

October 1, 2023



Jackson County School District #91 (Butte Falls)

## School is in Session!

Dear Butte Falls Charter School Parents and Community Members,

Autumn has arrived! Leaves are showing hints of fall colors. Mornings are cooler and crisper and, thankfully, we are receiving some rain. Already we have seen how much our returning students grew and changed over the summer. They are taller and are acting more mature. We have also enjoyed getting to know some new students and their families. It has been a great start to a new school year!

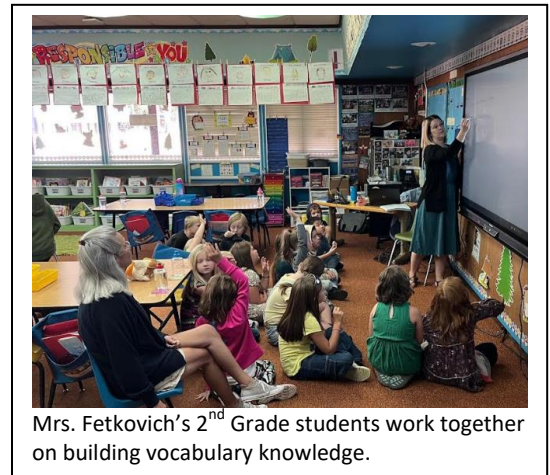
### First Week of School

The first week of school is always full of excitement as we relearn the procedures for making our classrooms work well for student learning. At the elementary campus, we practice how to move around the campus safely and respectfully.



3<sup>rd</sup> Grade students receive directions from their teacher, Mrs. Smart.

This year we are implementing our new math curriculum as well as beginning the second year of our new English/Language Arts/Reading program. These curricula include additional digital resources to help with skill-building and learning support.



Mrs. Fetkovich's 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade students work together on building vocabulary knowledge.

At the high school we spent the last two hours of each day with special lessons on strengthening interpersonal skills to help us get along with each other. Some of these lessons were in small groups but others involved the whole school in team-building and problem-solving challenges and games.



Secondary students line up by birthday. They could only use hand signals.



One way to build a team and learn about each other is to complete a challenge together with limited resources.

### What's Cookin'?

We have improved our high school lunch delivery system and are using the high school concession stand to distribute breakfast and lunch each day. These meals are available for all students attending Butte Falls Charter School. The district subsidizes meals to ensure every student has access to meals every school day. Mrs. Courtney Anderson leads her kitchen crew and provides a variety of meal choices throughout each month.



Above: Mrs. Kathy Rambo and Mr. Jerett Dufresne make sure our serving area at the high school campus is clean and that food choices are ready for pickup.  
Right: Mrs. Courtney Anderson takes a minute to greet a student and listen to the news of the day!



### New Counseling/Meeting Room at Elementary Campus

We have already put our new small conference room to good use. Mr. Greg Simmons is a School-Based Mental Health Interventionist. He serves students at both campuses on Tuesdays and Thursdays and is using this new space to meet with elementary students. Our students also have access to the Butte Falls [Rogue Community Health Clinic](#), which also serves as our school-based health clinic. It is open Monday-Thursday (7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.), which allows for students to have health care without missing much of the school day.



Mr. Simmons shows off our new elementary campus small conference room. This provides a quiet, safe, confidential space for counseling.

### School Photos

We were thankful to have Lifetouch photographers take school pictures on September 21. They will return for picture makeups sometime in October (TBA).



School Picture Day: Lookin' good!

### Thank you to Jackson County Road Crew!

We recently obtained four loads of fill dirt from the Jackson County Roads crew to help finish the bioswale project by our large parking lot. This student-constructed drainage field will capture any polluted storm water runoff from the parking area near the NRC Pavilion and filter the pollution before returning the water to Ginger Creek.



Partners make all the difference!



## Fall Festival of Learning at the NRC

On Thursday, September 28, we enjoyed our First Annual Fall Festival of Learning. All of our students and staff spent much of the day at the Natural Resource Center (NRC) where thoughtfully designed lessons and activities were led by our secondary students and experienced by our elementary students.

Activities included the following learning stations: Archimedes Screw Pump (Physics: positive-displacement), Team Pulley (Physics: simple machines and teamwork), Infinity Wheelbarrow Races (Physics: simple machines), Crazy Catapult of Cones (Physics: transfer of energy), Pallet Push (Physics: Friction force), Nailed it (Physics: Friction Force), Rubber Duck Race (Water Research Lab: buoyancy and gravity), Poop Deck (Listening Stimulus and Physical Response), Face Painting (fun), Pumpkin Poke (more fun), Apple Cider Press and Apple Carving, Seed Art, and Scavenger Hunt.

The weather was perfect. We all enjoyed sack lunches together! It was the best of Butte Falls Charter School learning!



Butte Falls Charter School - All-School Photo: First Annual Fall Festival of Learning (and having fun together)! 9/28  
In the foreground is the apple pressing learning station.

## Open House

We appreciated meeting parents (and grandparents) on September 28 and letting you meet teachers and see the spaces where students are spending their Mondays-Thursdays. **We want to encourage every parent to attend our Parent-Student/Teacher conferences scheduled for the Monday and Tuesday (November 20-21) before Thanksgiving Break.** (Thank you, Courtney, for the delicious cookies!)

## Jacy Good and Steve Johnson “Hang-up and Drive” Presentation.

On Wednesday, September 27, secondary students met Jacy Good and Steve Johnson. Jacy shared her personal story of how texting while driving radically changed her life and the lives of many others. On the day of her college graduation, her dad and mom were driving her home from the ceremony when a semi-truck hit their vehicle head-on. Her parents were killed instantly, and except for the quick action of a paramedic who heard the accident, she would have also died. The cause of the accident was a teenage driver who was distracted by his cellphone. He ran a red light. The truck tried to avoid him and drove into on-coming traffic.

Jacy shared her journey to recovery and how the distracted actions of one person impacted so many people. She and her brother lost their parents. Her life direction was radically changed. The 300 students at the school where her mom taught, learned the Monday after the accident that a favorite teacher had been killed. The impact continues to this day.

After her presentation, students asked thoughtful and reflective questions. We were fortunate to hear Jacy’s story and her message for us all to not use our phones while driving. The presentation was sponsored by the Oregon Department of Transportation. If you want to learn more about Jacy and this effort to encourage us all to be safer, visit [hangupanddrive.com](http://hangupanddrive.com).

**Help Needed.** We have filled our regular staff positions but continue to seek substitutes (teachers, bus drivers, educational assistants and custodians). If you are interested in learning how to become a substitute employee or know someone who might be a good fit for our staff, please contact Julie Freeman by email at [jfreeman@buttefalls.k12.or.us](mailto:jfreeman@buttefalls.k12.or.us) or by phone at 541-865-3563, Option 5, and she can direct you to an application.

**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 Meeting** – 6:00 p.m. Monday, October 9, at District Office
- **End of First Quarter** – November 2
- **Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences** – November 20-21

Sincerely,



Dr. Phil Long, Superintendent



Students listen as Jacy Good shares her story about the impact of cell phone use on driving and the tragedy it can lead to. The photo on the screen is the last one she had taken with her parents before the terrible accident.



Two ninth-grade students lead an activity with 6<sup>th</sup> Graders



A new school year brings new friends.