in attendance. Please congratulate Maggie Howes, Monique Mondragon, Callen Gunderson, and Allison Howes on their hard work. We were accepted into the state tournament! We go to state on Friday, January 17, 2020.

This is our first year that we have advanced enough to compete and we are so excited to compete at the state level. We have several sponsors for our robotics program to help with the cost of the state competition. We would like to thank the Terri Ferster memorial, Engineering West of Columbus, and Silicon Sky GPS of Red Lodge for their generous donations to our program.

Career Exploration Day

Absarokee High School hosted a Career Exploration Day December 11 and it was a wonderful day. All students in 6th through 12 grades participated in the event. Each student had the opportunity to learn about 4 different careers out of 16 presentations. This allowed students to pick any four of the presenters that interested them. They learned what each career requires through education, work environment, salary, and expectations. We would like to thank our presenters for their time and enthusiasm. They made this day a winning success for our students.



Our presenters were Casey Campbell and Danelle DeSavere for Cosmetology, Chloe Flynn for Culinary, Beth Pelton for Absaroka Beartooth Dental (Dental Hygienist), Nick Howes for Engineering, Paul Luepke for Game Warden, Clint Cecil and Joe Bies of Job Service, Joe Griffin for Yellowstone Bank, Stillwater County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Skylar Steele, Jake Wright for Beartooth Electric (Lineman), Kent Plymale for Plymale Motors (Mechanic), TSgt Nik Asmussen from the United States Military, Randy Weimer of Sibanye-Stillwater Mine, Justine Dawson for Absarokee Medical Clinic (Nursing), Roger Pomeroy for Beartooth

Billings Clinic (Physical Therapy), Carina Bracy for Rocky Mountain Flight School (Pilot), and Barb Potzman for Pinnacle Property (Realtor).

This event was organized by Jodi Heard, our school counselor, Heidi Gunderson, our high school English teacher, and Justine Dawson, one of our board members. Thank you once again for all the time and effort you put into our students.

Elementary Robotics *by Nicki Reissig*

I am so excited to announce the schedule for the K-3 Robotics Group. We will begin meeting on Tuesdays after school in the elementary library starting on January 21, 2020. A schedule will be sent home with participants on our first day. To sign your child up, or for any questions please feel free to contact me at reassign@absarokee.k12.mt.us. I'm so excited to see our engineers in action!

2019 Science Olympiad *by Catherine Frazer*

The 35th annual Montana Science Olympiad was held on November 26, 2019 at Montana State University in Bozeman. Two teams from Absarokee were among the over 120 teams from 97 schools that participated this year.

Absarokee Middle School finished **5th overall** out of 64 teams, and was the **top finishing small school**. This is the 4th consecutive year Absarokee has won that award.

Absarokee High School finished **13th overall** out of 57 teams, and 3rd in the small schools.

The following Absarokee students finished in the top 15 places:

Keagan Sandlin & Allison Howes – 2nd in Water Quality
Adree Langley & Claire Hatch – 2nd in Fossils
Kaiya Holmquist & Tymber Jensen – 3rd in Write it, Do it
Callen Gunderson & Shayla Russell – 5th in Fossils
Callen Gunderson & Allison Howes – 5th in Disease Detectives
Claire Hatch & Adree Langley – 6th in Water Quality
Brent Kelley & Maggie Howes – 6th in Astronomy
Aubrey Winter & Amber Peterson – 8th in Food Science
Dalton Helmuth & Maggie Howes – 9th in Boomilever
Brent Kelley & Haley Richardson – 10th in Geologic Mapping
Shayla Russell & Isaac Richardson – 11th in Heredity
Logan Young & Amber Peterson – 11th in Write it, Do it
Dillon Ferster & Tom Murphy – 12th in Reach for the Stars
Dillon Ferster, Caleb Zeigler & Isaac Richardson – 12th in Mousetrap Vehicle
Kaiya Holmquist & Tymber Jensen – 13th in Anatomy and Physiology
Tom Murphy & Caleb Zeigler – 14th in Meteorology
Logan Young & Aubrey Winter – 14th in Boomilever
Haley Richardson & Emily Routen – 15th in Chemistry Lab
Emily Routen & Kaiya Holmquist – 15th in Sounds of Music

Other students who participated were Dawson Lester, Jamie Tucker, Tandy Planichuk, Nila Dawson, McKayla Walton, MaKenzie Walton, and William Andonian.

BPA News *by Cindy Poppleton*

BPA All ten BPA students participated in BPA Regional Competition Tuesday, December 10th in Livingston. Our students did a great job representing Absarokee High School, not only in events, but in professional dress and behavior. Students placing in rank making

them eligible for state competition in March were: Financial Analyst Team- 1st place -Tucker Sullivan, Ashton Campbell, Emily Routen, Garric Zugaza; Digital Marketing concepts, 1st place - Logan Finley, 4th place - Garric Zugaza; Management/Marketing/HR Concepts, 1st place -Tucker Sullivan, 6th place - Logan Finley, 7th place - Kennedy Ekwortzel; Medical Office Procedures, 1st place - Kaiya Holmquist; Administrative Support Concepts, 2nd place - Kennedy Ekwortzel, 5th place - Kaiya Holmquist, 8th place - Emily Routen; Business Meeting Management Concepts, 3rd place - Emily Routen, 4th place - Logan Finley, 6th place - Ashton Campbell, 8th place - Tucker Sullivan; Parliamentary Procedures Concepts, 4th place - Emily Routen, 7th place - Logan Finley. We had several freshmen on the BPA team and although they did not qualify for state, they did an amazing job in competing in some of the more difficult events such as Video Production Team, Presentation Management Team, and Interview Skills.

