

Absarokee Public Schools

327 South Woodard Avenue – Absarokee, Montana 59001

www.absarokee.k12.mt.us

Home of the Huskies

Issue #9

May 2017

Superintendent's report *by Mr. Dusty Sturm*

Five years ago, Darcy and I moved to Absarokee. After signing a contract in March, we drove to Absarokee to experience the “Quick Draw” for the first time. It was impressive then, and continues to be impressive now. The students of this school are very lucky to be members of a school that has such incredible scholarship opportunities for college. Each year it is exciting to see what items artists bring to the event and every year the gymnasium is packed with local supporters who give generously. It is an extraordinary event. Thank you to all who make it possible. Kayce Arthun has done a wonderful job of organizing and she deserves much of the credit.

Spring at Absarokee Public Schools proves to be a very busy time of the year. Between golf, softball, track, science competitions, FFA competitions, honor band and festival events, it keeps students and staff busy.

Students of the Quarter for the 3rd Quarter are Colton Young and Beth Mondragon. They were selected by staff for their hard work and positive attitude. Congratulations to Colton and Beth!

Elementary happenings *by Mrs. Meredith Feddes*

Spring is here and the students are anxious to be out and about. Fortunately, we finished our Smarter Balanced Assessment before Spring Break, so students can relax and enjoy the activities teachers have prepared for them. We have to finish up our MAP testing the first week of May and hopefully, then there will be some opportunities for students to learn outside with some hands on projects. We have very little time left in this school year, but there are new and interesting plans being prepared for next year; a reminder that there will be some changes and adaptations to the agenda. We are focusing on Standards Based Report cards in grades K-3. *Rocket Math* which began this year will

carry over to next year and the student's folders will be advanced to the next year's teacher. *Accelerated Reader* is a program that provides additional reading opportunities for your child with comprehension being checked when he/she tests. This is provided through the library for all students to participate in and some teachers have added it to their instruction or homework. Our bookworm grew greatly because of this program. We will also be adding a writing curriculum in the elementary, called *Units of Study*. This program is meant to help our students be better writers at a younger age and to help them in all areas. We will be having grades K-5 in the elementary building beginning next year, while our sixth grade students will be in the Jr. High school building. If you have any questions or concerns, please visit with your child's teacher or Mrs. Feddes. We appreciate feedback and ideas from all parties.

REMEMBER TO VOTE
Tuesday, May 2nd
MILL LEVY ELECTION
(\$34,661.50 for Elementary District)

There will be NO Trustee election as the following 4 positions have been filled by acclamation:

Clayton Young & Justine Dawson
(Elementary District)

Mike Pasecznyk Kyle Sandlin
(Fishtail District) (Nye District)

A look at the month of May:

- May 1- Presentation by VFW
- May 1-6- Missoula Children's Theatre
(Performances 7 pm Friday and 3 pm Saturday)
- May 2-4- MAP Testing
- May 11- Elementary Concert-Elementary Gym
- May 17- Conservation Day- Grades 4-5
- May 19- Elementary Track & Field Day - Football Field - 9 am
- May 24- LAST DAY - Assembly 8:30 am - Early Release 10:30

Missoula Childrens Theatre \$2400 Grant!!!!

The Absarokee Schools received a **\$2400 grant from Montana Masonic Foundation** to enable the school drama club to host the Missoula Children's Theater.

All Missoula Children's Theater Tour shows are designed for school age children ranging from Kindergarten through 12th grade. This is the optimum range of grades for their

productions. There are roles especially suited for all skill and experience levels. At a minimum, there must be those in Kindergarten through 5th grade represented. We are excited to be able to meet some of the Theatre Art Content Standards with the performance of this play. Students will be able to use their creative drama, determine how movement and voice are incorporated into creative drama experiences, compare design elements in creative drama, and describe how stories are adapted from literature to become drama or theater works.

