

January 1, 2024



## Closing a Chapter (2023) . . . Starting a New One (2024)

Dear Butte Falls Charter School Parents and Community Members,

Our students and staff finished 2023 with a very successful December. Here are a few highlights:



*A theatrical re-enactment of the 12 Days of Christmas! 12/12/23*

**Elementary Winter Program.** We were thankful for a standing room only Winter Program on December 12. Families and friends came in droves to support and enjoy our elementary students as they sang, acted, drummed, piped, leaped, danced, milked, swam, lay, called, and chirped their way through multiple holiday songs. Throughout the program, our middle school students treated us to a multi-act rendition of A Christmas Carol.

The applause was resounding as the program concluded, muffling some clatter on the roof of the gym. That being said, in keeping with our tradition, Santa Claus appeared from the back of the audience and greeted all guests who exited the main entrance to the gym.

Thank you to our cooperative students, persevering teachers, and ever-supportive staff for making sure our students were prepared to share with our community. And thank you to our parents and community members who showed up to enjoy and appreciate our students' efforts!



*A Full House (performers and audience) waits expectantly for the Winter Program! 12/12/23*



*Kindergartners start the program with rousing Christmas song! 12/12/23*



*A Special Guest arrives at the end of the program! (There was no apparent damage to the rooftop.) 12/12/23*

**Meanwhile, back at the High School, a Winter Assembly.** One of the benefits of being a smaller school is our ability to create elective courses that respond to student interests. This fall, several students shared that they would like to have time to put together a band and learn some songs together. Starting in early November, we are offering a nine-week elective called “Band Jam.” The class meets every day with Mr. Dufresne as their teacher/director and experiments with various instruments and sounds. One outcome already accomplished is that they were able to put together a short concert which they performed at our Winter Assembly.



*The “Band Jam” ensemble debuted at the High School Winter Assembly. 12/14/23*



*An attentive student audience enjoyed the Band Jam performance. 12/14/23*

At the Assembly, we awarded Gold Cards to six of our students (a Citizenship Award), celebrated our November Students of the Month, and acknowledged all students who had obtained a 3.0 GPA or higher for first Quarter classes. Five of our students attained 4.0 GPAs.

For fun, each class competed for class points in a challenging vocabulary game and then we had hot chocolate. Finally, we cleaned out lockers to make sure no food items would become inadvertent biology experiments over the holiday break.

### **Helping Students stay Healthy and in School.**



*Lions Vision Screeners efficiently screened 129 students for potential vision/acute conditions.*

We are thankful for the [Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation](#) for providing free vision screening for our students. A team of screeners set up their equipment on the stage at the elementary campus and completed screening for 129 of our students. The process took less than 30 seconds per student.

The screening identifies potential vision conditions such as farsightedness, nearsightedness or astigmatism. We will share the results with parents of any student who should be referred for further testing. Vision conditions like these can impact a student’s ability to learn, but can usually be corrected with prescription glasses or contacts.

**Thank you, Medford Fabrication.** Christmas came early for our metals manufacturing class when a large truck showed up in early December and delivered new steel welding tables and metal storage baskets.

For over 80 years, [Medford Fabrication](#) has been serving companies across the nation and the world with specialized metals fabrication, assembly, installation, and finishing services. The company is involved in the design and reconstruction of some of the infrastructure needed for a new viewing platform by the actual Butte Falls. When Senior Project Manager Ric Walsh was up here tending to that project, he stopped by and saw we had a need. After consulting with Medford President Bill Thorndike, he worked with an intern from the RCC Welding program to design, fabricate and deliver the goods! Voila! We are grateful for support like this for our students and programs.



*Ric Walsh and RCC welding intern, Quade, deliver two new steel welding tables and two new scrap metal containers.*



*BFCS welding students paint the new tables and baskets. 12/13/23*

**Middle School Basketball: A Season Ends, a New One Begins.** Our Middle School Boys Basketball team successfully completed its season with its last home game on December 11. The five eighth grade players were recognized in front of an enthusiastic home audience. The team fielded enough players to have a JV and Varsity team.



*Jump ball! Middle School basketball games are fast-paced, entertaining, and exciting!*



*Eighth grade players receive new basketballs in recognition of their middle school basketball accomplishments. 12/11/23*

Next up is our Middle School Girls Basketball season which runs in January and February. The schedule is posted on our website. (Click on the [Athletics](#) tab to find the schedule.) Wrestling is also underway.

**Butte Falls Charter School Accreditation Review.**

Our school is accredited by Cognia, the world’s largest educational accreditation community, serving more than 20,000 public and private schools and districts across the United States and in more than 70 countries.

This process is designed to help schools maintain best practices for ensuring student success and ensure high school credits are credible when students transfer from one high school to another.

Butte Falls Charter School (and our District) will be undergoing a review of our mission, goals, values, philosophy of education, systems, programs, and processes in February. We will be demonstrating the ways we identify student learning needs, gain feedback from students, parents, and staff, follow state and federal requirements, and work to improve the performance of students and staff. This process usually occurs every seven years but was delayed because of the pandemic. The results of this review will be available in late-spring.



*Thank you to Mr. Childers for installing our new drinking fountain/bottle filler by the entrance to the gym concession stand! This drinking fountain delivers fresh water from our local Ginger Springs. 12/26/23*

**Here are some important upcoming District dates. Please check the District News and Events at our website ([www.buttefalls.k12.or.us](http://www.buttefalls.k12.or.us)) for any updates.**

- **Classes Resume** – Tuesday, January 2
- **Friday School** – January 5 (**Please plan to send your student to school**)
- **School Board Meeting** – 6:00 p.m., Monday, January 8, at District Office
- **Martin Luther King, Jr., Day** – No School – Monday, January 15
- **Possible Snow Makeup Day** – Friday, January 19 (If we have a snow day before then)
- **End of Second 9 Week Term** – Thursday, January 25.
- **First Day of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter** – Monday, January 29.
- **School Board Meeting** – 6:00 p.m., Monday, February 12, at District Office
- **Martin Luther King, Jr., Day** – No School – Monday, February 19

Thank you for your support and encouragement for our students and staff! We hope to see you at our community and sports event!

Sincerely,

Dr. Phil Long, Superintendent

**What you focus on gets done!**