Congratulations to all our BPA students for all their hard work and for representing Absarokee High School in the regional competition.

Congratulations to our students for a JOB WELL DONE!

FFA News *by Tandy Planichek, Reporter*

Our FFA chapter was very busy this month. For two weeks, members did their best to sell Martinson's Chocolates. Justin Helbert was our top seller, selling over \$600 in chocolates. Way to go Justin! Also this month was Districts competition in Belfry. Six members attended Districts, those members were Colton Young, Jamie Tucker, Keagan Sandlin, Nila Dawson, Emily Routen and Tandy Planichek. Colton Placed first in extemporaneous speaking, Jamie took home first in the JV extemporaneous speaking and Nila got second in JV extemporaneous speaking. Keagan Sandlin and Tandy Planichek competed in Creed Speaking with Tandy taking home fifth. Good job Stillwater Valley FFA

After Christmas, there are several competitions that the chapter will be competing in and due dates for FFA applications. In January we are planning on KMON in Cascade for Sale and Service and then Lewistown for a Mechanics contest. Seniors need to work on their AET record book. State Degree applications are due in mid-February.

FCCLA News *by Carolyn Story*

FCCLA Our next event is our State Leadership Conference in March 2020. We have 3 teams working on STAR events (students taking action with recognition). New members will attend leadership workshops.

We would like to recognize and thank Red Lodge Beverage for donating product for our Pop-a-Shot fundraiser that we have during the halftime of the high school boys and girls basketball games. They have been supporting us for many years.

Board of Trustees Meeting *by Tanya Lester*

November 11, 2019

The Board of Trustees of School District 52 & 52C met at a regular meeting on Monday, November 11, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. in the High School Boardroom with the following in attendance: Chairman Diana Scollard, Clayton Young, Justine Dawson, Kayce Arthun, Mike Pasecznyk, Eric Esp, Kyle Sandlin, Terry Ekwortzel, Principal Zumbrun, Principal Feddes, and Clerk Tanya Lester. Donna von Nieda joined the meeting by phone. Also present were Colton Young, Paige Steffenson, Zacc Degele, Tonya Steffenson, Emily

Fanus, Catherine Frazer, Joan Howe, Richelle Kelley, Sean Kelley, Jordan Hickethier, Brian Feddes, Dylan Brown, Jimmie Lester, Stephanie Raville, Jackie Walker, Kerri Cunningham, Johna Zumbrun, Janel Brunckhorst, and Jessica Griffin. After standing for the pledge, Chairman Scollard recognized all visitors.

Young/Arthun moved to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2019 regular board meeting as written. Young/Arthun moved to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2019 special board meeting as written. Young/Arthun moved to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2019 special board meeting as written. Chairman Scollard assumed all three motions.

Young/Pasecznyk moved to change the order of the agenda to put Board Trustee Position – Sandlin to after Committee Reports. Arthun/ Young moved to accept the agenda as amended. Chairman Scollard assumed both motions.

Arthun/Young moved to pay all presented elementary bills from as presented. Ekwortzel/Sandlin moved to pay all presented high school bills and approve the activity account. Chairman Scollard assumed both motions.

There was no public comment. Dawson gave the Technology Committee Report. After a thorough report of the current state of technology, the committee requested the district go to a one-to-one policy with Chromebooks in the Junior High and High School. Kayce Arthun presented the Targeted Grant Update. She indicated that there will be a grant available for approximately \$3200.00 and the committee is working on finding the best use for those funds. Mike Pasecznyk announced that the Curriculum Committee will be meeting Thursday, November, 14, 2019.

Kyle Sandlin announced that he had temporarily moved out of district due to the sale of his house and subsequent rental. He will be purchasing and rebuilding in the original subdivision. MCA 13-1-112 (4) An individual does not lose residence if the individual goes into another state or other district of the state for temporary purposes with the intention of returning, unless the individual exercises the election franchise in the other state or district. The board wanted the public to know that Kyle is temporarily living in the Fishtail district, but will still be representing the Nye district.

With no changes, Young/Pasecznyk moved to approve Policy 3415 as read for the third time. Motion carried. A copy of 3415 is attached as part of the minutes. Policies 2600/2600P were also read for the third time but 2600P is still a work in progress. Young/ Arthun moved to table Policies 2600/2600P until the December meeting. Motion carried.

