

April 1, 2023  
(No foolin')



Jackson County School District #91 (Butte Falls)

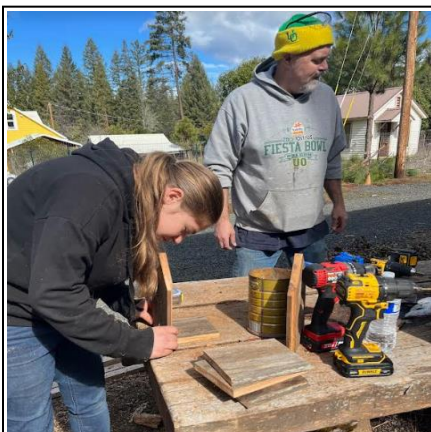
## Spring Up!

Dear Butte Falls Charter School Parents and Community Members,

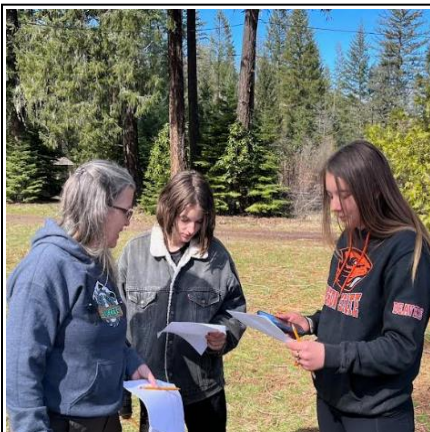
We made it to April! We've endured unusually severe winter weather and the annual "spring forward" time change. Our daylight hours are lengthening. Things are beginning to green up as warming temperatures entice grass, flowers, and other foliage to reappear. We anticipate a busy and productive (and fun) spring!

### Middle School Spring Break Day Camp

While many students and staff took advantage of the Spring Break to enjoy a change of pace, an intrepid team of teachers were joined by fourteen 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students at our first annual three-day Spring Break Day Camp.



Working with basic power tools to build Avian domiciles.



Team consultation during outdoor floral scavenger hunt.



Finishing touches on a new bench.

Each day students worked with their hands and heads to build with wood (tool boxes, bird houses, benches, signs), cook (Dutch oven recipes), program (robotic vehicles), photograph and publish (applying basic photography design principles), and hike (trips to Whiskey Springs and Lost Creek Lake).



Afternoon Field Trip to Whiskey Springs National Forest

### Lunchtime at Spring Break Day Camp!



Concentration and Focus!

Thank you to Mr. Ben DeCarlow for securing a grant from the Gray Family Foundation to fund this camp, and to Mrs. Tonya Noon-Toledo, Mrs. Melodie Ealy, Ms. Shayna Brown, Mr. Cy Carrigan, Mr. Eli Bowers, and guest teacher, Mr. Brian Smith, for designing and leading all of these interesting mini-lessons and projects. Mr. DeCarlow also served as our bus driver and guide for the field trips.

### School District Listening Session

On Monday, March 20, the district held its public listening session at the elementary campus. Eight parents and community members attended and shared a variety of thoughts about ways to improve our school and our community. Topping the list were concerns about student safety and discipline, staffing, expanding opportunities for student learning, and sports. School Board members Katie Misfeldt (Chair), Mark Carlton, and Bonnie Freeman were joined by Superintendent Phil Long and Principal Karina Ferre.



District Listening Session: March 20 2023.

### Attendance Matters

We have about 43 more school days before the end of the term. While we have experienced a higher than expected absenteeism rate this year during the winter months, we appreciate parents keeping students home when they are sick. Now that we are coming out of the flu season, we are looking for attendance to improve as we accelerate learning through June. Every day matters. Please help your student to get a good night of sleep. We plan to keep them engaged in learning every day.

### Spring Conferences

We will be contacting parents the first week in April to schedule time for Spring Parent/Student/Teacher conferences. This is a great chance to see and celebrate the progress your student has made since the beginning of the school year. Conferences will be held on Thursday, April 20, in the afternoon and evening, and Friday, April 21, for most of the day. We will work to coordinate the times for you if you have multiple students at our school.

## Community Dodgeball Tournament

In an effort to encourage community participation in our school and provide fundraising opportunities for our secondary students, we enjoyed our Spring Dodgeball tournament on Thursday, March 23. Eight 4-person teams competed to be the most artful dodgers. Teams included students, staff members, parents and friends. The most persistent team, Team Sutfin, took the championship after unleashing its secret Dodgeball weapon (Chase Ellis). Congratulations to all the participants and to the ninth-grade class for sponsoring a very fun community event! Below is a montage of photos from this fiercely fought competition!



Ninth Grade team challenges the White family team in the first seconds of a match!



Teams became fans and fans became teams! Pastor Evan Goettel redeemed the most team members through his amazing capacity to catch (rather than dodge) balls.



Team Sutfin in action! As the tournament moved forward, the play became more intense!



The victors pose for a team photo with the tourney bracket board. (They even brought their own team photographer!)

## High School Learning Opportunities and Electives and Community Involvement

This year we have required our sixteen twelfth-graders to be on campus throughout the day. This has allowed us to provide additional coursework in life skills and preparation for adulthood. There have been some additional benefits as well. Five of the students are taking on-line classes through Rogue Community College. Several others have pursued volunteer work in the community helping at The Landing with the food pantry and the Clothing Closet. Two others volunteer an hour each day

serving lunch at the elementary school. Still others have used this time to keep up on their courses to ensure they will graduate in June.

One newly emerging opportunity is short-duration employment in Butte Falls. This allows students to gain work experience, practice customer service skills, and learn how to process cash and credit card transactions. It also provides them with a work reference. Recently, Rini Gorman and Dianne Gorman purchased the Pitt Stop gas station in town. Located directly across from the Sugar Pine Company Café, you may notice the changes and improvements to the facility as they seek to spiff it up and expand hours. Recognizing the importance of employability skills and work experience, they are currently providing three of our seniors' short-term one-hour per day internships working at the gas station. Thank you, Dianne and Rini, for supervising these internships and encouraging our students as they complete high school. We look forward to identifying other short-term work internship opportunities for our students. If you have some ideas, please email us at [Feedback@buttefalls.k12.or.us](mailto:Feedback@buttefalls.k12.or.us).



Senior Seth Epps on the job!



Donations make a difference!

One of the benefits of our small school is that we are able to develop nine-week elective courses that meet our students' interests. Starting on April 10, we will offer an Astronomy class to our high school students. I mentioned this to my dad, Gary Long, on a recent visit as he has always been curious about astronomy and science. He showed me a telescope he had picked up recently at a second-hand store and sent it home with me to give to our school. It now resides in our science room, ready for some star-gazing later this spring.

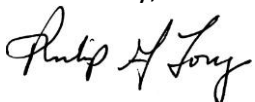
If you have science equipment or art supplies or construction tools or board games or other such items that could help us meet individual learning needs of our students, please email us. It means a lot to our students when we can respond to their individual interests.

**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.**

- End of Third Quarter Grading Period – April 6
- HS Track/MS Track Meets – See website for schedule
- Parent Involvement Group Meeting – TBD (Elementary Library)
- Monthly School Board Meeting – Monday, April 10, at 6:00 p.m. (District Office)
- Annual School-Wide Earth Day Event – Wednesday, April 19
- Parent/Student/Teacher Spring Conferences – April 20-21
- National Teacher Appreciation Week – May 8-12

Thank you for your support and encouragement for our students and staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phil Long".

Dr. Phil Long, Superintendent

***From small seeds grow mighty trees!***