

March 1, 2024



Jackson County School District #91 (Butte Falls)

## It's Time to Spring Forward!

(Be sure to set your clocks forward on March 10.)

Dear Butte Falls Charter School Parents and Community Members,

2024 is well underway. We enjoyed a mild February with crocuses, violets, and daffodils popping up a little early this year. Even so, we have not yet met the moment where daylight hours exceed nighttime hours. To combat some of the doldrums that accompany winter, our middle school and high school students enjoyed social dances on February 15. The middle school dance (Grades 6-7) was held late afternoon in the Elementary Library; the high school Winter Formal Dance was held at the Butte Falls Community Center.



*DJ E. Bowers kept the playlist moving! 02/15/24*

### Honoring Student Academic, Citizenship, and Athletic Accomplishments.

The High School campus held its monthly school-wide Activity Assembly on Thursday, February 15. Special recognition was given to students who had achieved a 3.0 or higher GPA (Grade Point Average) during the second quarter, to students who had increased their GPA from first quarter, to students of the month, and to athletes who had achieved honor at the recent high school District Championships. Continuing our tradition of promoting class spirit and having fun, each class competed in our annual Hungry Hippo competition to gain Spirit Points for their classes.



*February Spirit Assembly included four rounds of Hungry, Hungry Hippos. Each class attempted to capture the most balls to earn class points for the year-long class competition. The Junior/Senior Team took first, barely beating out the also very hungry ninth-grade class! 2/15/2024*

### **High School Wrestlers Place at District Meet.**

While our numbers are small (three boys and three girls), our wrestlers flexed their muscles and applied their skills at the recent Boys District Championship Tournament in Lowell, Oregon, and the Girls District Championship Tournament in Cottage Grove. Junior Logan Acosta placed 6<sup>th</sup> (Boys Weight Class 150) and Sophomore Mark Cruse placed 6<sup>th</sup> (Boys Weight Class 180). Juniors Kaden Mullan and Brienne Williams and Freshmen Autumn McGraw and Leah Gneiting also successfully completed the season.

Congratulations to these hard-working athletes and to Coach Jason Haskell (HS) and Ted Birdseye (MS) who are building a competitive Middle School/High School wrestling program. It takes grit, determination, commitment to working hard in practice, and showing up every day after school ready to go to be successful. That goes for the athletes and the coaches. Coach Haskell says: "I am proud of my team for every challenge we faced, on or off the mat, these kids excelled. The greatest joy I have is watching my wrestlers grow and succeed in the toughest sport around!"

The next school sport up? Spring Track and Field. Let's go, Loggers!

### **SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) Program underway.**

We started our weekly SMART Reading activities on February 13. With help of a committed cadre of Middle School readers, we meet weekly for two 25-minute reading buddy sessions. The first session is with all kindergartners; the second is with all first-graders. These young students choose from a wide variety of early-reading books and listen and discuss the book with their reader. SMART Reading is a statewide non-profit organization which provides up to 14 new books each year to primary students who participate in this program. The sessions will run weekly through May.



*Books and Kids – That's what happens every Wednesday afternoon in our elementary library. SMART will help us give away almost 400 books this year to Kindergartners and First Graders. Thank you to students in Mrs. Ealy's 6<sup>th</sup> Grade and Mrs. Dufresne's 7<sup>th</sup> Grade classes for being such good reading buddies.*

**David Heller Foundation Donates Portable Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to Butte Falls Charter School.**



**What better place to celebrate a life-saving gift of a portable AED from the David Heller Foundation than at the annual Middle School Basketball game between two Upper Rogue Girls teams! The Butte Falls Lady Loggers and the Prospect Bobcats and their coaches huddled together before tipoff to celebrate this gift in front of fans from both communities. 1/31/2024**

The [David Heller Foundation](#) was established in 2006 shortly after the death of David Heller. David was 17 and a junior at Central Catholic High School in Portland, Oregon. In November 2005, after playing in a basketball game, David died in his sleep during the night from Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (enlarged heart), the most common cause of sudden death in athletes.

David was cleared to play sports three weeks before he died. He had no known heart condition. A foundation was created in his name to promote the importance of cardiac screening in teen athletes. The foundation also works to identify schools in need of a portable AED that can be on the bus, on the field or wherever they have students, athletes, fans, and school activities. The foundation has distributed over 300 AEDs since 2015.

With this gift, our elementary, secondary, and Natural Resources campuses will now have AEDs readily accessible in case of an emergency. **Thank you, David Heller Foundation for blessing communities across Oregon while honoring David's life!**

## Lunch Options for High School

Free Breakfast and Lunch is one of the services our district makes available to all Butte Falls students. Our Breakfast After Bell program ensures ready access to food after the buses arrive, and to students who may arrive a few minutes late to school. At the high school, students earn the privilege to Off-Campus lunch mid-day. This year several parents have wanted to give their high school student a surprise lunch but want to make sure they get it to their student in time for lunch. Our high school lunch period is from 12:35 to 1:06. If you want to drop lunch by for your student, please deliver it to the high school main office by 12:30. We expect all students to be finished eating and on-time to their Period 6 classes at 1:06.

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.

- **Teacher Inservice/Planning Day** - Friday, March 1
- **Daylight Savings Time begins** – Sunday, March 10, 2024 (Set Clocks forward 1 hour)
- **March School Board Meeting** – 6:00 p.m., Monday, March 11, at District Office
- **Spring Break – No School** - March 25-28
- **School Resumes** – Monday, April 1 (A regular school day - no foolin'!)
- **Last Day of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter** – Thursday, April 4
- **Teacher Inservice/Planning Day** - Friday, April 5
- **First Day of 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter** – Monday, April 8
- **April School Board Meeting** – 6:00 p.m., Monday, April 8, at District Office
- **School-Wide Earth Day** – Wednesday, April 17
- **Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences** - Thursday/Friday, April 18-19
- **May School Board Meeting** – 6:00 p.m., Monday, May 13, at District Office
- **Open House** – Wednesday, May 16, in the evening
- **Memorial Day – No School** – Monday, May 27
- **Possible Snow Makeup Day** – Friday, May 31 (If we have a Snow Day closure before then)

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

Sincerely,



Dr. Phil Long, Superintendent

*What you focus on gets done!*



*9<sup>th</sup> Grade Advisor Mr. Carrigan supervises the Game Concessions Team at a recent basketball game. 1/31/2024*