Principal Zumbrun presented the updated wrestling/softball co-op agreement between Absarokee, Park City, and Columbus. It is prorated for each school as follows: 0-1 participants \$1250, 2 participants \$2500, 3 participants \$3750, and 4 and up participants \$5000. The agreement is attached as part of the minutes. **Sandlin/Pasecznyk move to approve the wrestling/softball co-op agreement as presented. Motion carried.**

The board all put forth their respective ideas of organizational charts. The board asked the public for their input. After a great deal of discussion, **Ekwortzel/Pasecznyk move to hire Meredith Feddes as part-time superintendent/part-time principal contingent on salary/benefit clarification and agreement, and with the**

provisions that she gets a mentor of her choosing and we use the organizational chart Chairman Scollard suggested. Those voting in favor: Dawson, von Nieda, Pasecznyk, Ekwortzel, Esp, and Scollard. Those voting against the motion: Young, Arthun, and Sandlin. A copy of the organizational chart is included as part of the minutes.

In looking for a place to turn around the bus, it was discovered through a Montana Cadastral Map search that the school may own the Beehive Community Center. Because the school has no record of ownership the board asked the administration to look into a deed search to see if this is actually the case. In the review of the board goals, Principal Zumbrun let the board know that there will be another round of testing in January and a career fair in December.

Under new business, Principal Zumbrun went over the quotes he has received for busses. A handwritten report of the quotes is attached as part of the minutes. He recommended the International Bus from Hartley Bus Sales. **Esp/Young moved to purchase the International Bus from Hartley Bus Sales with the stop arm camera included. Motion carried.**

Principal Feddes presented the engineer's report regarding the structural integrity of the roof of the sandstone building. The report is attached as part of the minutes. There will need to be additional cost analysis before a decision can be made on whether the building should be repaired or removed. Due to the danger, the preschool will move into the school this weekend. Principal Feddes will talk to the Cobblestone about possibilities for the daycare, and if possible they should be moved the following week. At this time Donna von Nieda signed off the phone call.

The Technology Committee is looking at buying Chromebooks to make sure there is one available for every student in the junior high and high school. **Arthun/Young moved to table the purchase of Chromebooks until there was better clarification on what funds were available. Motion carried.**

Under the first reading of the 1000 series of policies from the MTSBA review of the policy book, policy 1310 was the first one discussed. If this policy could be passed by January it would make the review process faster because required policies would be able to be passed in one reading. There was discussion about whether two or three readings should be necessary on non-required policies. On policy 1512 concerning nepotism it was noted that the school needs to advertise 15 days in advance any time they are considering hiring a relative of a trustee. Other policies were discussed, but not in detail.

Principal Feddes read the resignation of Brooke Heaps as junior high volleyball coach. The email is attached as part of the minutes. **Young/Arthun moved to accept Brooke Heaps' resignation as junior high volleyball coach.**

In the AD report Tonya Steffenson thanked the Absarokee School District for hosting the 4-C District Volleyball Tournament. She also thanked staff, students, administration, and board for all of their help.

Principal Feddes reported that the behavior referrals are way down this year, all staff in her building have had one formal evaluation, the Fall Carnival will be November 15, and the 3rd round of Exploratories was November 8th. She also attended the ACE Administrator meeting on the 8th.

Principal Zumbrun commended Mrs. Seibert and her band and choir students for the Veterans Concert tonight. Enrollment was 203 at the beginning of November, but we are looking at 4 possible new students. The Teams report has been completed, Carl Perkins grant has been submitted and approved, and the Targeted Support Grant will open up on the 15th of November. The high school is discussing dual enrollment classes with MSU Billings and current set up a Memorandum of Understanding for a College Welding class. An unannounced K-9 drug inspection found nothing in our high school building on their last visit. Principal Zumbrun also recognized Owen Carpenter and Cooper Haines as Students of the Quarter.

Principal Zumbrun acknowledged a written letter from the AEA stating their intent to negotiate. Chairman Scollard recognized the letter and it is attached as part of the minutes.

Under public comment, Dawson reiterated that the Technology Committee would have more funding information at the next meeting and that we are behind on getting to be a one-to-one school. Principal Feddes gave notice that at the next meeting she would be resigning as high school assistant track coach.

TRUSTEE POSITIONS OPEN

The following board positions will be open on the Absarokee School Board District 52 & 52C for the May 5, 2020 school election: Two 3-year terms on the elementary board, one 3-year term in the high school board in the Fishtail District, and one 3-year term on the high school board in the Nye District. The deadline for filing is Thursday, March 26, 2019 at 4:00 P.M.

Forms may be picked up from Tanya Lester, Business Manager at the high school office and returned to the same. Elections will be held on May 5, 2020 at the following locations: Absarokee Elementary Gym, Roscoe Community Center, Fishtail School, and Nye Fire Hall.

If you have any questions, please contact Tanya Lester at 328-4583.

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE

If you are not currently registered to vote, you must be registered by Monday, April 6th in order to vote in the May 5th school election.

Registration forms can be picked up at the Absarokee High School office or Stillwater Clerk & Recorder office in Columbus.

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 Elementary School Students
are working to collect Box Tops
They are very close earning a school wide



Here is how you can help:



Download the app at the following sites:

<https://play.google.com/store/app/details?id=com.generalmills.btfe>

or

<https://apps.apple.com/app/apple-store/id1150038564>