The auditions for this year's performance of "The Wiz of the West" will be held Monday, May 1 in the elementary gymnasium at 4 pm. Students within the Absarokee, Fishtail & Nye district may audition.

Two performances are scheduled at the end of the week: Friday, May 5th at 7:00pm and Saturday, May 6th at 3:00pm

Missoula Children's Theater is a wonderful program that enables our students to experience drama and theatre in a way that wouldn't be possible without their participation. The Masonic Foundation is supportive of the schools through donations for various programs like the Missoula Children's Theater and we thank them for that support.

The Montana Masonic Foundation awards grants through a competitive application and review process. The MMF supports, encourages and promotes free public education and schools through endowments, grants, scholarships and fellowships. This nonprofit organization has sponsored a reading achievement program within Montana Schools for many years through its *Bikes for Books* and *Kindles for Kids* reading program. At its core, the Montana Masonic Foundation is an organization created with gifts from generous people committed to local causes. For donors, the Foundation serves as a philanthropic advisor. For the community, the Foundation serves as a grant maker and a civic leader. Through the support of its donors and members of Freemason fraternity, the Foundation has been able to address some of the community's most pressing needs, including hunger, housing, and education.

Counselor's Corner *by Ms. Heard*

2017-18 High School Registration

All students in grades 8 through 11 will be registering for high school classes on Friday, May 19th. All students 9th-11th have been through a pre-registration appointment with Ms. Heard to review their requirements and credits for high school graduation. Eighth graders have participated in an orientation to discuss high school credit and requirements to be included in each student's four year plan. Parents please discuss with your child, which classes he/she will be enrolling in for the 2017-18 school year prior to this date. A schedule of classes, along with a copy of the pre-registration

sheet, will be sent home approximately a week before registration.

Adult Education Class

Personal Financial Management

Are you interested in learning how to manage your money? Do you want to learn how to read a credit report? Are you interested in learning about retirement tools?

We will cover these topics and many others. You are not required to disclose any personal information about your financial situation. By the end of the course, you will have a personal financial plan and ideas to help you reach your goals. Our first class is Monday, June 19 at 6:30 in the high school library. We will have a total of 2-3 sessions depending on class size. Contact Heidi Gunderson for more information (328-4590).

Quick Draw has another great year! *by Kayce Arthun*

Thanks again to everyone who supported our 27th Annual Absarokee Vocational Advisory (AVAC) Quick Draw! It was a most successful evening raising over \$30,000 from our art auction, which will be used in its entirety to benefit scholarships to AHS graduates. To our artists, thank you for your talent and your willingness to share your love and skill with us in your work. We appreciate your donations and we are so lucky to have a community full of so many talented individuals. A special thank you to this year's Quick Draw artists: **Sam Harrington, Lance Johnson, Steve Kerr, Tom McCoy, and Tom Wolfe**. Your ability to create something so exceptional in such a short period of time truly is phenomenal. Thank you to the Absarokee Vocational Advisory Council for your dedication to this event and commitment to assisting AHS students in furthering their education. Thanks to Rick and Peggy Young and their family for once again donating their auctioneering services to our event. We can't thank their family enough for their tireless dedication. A huge shout out to Alex Heyneman for lighting our stage and silent auction so beautifully and for helping "The Bad Larry's" sound even better, if that was possible. Thank you to Tippet Rise for once again sponsoring a grant through their Sidney E. Frank Foundation. This is a beneficial partnership as we so appreciate their support of the arts and education in our community. Thank you to First Interstate Bank who made its contribution this year through a generous donation. Thanks to Robin Borland and her crew at Touch of Country Catering for adding a tasty addition to the evening. Thank you to all the staff at the school that help with all kinds of undertakings behind the scenes that no one ever knows about. We would never be able to list everyone that contributes to this event as the list truly goes on and on. This event takes an entire community and this is so evident by how many different people are involved whether it is by sponsoring a table, donating art, being on

the council or doing one of the many tasks that it takes to make this event happen. A sincere thank you to all of you for assisting AVAC in making secondary education a reality for so many of our AHS graduates.

