



## April Showers Bring May Flowers

Dear Butte Falls Charter School Parents and Community Members,

April began with snowy, icy weather and ended with temperatures in the 90s. In between those weather extremes we kept very busy with spring learning activities. A highlight for the month was our annual school-wide Earth Day. This and other school activities made April a very busy month.



**Butte Falls Charter School – Earth Day 2023**  
Thank you Ruby and Cecil!

### Earth Day at Butte Falls Charter School

Our entire school spent Wednesday, April 26, teaching, learning and working together at our Butte Falls Natural Resource Center campus. During the morning our 8<sup>th</sup> grade and high school students led our Kindergarten through 7<sup>th</sup> grade students through activities exploring animal diversity, plant diversity, water, and the impact of plastics on our environment.



Thinking about how hydroponics allow healthy plants to be grown year round.



High School students explain how water recirculates in hydroponics lab.



Mrs. Childer's first graders on the move to their next learning station.



7<sup>th</sup> grade friends take a lunch break.

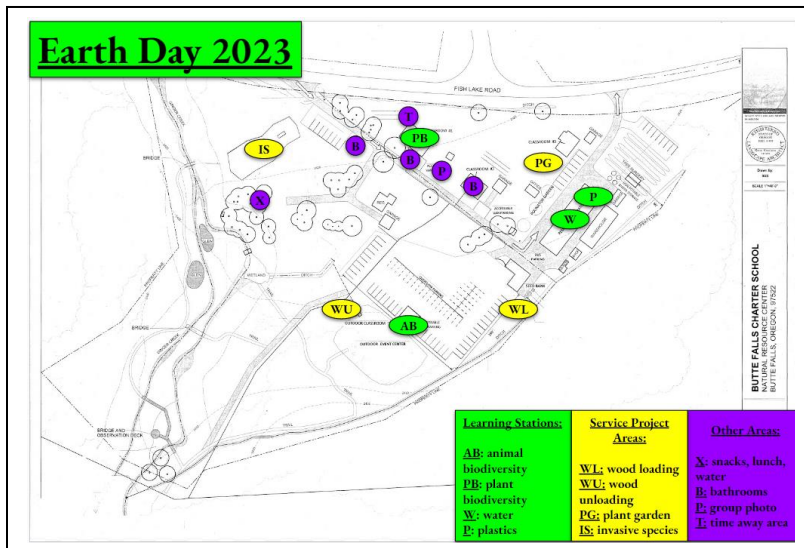


Kindergarteners refuel for more fun. .



Middle Schoolers enjoy the bridge.

After a delicious picnic lunch packed in paper sacks by our nutrition services kitchen team, we posed for a school photo and acknowledged the investment by Ruby Edwards and Cecil Bailey in funding for activities like this. Their recent gift to our school is used to fund service projects by students and to encourage stewardship of our natural resources.



In the afternoon middle and high school students helped with on-site service projects in the NRC garden and around the NRC campus.



8th grade students work together to install a protective fence for newly planted fruit trees in the "Food Forest."



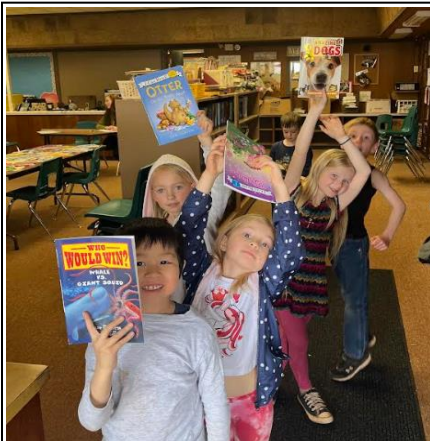
Mrs. Ealy's Sixth Grade students move wood chips to the new garden path.

## Reading is SMART!

We were able to restart our SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) Reading program this winter after a two year pandemic break. This year sixth and seventh graders have applied to be readers. SMART Reading provides a wide selection of grade level books. Our Kindergarten and First grade students read with their reader for 20 minutes each Wednesday afternoon. At the end of the session each student may select a book to take home for their own personal library. SMART is a state-wide non-profit organization dedicated to supporting literacy and positive relationships. You may learn more at <https://smartreading.org>.



