



## Things are Looking Up in 2023-24!

Dear Butte Falls Charter School Parents and Community Members,

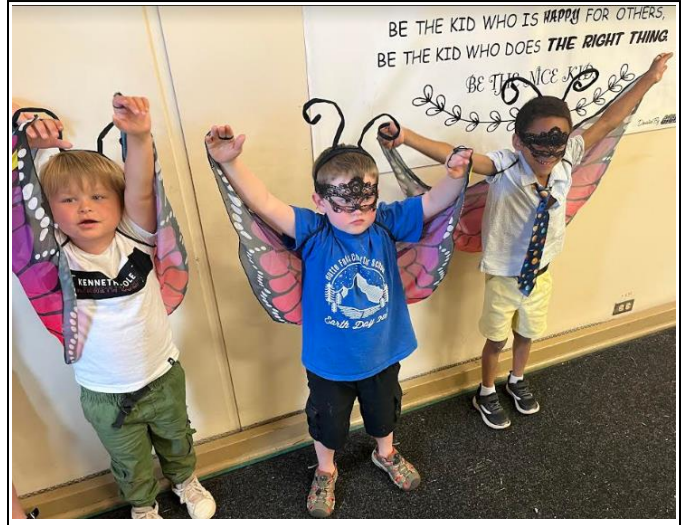
Summer is here! School friends have said goodbye to each other and to our staff. Our campuses are very quiet and summer cleaning is underway. Painting and repairs are scheduled so we can have everything ready for the new year. We are in the process of hiring staff for next year and are eager for our new teachers and support staff to join us!

### Celebrations Highlight Graduate Accomplishments

**Kindergarten.** Among the many end-of-the-year activities we are especially proud of the awards and distinctions our students have achieved this year. For our youngest students this included Kinder Graduation. Our kindergartners grew tremendously this year. Their excitement (and trepidation) about school in the fall was transformed into knowledge, skills and joy as they celebrated with their families and friends. From the solemnity of their caterpillar-like entry to the mortarboard ceremony to their flight-of-the butterflies exit, this group of students brings much enthusiasm and energy to our up-coming first grade. Thank you, Mrs. Chavez, for helping these young ones celebrate their success!



**From small seeds grow mighty trees!**  
The future Class of 2035 completes their first year of learning at Butte Falls Charter School. Congratulations!



Three outgoing kindergartners prepare for their release from Kindergarten and their flight around the field of graduation specators.

**High School.** High School graduation featured sixteen successful students and some very happy families! A near-capacity gymnasium full of friends and families enjoyed the pomp and circumstance of a joyous graduation. Our Social Studies teacher, Cy Carrigan, delivered a compelling and (allegedly with the help of ChatGPT) personalized charge to the class of 2023. Valedictorian Rebecca Misfeldt took the class down a nostalgic journey of life together these past 13 years at Butte Falls Charter School. Graduates displayed the various cords and medals associated with their academic success. We are so proud of all of them!



Valedictorian Rebecca Misfeldt shares a virtual moment with senior Keara Milch. Besides attaining the highest GPA in the senior class, Rebecca also earned 15 RCC and 6 SOU credits towards a college degree.



Keara Milch was unable to attend the graduation due to health issues. She received her diploma the previous Saturday in Portland and attended the ceremony virtually. We are so inspired by Keara's spirit and grit! Stay strong!



Going out with a bang! We will remember the Class of 2023 as "willing to work hard" and "choosing to have fun doing it!"



Graduate Ady Ascher exits the ceremony under the arches. We are proud of our graduates and the traditions that bind us together and with our community.

## Some other End-of-the Year Fun!

In June our elementary students had a visit from Bugs R Us. The Bug Guy educated us about what bugs are, how they are important and what they do. Our students also got to see (and touch) a stick bug, a huge cockroach, and a scorpion.



Did you know over one million species of insects have been discovered and described and that there are approximately 1.4 billion insects for every person on earth? (*Royal Entomological Society*)

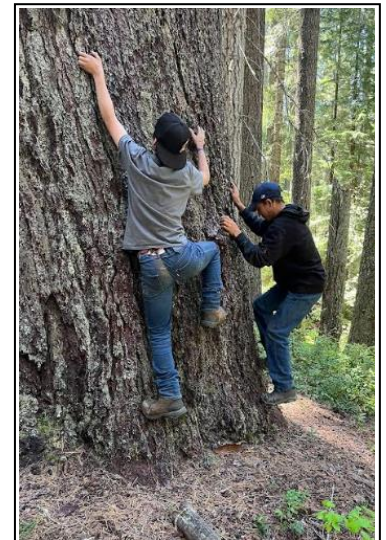


Intensely fascinated or hypnotized by a bug? (Hard to tell.)

## High School Does Loop Tour on Snow Makeup Day

The high school staff continued the tradition of spending a day with students exploring the history, geography, and science associated with the Upper Rogue forests. Blair Anderson and Tony Bruck of the US Forest Service were our guides and experts on the forests in the Upper Rogue region.