FCCLA by Mrs. Story

Our State Leadership Conference was held in Billings, March 19-21. We had 9 members attend.

The State Officers plan and host the conference. They put in long hours, attend meetings, and keep in touch via the internet and cell phones. Our District President and State Officer, Chloe Flynn, was part of this team. Chloe did an awesome job representing our chapter and our district. Thanks, Chloe!

Chapter members attending the conference included: Tana Babb, Mikol Degele, Sammy Hansen, Kia Pillion, Kodi Martin, Summer Farmstead, Bailey Gauthier, and Cajé Pillion.

They competed in the following:

National Programs: silver medal, Chloe Flynn and Tana Babb

Illustrated Talk: silver medal, Kia Pillion and Kodi Martin

Job Interview: silver medal, Mikol Degele

Toys that Teach: silver medal, Sammy Hansen

Fashion Sketch: bronze medal, Summer Farmstead

Our keynote speaker was Brandon Lee White. Bailey Gauthier and Cajé Pillion attended a leadership workshop presented by Brandon.

Next month we will be electing our officers for the 2017-2018 school year.

Rebecka Lester and Heidi Gunderson honored

*NCWIT news release from Steve Harper,
Carroll College Computer Science Professor*

HELENA – As part of an effort to encourage more young women to choose careers in technology, the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT), NorthWestern Energy, and Carroll College will recognize 14 Montana high school women from 11 high schools for their accomplishments and aspirations in computing and technology. The award event will be held in the Fortin Science Center Scola at Carroll College on Saturday, April 8 at 5:30 p.m. and will feature four Montana IT women from NorthWestern Energy, Northrop Grumman and Google talking about their technology careers.

The NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing was created to promote the computing aspirations of young women, introduce them to leadership opportunities in the field, and generate visibility for women's participation in technology

fields. Winners are acknowledged for their outstanding aptitude and interest in technology and computing, leadership ability, academic history, and plans for post-secondary education.

National judges pick the Montana winners. This year, for the first time, two Montanans received NATIONAL HONORABLE MENTION: Samantha DeMartin from Jefferson High School and Betta Lyon-Delsordo from Missoula Big Sky High School.

The 2017 Montana winners are:

*Betta Lyon-Delsordo, junior, Big Sky High School
(National Honorable Mention) (2016 winner as well)

*Samantha DeMartin, senior, Jefferson High School
(National Honorable Mention)

*Jessica Jorgenson, senior, Bozeman High School
(2016 winner as well)

*Alora Newbury, senior, Whitefish High School
(2016 winner as well)

*Bryndon Wilkerson, junior, Helena High School
(2016 winner as well)

*Payten Zenahlik, junior, Cascade High School
(2016 winner as well)

*Laurynn Lauer, junior, Libby High School

***Rebecka Lester, junior, Absarokee High School**

*Aurora MacDonald, junior, Simms High School

*Rose Madison, senior, Whitefish High School

*Ilaya Payne, senior, Simms High School

*Bridget Powers, junior, Capital High School

*Sophia Richter, sophomore, Hellgate High School

*Anaka Ronan, senior, Helena High School

The 2017 Montana NCWIT Educator of the Year is Helena High's Buffy Smith.

The Honorable Mention Educator of the year is Absarokee High's Heidi Gunderson.

NCWIT is the National Center for Women & Information Technology, a non-profit coalition of over 300 prominent corporations, academic institutions, government agencies, and nonprofits working to improve U.S. innovation, competitiveness, and workforce sustainability by increasing women's participation in IT. NCWIT's work spans K-12 and higher education through industry and academic careers. Find out more at www.ncwit.org.

