



Half Done, but Still All In!

Dear Butte Falls Charter School Parents and Community Members,

This past Thursday we marked the halfway point in our 2022-23 school year. While temperatures have remained quite chilly, we are enjoying winter sunshine and already seeing signs of the coming spring. In January, our students and staff settled back in to a steady rhythm of teaching and learning. We accomplished a lot together and it looks like February will continue our steady progress.

Excellent Attendance at our January 6th Friday School.

Thank you, parents and students, for ensuring very high daily attendance on our only Friday school day of the year. As a special treat both campuses enjoyed a 30 minute concert by the Eagle Point Jazz Band. The high school staff put an additional spin on the day declaring it “French Friday” and infused French terms and games into various classes throughout the day. Students earned tickets for a drawing and 15 students were awarded a large serving of French Fries from the Butte Falls Café after the end of the day assembly.

Our Village Supports our Students!

We are grateful for the support provided by our local businesses for our students and their projects. Paul and Teresa Price own and operate the Butte Falls Café. They not only prepared very fresh French Fries, they also have been willing to allow several of our students to advertise their Senior Project fundraisers and gather contributions at the café counter. Senior Colby Terrell is rebuilding a Fire Trailer for the district and recently completed a 50/50 raffle ticket contest to help fund his project. The winning ticket was drawn last week and the winner gifted back their winning portion to the project with the condition they could remain anonymous. Rebecca Misfeldt is also fundraising for her project which will purchase and plant approximately 25 fruit trees in public spaces in town. The intent is not only to add greenery to our town but also to provide the public with access to fruit. She has donation jars available at Town Hall, the General Store, the Butte Falls Café and the Sugar Pine Café. Kudos to these businesses for visibly supporting these and other projects and to our seniors for choosing projects that make our community safer and healthier.



Paul/Teresa Price – Butte Falls Café.



Senior Project fundraiser information.



Colby rebuilds our fire trailer.

Community Listening Session on Tuesday, February 21, at 6:00 p.m.

After last year’s successful Listening Session, our District would like to sponsor another one this month. Members of the School Board and school administrators will host this evening event so parents, students, and patrons can come and share your ideas and concerns out loud while we listen. We are interested in hearing about what is working, what could use some improvement, or what we might think about doing differently. Our common goal is for our school to grow in healthy ways that help our students, families and community.

Speakers have three minutes to share with the group. Please consider attending and sharing. The Community Listening Session will meet in the Elementary Gymnasium and run from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. If you would like to give feedback but are unable to attend, please email your comments to Feedback@buttefalls.k12.or.us.

Elementary Winter Program.

Santa postponed his public appearance until January 11 when our students were healthy enough to share holiday cheer in song at our Annual Winter Holiday Concert. It was truly a celebration to have our community back together for this long-time tradition. Happy New Year!



Kindergarten/1st Grade reindeer.



6th/7th Grade welcome Santa Claus.

Should we shift our school week to Tuesday-Fridays? Important February Parent Survey.

At our January School Board meeting, we discussed the possibility of shifting our weekly schedule next year from Monday-Thursday to Tuesday-Friday. Why might we do this? One of the biggest reasons is to provide easier access for families to doctors, dentists and other healthcare providers. We are finding more and more that such professionals are shifting to a four-day work week and are not as accessible on Fridays. If we make this change we believe we can reduce the number of absences due to such appointments. That is not only for our students but also for our employees who have children and must take time away from the classroom for such appointments. Additionally, a number of school year holidays fall on Mondays and we end up extending the school year to ensure we provide enough hours of instruction to be in compliance with state requirements. What do you think?

We will be sending out our short survey to parents in mid-February. Other district patrons may email your thoughts on this to Feedback@buttefalls.k12.or.us. We will be discussing this with the school board at our March 13 School Board meeting. Our goal is to have next year’s School Year Calendar finalized by mid-April so families can begin to plan for the coming year.

Forest Service Collaborates with Wood Shop Class

Veteran U.S. Forest Service employee and Butte Falls community member Blair Anderson is supplying our 3rd quarter Wood Shop class with a large supply of hefty Forest Service picnic tables that need significant refurbishing. Our students will dismantle, plane and rebuild the tables for redeployment in Forest Service sites. This community service project allows our students to practice and learn skills that can be applied to other manufacturing projects in the coming years. We appreciate opportunities to partner with agencies and businesses on projects like this because our students get first-hand insight into a variety of jobs and occupations not readily visible at traditional public schools. Thank you, Blair!



Forest Service employee Blair Anderson delivers the first load of picnic tables to our Natural Resource Center for Wood Shop refurbishing.



Our students practice creativity & problem solving and build confidence & collaboration skills at school.

Students complete Robotics Course.

High School students successfully met the construction and programming challenges included in our Lego robotics elective course. Taught by High School Math Teacher Shayna Brown, this course allows students to learn programming skills that direct mobile robotic devices. As more and more manufacturing processes incorporate computerized processes, courses like this expand student knowledge and skills in computer science, engineering design, physical science and coding as well as academic practices in mathematics, mechanical engineering and computational thinking. (It is also fun learning!)

Applying Math Skills to Working Models.

Math is just one of the important academic disciplines that help our students better understand how and why things work the way they do. Put the wrong-sized wheels on your vehicle and you will find that your odometer or speedometer is affected. Why is that? In our Advanced Math class students were on a roll as they tested their abilities to apply Advanced Algebra and Geometry to understand the relationship between distance and the diameter of a wheel. An additional limitation was that the body of the car had to be a rectangular prism with a volume of exactly 240 cubic centimeters. You can try this at home!



The final Adv. Math 2nd quarter test: Your car must travel exactly 3 meters in exactly 14 wheel revolutions.

Butte Falls Natural Resource Center Community Work Day.

Our High School Science Teacher, Ben DeCarlow, has organized a Work Day at our District Natural Resource Center (580 Fish Road) on Saturday, February 4, from 9:00 to 3:00. He has identified a list of various types of projects that need to be completed and will be on site to assign and support whoever is willing to help. This Work Day is open to students, parents, other family members and interested community members. Check in with Mr. DeCarlow when you arrive and he will make sure you have any tools and safety gear you may need.

With help from many partners, parents, community members, staff and students, the District is transforming the former Butte Falls Fish Hatchery property into a remarkably versatile outdoor learning center. This event helps us make sure the site is ready for expanded usage by our students and other educational partners as spring comes.

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

- Natural Resource Center Community Work Day – Saturday, February 4, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Monthly School Board Meeting – Monday, February 13, at 6:00 p.m., District Office
- President’s Day Holiday – No School – Monday, February 20.
- MS Girls Basketball games (current schedule is on our District website-upcoming events).
- MS/HS Wrestling Meets (current schedule is on our District website-upcoming events).

We are looking forward to spring and the many celebrations of learning that are yet to come. Thank you for your support and encouragement for our students and staff! We are all working hard for your student’s success.

Sincerely,



Dr. Phil Long, Superintendent
From small seeds grow mighty trees!

Bonus Story

This past week our 1st-graders came to the Natural Resource Center and studied how the angle of sunlight can cast shadows. Using small objects (plastic dinosaurs were especially popular), pencils and paper, the students traced the shadows that emerged. We are thankful for sunny days when shadows come out to follow us around.