Partner reading in the Library.



New books to take home!



Nice weather? Let's read outside!

## High School Construction Class is on the Job!

Mr. Chris Mathas is back leading a crew of 10 students through our latest NRC construction project. Last summer the underground electrical and plumbing infrastructure was installed and a concrete base was poured.

This spring our students are immersed in learning to read blueprints and following the specifications to build the walls and install the trusses for our new public restrooms that will serve students and guests at the NRC. Mr. Mathas has acquired a grant which is helping to underwrite a stipend for those crew members who complete the work during fourth quarter.

People often ask how a small school can provide opportunities for students to learn trades like construction, welding, and carpentry. The NRC provides the perfect venue for such opportunities through projects like this. It augments our high school campus where we have a four-station welding lab, a wood shop, a lab for design work, and CNC machine. We are in the process of acquiring a plasma cutter and recently expanded our electrical hand tool inventory with \$1000 gift from Home Depot to supplement \$5000 in grant funding. We appreciate high-quality support for experienced tradespeople like Mr. Mathas. Opportunities abound at Butte Falls Charter School.



Approved blueprints direct the path of construction. Here Mr. Mathas is reviewing key aspects of the current building project.



Assigning work teams for the day. Communication, Cooperation and Safety are job requirements.



Precise measuring and cutting to meet the blueprint specifications provide the best hope for success!



Lifting a wall is an exercise in applied physics. Many hands make work light(er)!



Another section of wall framing is set in place and secured. And it fits with great accuracy!

### Kindergarten Roundup



Mrs. Chavez meets a 2023-24 Kindergartner and his mom.

We were thrilled to have families visit with our Kindergarten Teacher, Mrs. Chavez, during our Kindergarten Roundup Open House on April 20. If you have a child who will be entering Kindergarten next year, but were unable to attend this annual event, please contact the elementary school office (541-865-3563, Option 2) to connect with Mrs. Chavez. We still have space for this exemplary program.

We are hoping to provide a summer (August) program for our incoming Kindergartners. Stay tuned as we will have more details near the end of May.

## Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences: Success!

We thank all our parents and students for participating in our Spring Conferences two weeks ago. It was inspiring to see how much our students have grown since the Fall Conferences. We appreciate the opportunity to include students in the discussion of their learning and their academic and social development. Thank you, teachers, for your preparations for these important meetings.



Conferences are for our younger students!



Conferences are for our soon-to-be graduates!

## A Shout Out to our terrific Nutrition Services Team

We are so fortunate to have our own on-site Nutrition Services Team. Courtney Anderson is in her second decade leading this team and finding ways to provide delicious breakfasts and lunches every school day. Courtney also finds ways to add in certain Courtney specialties that we have come to enjoy. This year her team has included Kate Robinson (who retired this past month), Diane Clendinen (pictured in the foreground) and Mary Ann Ceglia (pictured in the background). Through winter weather, supply chain shortages, and last minute schedule changes, this team has delivered the foods. We are grateful.

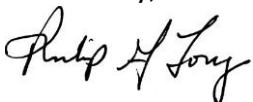


Here are some important upcoming District dates. Please check the District News and Events at our website ([www.buttefalls.k12.or.us](http://www.buttefalls.k12.or.us)) for any updates.

- **School District Budget Meeting** – Monday, May 1, at 6:00 p.m. (District Office)
- **Parent Involvement Group Meeting** – TBD (Elementary Library)
- **Monthly School Board Meeting** – Monday, May 8, at 6:00 p.m. (District Office)
- **National Teacher Appreciation Week** – May 8-12
- **Memorial Day Holiday** – Monday, May 29 (No School)
- **Snow Makeup Day** – Friday, June 2
- **High School Graduation** – June 10
- **Last Day of School for Students** – June 15 (1/2 Day)

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

Sincerely,



Dr. Phil Long, Superintendent

*From small seeds grow mighty trees!*