Billings Science Expo 2017 by Ms. Frazer

The 29th annual Billings Clinic Science Expo was held on March 24, 2017. This is a regional science fair for southeastern Montana. Over 350 students competed this year. Fifteen Absarokee students presented 13 projects. This is the 19th year that students from Absarokee have participated in the Science Expo, and they once again, won some awards.

Paige Steffenson & Kailey Campbell – 3rd place in 7th grade

Haley Richardson & Emily Routen – 3rd place in 8th grade;
Earth and Environmental Science Award

Dawson Lester – 5th place in 8th grade; Materials Science
Award; Judges' Choice Award

Christopher Pasecznyk– Craftsmanship Award
Mathematics Award

Hannes Chandler – Sustainable Development Award
***Hannes will be heading to Houston, Texas in May to compete in ISWEEP (International Sustainable World Engineering, Energy, and Environment Project Olympiad). This is an international science fair for high school students who did projects on environmental science related projects.*

Other students who participated were Ryan Barr, Aidan Dahl, Claire Hatch, Adree Langley, Belle Cox, Kayci Holybee, Kaiya Holmquist, Maggie Howes, and Peyton Langley.

Stillwater Valley FFA Members Find Success at State FFA Leadership Conference *by Mr. Zumbrun*

The Montana FFA Association recently hosted its annual state convention in Great Falls, where Colton Young received honors by taking 2nd place in the Discovery (Junior High) FFA Creed Speaking career development event. Colton is an 8th grader at Absarokee and is the son of Brian and Mindy Young of Fishtail.

Katrina Feddes of Absarokee received her State FFA Degree. Katrina is a senior at Absarokee and, upon graduation, plans to pursue a degree in Pharmacy. She is the daughter of Brian and Meredith Feddes.

Other achievements include: Ag Mechanics team of Mikol Degele, Tyler Planichek, Kodi Martin and Zack Martin placed 16th out of 68 teams. Mikol placed 23rd individually out of 249 participants.

The livestock evaluation team of Trevor Zumbrun, Kennedy Ekwortzel, Chase Ostrum and Mikol Degele placed 28th out of 71 teams.

The Stillwater Valley FFA was also recognized at the awards session for having displayed outstanding courtesy and respect throughout the convention. Tim Zumbrun is their advisor and stated, "Having our kids recognized for their respectful and courteous behavior makes me proud as an advisor. Every time I get the chance to travel with kids of this quality, I am pleased with how well they represent our school and community".

Our chapter is planning a busy spring with the chapter banquet being held on May 9th and the FFA Flower sale taking place at the school shop on Thursday and Friday, May 11th and 12th. We have some exciting summer events

planned to participate in or help with, including: Montana Range Days (June 19-21), MT BBQ Cook-off (June 25) and the Stillwater County Fair (July 16-22).

As this will be our last newsletter for this school year, we wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer!

Husky music notes *by Mrs. Seibert*

WOW! Your Husky Music Program has been SUPER successful this year!! Last month, the Absarokee High School Concert Band was awarded the **HIGHEST LEVEL** that the MHSA allows at District Festival Competition! Congratulations, Husky Band for your "**LEVEL I - SUPERIOR**" score!!! The Absarokee Concert Choir was not far behind, receiving a "**LEVEL II - EXCELLENT**" score! Way to go, Husky musicians!!

Six Absarokee students have been chosen to travel to **MHS A STATE SOLO/ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL COMPETITION**, May 5-6 in Billings! Kudos to Peyson Acree, Tana Babb, Summer Farmstead, Chloe Flynn, Bailey Gauthier and Maggie Howes!!

Four Absarokee Band Students - Tana Babb, Hannes Chandler, Chloe Flynn and Kaiya Holmquist were chosen to represent the **MONTANA TRI-COUNTY HONOR BAND** on a tour of the Seattle, WA area the last week of April.

The SPRING CONCERT for the Elementary School will be Thursday, May 11, @ 7 pm in the Elementary Gym.