This year we spend Friday, June 2, visiting the site of Logging Camp 2, measuring trees and learning how to calculate potential board-feet, comparing ecosystem differences at different elevations, and learning how to build a fire for warmth if we are lost in the woods. We also enjoyed a picnic lunch hosted by our Food Services Manager, Courtney Anderson.



Two 8<sup>th</sup>-graders try to push over a large Sugar Pine Tree.  
Tree: 1 – Students: 0.



To build a fire: A tinder moment!



Lunch is ready! Courtney Anderson serves a terrific Loop Tour Lunch. (The fresh-baked cookies were to die for!)

### Third/Fourth Grade Lives the Westward Expansion.



Mrs. Smart's 3/4th grade students finished off their westward expansion unit by building covered wagons out of shoe boxes and trekking the wilderness from the Butte Falls NRC back towards school as pioneers! The students figured out that pulling wagons up a mountainside with logs and rocks was ruggedly hard work. They greatly enjoyed their pioneer treat (jerky, hardtack and water) when they arrived at their final destination – the classroom. It was a great day!



### Goodbyes and Hellos.

On the last day for teachers and educational assistants, we paused to reflect on the hard work and challenges we faced this year. While we can point to many individual successes, this year also tested us as a school community. Children (and their families) have been greatly impacted by the economic and social upheaval we have all experienced over the past 15 years and, most recently, the personal losses and restrictions that have occurred due to the pandemic.

In response to those stresses, we welcomed mental health counselor Greg Simmons last fall and (mid-year) our behavior intervention specialist, Angie Perez. We said goodbye during the year to several educational assistants who left for new job opportunities closer to home or for personal reasons. Because we were unable to fully re-staff our teaching positions last September, our teachers carried an extra burden, which led to turnover at our middle school level. We appreciate all the assistance and support from teachers, aides, substitutes, parents, and students in helping us finish the year!

We are saying goodbye and thank you to Mrs. Terri Olsen, who has served the past four years as our lead Special Education Teacher and our District Special Education Director. Mrs. Olsen concludes a long and successful career serving Special Education students in Butte Falls, Rogue River, and Phoenix-Talent school districts as well as being a respected and admired colleague.

We also say thank you to recent retirees Kate Robinson (Food Service Worker) and James Mitchell (high school campus custodian). They were tireless colleagues who also brought humor to the workplace.



Teacher Erin DeCarlow shares the I.R.P (Individualized Retirement Plan) for retiring Special Ed teacher Terri Olsen. Thank you, Mrs. Olsen!

In response to these staffing changes, our veteran fifth-grade teacher, Jill Dufresne, has volunteered to help us with seventh-grade this coming year. We are in the final stages of hiring a new Special Education teacher and an intermediate elementary teacher. I will share more about them and other staff additions in our August newsletter.

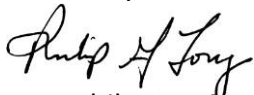
We are still seeking to fill some key support staff positions (custodian/maintenance, educational assistant, substitute bus driver, substitute support staff). Information is listed on our website ([www.buttefalls.k12.or.us](http://www.buttefalls.k12.or.us) – About Us – Employment Opportunities). You may also inquire via [Feedback@buttefalls.k12.or.us](mailto:Feedback@buttefalls.k12.or.us) or call Julie Freeman at 541-865-3563, Option 5.

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 Board Organizational Meeting** – 5:00 p.m. Monday, July 31, at District Office
- **First Day of New School Year** – Tuesday, September 5

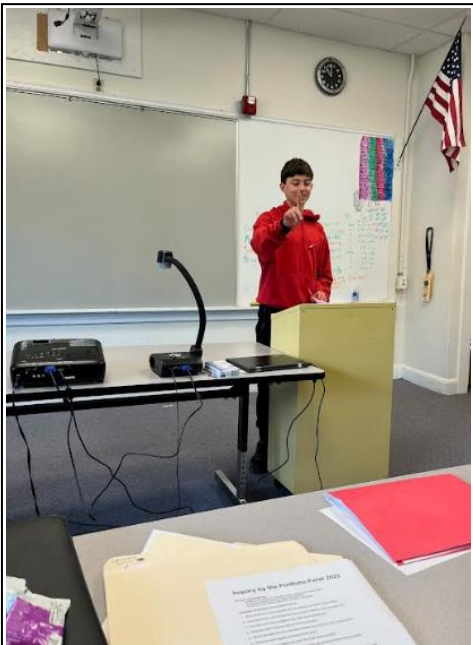
Thank you for your support and encouragement for our students and staff.

Sincerely,



Dr. Phil Long, Superintendent

*From small seeds grow mighty trees!*



Eighth Grade student Gage Terrell presents his annual portfolio to a panel of adults. Every secondary student develops a collection of artifacts that represent their learning and employability skills as they progress through school.



Mr. Mathas acknowledges the Spring Term Construction Crew. These and two other students framed in and sheathed the new public restrooms being built at the NRC. They worked 2 hours each day for nine weeks. They learned to read blueprints and to work as a safe and productive team. They earned ½ of a high school credit and were awarded stipends of approximately \$600 (funded by Project Youth Plus, our partner in promoting student success)!