The High School/Junior High SPRING CONCERT & ART SHOW will be Tuesday, May 16, @ 7 pm in the High School Gym. Awards and recognition for outstanding Music Students will take place that evening, as well!

Equipment purchased by a **MUSIC LITERACY GRANT** from our own **TIPPET RISE** Foundation are being put in place and will be introduced to classrooms this month and put into full use come fall. Be sure to thank these generous folks, whenever you have the chance !!!

Finally, **HUSKY MUSIC Fundraiser Discount Cards** are still available !!! These cards provide great discounts that are good through the end of December!! Buy your CARD today and help support the GREAT Absarokee Schools Music Department !!!

30 Years Ago - A Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is launched in Absarokee

An archived collection of 1987 A.H.S. newsletters revealed the establishment of Absarokee's Parent Teacher Association. The writer of the article below was likely Paul Jenkins, the elementary principal in 1987. Over the years, parental

involvement has waxed and waned, yet every year, committed members have taken on many worthwhile causes in our school. Our children and educators have enjoyed many good years as a result of that decision 30 years ago to establish a P.T.A. in Absarokee. Our thanks goes out to all those who contributed over the years in advocating for our children through P.T.A.

The news article from 1987 . . .

WANTED: PARENT INVOLVEMENT!!

"In my conversation with many parents in Absarokee, it has become very clear that there is a need for a Parent Teacher Association in our schools. Thanks to some legwork and time, a few parents have assisted me in scheduling our first organizational meeting. On Thursday, November 5, at 7:00 p.m. in the high school library/study hall, we will welcome two guest speakers, Del Christman and Valerie Ward, who will explain what the P.T.A. organization is all about and how we can form our own organization.

We are hoping for a large turnout of mothers and fathers. I feel that an organization such as the P.T.A. will allow everyone to learn more about education in general and to learn more specifically about what goes on in Absarokee Public Schools.

So please, take a small amount of your time and see what we are all about on Thursday evening, November 5th. I am really looking forward to seeing parents of our children, senior citizens and any other party that has an interest in their schools. "

Congratulations PTA on your 30th anniversary of advocating for Absarokee's students and supporting our teachers!!!

Year end meal account information

All meal accounts are zeroed out at year-end; accounts with charges will need to be paid, and refunds will be sent home with students who have a positive balance in their account.

With this in mind, we would appreciate it, when sending meal money in May, that you NOT send more money than is needed to get your child through to the end of the year.

Payment reminder tickets are given to students as they pass through the lunch line, please check with your child to see if he/she has received one of these low-balance / negative balance notifications. **Please be sure all charges have been paid in full by Monday, May 22nd so we can complete our bookkeeping.**

NOTE:

TUESDAY, MAY 23rd : NO BREAKFAST SERVED @ SCHOOL

**TUESDAY, MAY 23rd : NO LUNCH SERVED @ SCHOOL
(students need to bring a sack lunch)**

Tuesday is set aside for bookkeeping/inventory purposes

WEDS, MAY 24th: NO BREAKFAST SERVED @ SCHOOL

WEDS, MAY 24th : DISMISS FOR THE YEAR @ 10:30 a.m.

Summertime! Summertime!

If you plan to move over the summer, and your children will not be enrolled in the Absarokee Schools next year, please contact the school so we can better plan class assignments scheduling and staffing needs for the upcoming school year. High School phone: 328-4583 Elementary phone: 328-4581

Summer hours at Absarokee Schools

- ✦ **The high school office** will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday during the summer months. It will be closed on Fridays.
- ✦ **The elementary office** is open the week after school dismisses and the week before school resumes in late summer, but will be closed during the summer months. Please contact the high school office for any elementary school related needs during the summer.

Elementary class assignments / supply lists for the 2017-18 school year will be mailed out to students and parents the first week of August. **SUPPLY LISTS WILL ALSO BE POSTED TO THE SCHOOL WEBSITE IN MAY FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF EARLY SHOPPERS.** Please note: Absarokee Schools DOES NOT post supply lists at any stores.

Summer food program

A summer breakfast and lunch program will again be offered at the school. Breakfast will be served from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. and lunch will be served from 11:30 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday thru Thursday at the school cafeteria. The program will begin on May 30th and is **FREE** to ANY child under the age of 19. Any questions, please call 328-4583.

Vaccinations for KG and 7th graders

- ✦ Documentation of all required vaccinations to enroll in school in the fall **must be provided prior to the beginning of school** in order for Kindergarten students to attend school. Contact the school office with any questions.
- ✦ **Prior** to school entry in the fall of 2016, **students entering grade 7** must have a **booster of tetanus and diphtheria** containing vaccine (if no tetanus or diphtheria vaccine has been given for 5 years).

Athletic physicals

All elementary, junior high and high school athletes are **REQUIRED** to have a yearly physical exam in order to participate in any of the school sports programs. A Montana High School Association (MHS) athletic physical form must be completed and signed by the physician and turned in to Tonya Steffenson, Absarokee Schools athletic director **before** a student can attend athletic practices. Forms are available at the Absarokee Medical Clinic and the high school.

Absarokee Schools
327 South Woodard Ave
Absarokee, MT 59001

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BOXHOLDER

Sports physicals are \$49.00 at the Absarokee Clinic, but can be covered by a family's insurance if it is included in a well child office visit. The Clinic asks that you schedule appointments ahead of time in the summer so there is not a rush at the beginning of the school year.

It is very helpful to have ALL documentation of physicals turned in to the school PRIOR to the beginning of the school year, even if your child's choice of sport is later in the year.

ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK SOON!

The **DUE DATE** to order a yearbook (\$35) is **May 15th**. Books should be arriving in June.... check in with the High School office or watch for an announcement on Facebook. For detailed ordering information, please refer to the instructions in Mrs. Gunderson' insert inside of this newsletter

Though the largest share of the yearbook contains High School memories, Elementary and Jr High student photos can also be found in it. Down the road, it is a great keepsake of KG – 12 school years!

PERFORMANCES

Elementary School
SPRING CONCERT
Elementary School gym
Thursday, May 11th 7:00pm

Jr. High / High School
SPRING CONCERT & ART SHOW
High School Gym
Tuesday, May 16th – 6:00 (Art) 7:00 (Concert)

MISSOULA CHILDRENS THEATRE - "The Wiz of the West"
Two performances:
Friday, May 5th 7:00pm
Saturday, May 6th 3:00pm

MCT musicals are always lively and lots of fun! The plays are designed to accommodate a large number of budding performers from our school. You'll be amazed by the results of just one week of rehearsals under the direction of the MCT professionals! A **BIG THANK YOU** to the **MONTANA MASONIC FOUNDATION** for its generous grant of **\$2400.00**; the full cost of bringing Missoula Childrens Theatre to Absarokee! (see detailed article in the Elementary Principals report, page 1 of this newsletter).

The performance is **FREE** to the public. Come & enjoy!

SPRING FLOWER & PLANT SALES

Thursday, May 11th 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Friday, May 12th from 10 am to 5 pm
LOCATION: High School Vo-Ag Shop

Large selection of flowers, hanging baskets, bedding plants, vegetable plants, etc.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Sunday, May 21st 2:00 p.m.
High School Gym
KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Mrs. Johna Zumbrun,
AHS Government / History / Geography Teacher

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY

At Absarokee Schools, we are truly grateful for the wonderful support of our community. Many individuals, groups, and businesses have shared their unique talents, expertise and resources to help us out in a variety of ways this past year. Thank you, everyone. It is true

"It takes a whole village to raise one child."



School will resume for the 2017–2018 school year on Wednesday, August 23, 2017. A calendar for the upcoming school year is included in this newsletter as an insert.