

November 1, 2022



We are Thankful for Your Support!

Dear Butte Falls Charter School Parents and Community Members,

What a relief it is to have autumn rains and cooler weather! October brought a flurry of activity on our campuses. We concluded our middle school fall sports (volleyball and football) and are now beginning middle school boys basketball. (Girls basketball season starts after the winter break.) Our five high school football players finished out the season playing on the Prospect team as part of our collaborative agreement. Wrestling season will start soon. We greatly appreciate the community members who serve alongside our staff as coaches for our various sports teams.

We greatly appreciated the turnout for our Community Volleyball Night on October 20. Sponsored by some of our high school students, games were held on two outside courts and in the gym. The \$5 entry fee will be used for student activities. Students also opened the concession stand and offered a variety of snacks. We are thankful to be able to host public activities like this and hope to hold future events like this during the winter and spring. (Basketball is likely the next activity!)

Getting into the Swing of Things!

This past week Keith and Ron Tilley helped put together our new primary swing set. It is now set in concrete footings. We will be ordering new playground soft fall materials for the swing set, the play structure and our other swing set. Once that is installed, we can install the swings, adjust them for use by our younger students (K-Grade 3), and allow students to use them. **This swing set and the soft fall material were purchased through grant funds provided by AllCare Health from its Community Resiliency Fund.**



Our new swing set will soon be ready for use!



Thank you, Keith and Ron Tilley for your help.

If you remember how relaxing it is to swing on a swing, you will understand why AllCare Health funded this project. Research shows us that swinging is one way that we can calm ourselves down when we are frustrated or simply feeling out of sorts. Our grant proposal, *Swinging into Action: Pumping up Student Self-Regulations and Mental Healthiness*, resulted in a \$5000 investment by AllCare.

Supply chain challenges delayed the purchase until last spring; transportation limitations further delayed delivery. Persistence, however, prevailed. We can now “right-size” our swing sets for our younger and older students. And we doubled the number of swings available on our elementary campus. **Thank you, AllCare Health, for investing in projects that make our school and community work better for the health and well-being of our students!**

High School Juniors adopt the Caboose Museum.

Last year BFCs students worked with Social Studies teacher Cy Carrigan to clean the inside of the Caboose Museum and to enhance some of the exhibits. This year the Junior Class, with supervision by Junior Class Advisor Mr. Carrigan, is tackling the outside. They spent some time in October cleaning and repairing the outside of the Caboose and hope to give it a fresh coat of paint.

The Caboose Museum is parked across the street from the high school, adjacent to the Butte Falls branch of the Jackson County Library System. It testifies to Butte Falls past history as a logging town with a railway that ran down to the Valley Floor. Learning about and preserving artifacts from our past helps us understand our heritage and how our community has grown and changed. Kudos to our Juniors for taking on this community service project!



Washing the exterior.



Stair repair and surface sanding.



Teamwork makes things go faster!

School Board Changes.

This past September, long-time Butte Falls resident and School Board member Steven Nelson passed away after an illness. Steve served Jackson County as an assessor for much of his working career. Upon retirement he involved himself in civic matters. In recent years, he served on our school board for multiple terms. He provided leadership for the Board, serving as Chair or Vice-Chair for a number of those years. He supported converting our school to a charter school and the acquisition of the former Butte Falls Fish Hatchery to be used as a Natural Resource Center.

Steve gained great joy from purchasing sports equipment (shoes especially) for our students and was a tremendous supporter of our Charter School. In his healthier years, he volunteered to cut firewood rounds for students to split and sell and earn money for sports and clubs. He loved visiting around the valley and talking to others about our school and the cool things our staff does with and for kids. Steve was a very private man, but I know from my many conversations with him, that he would not want us to be sad about his passing. He enjoyed life and people. He loved his own kids dearly and was exceptionally proud of them.



Steve held strong opinions about how we should treat each other and, in all of this, would ask me “how are our kids doing?” He meant, of course, all the students we serve. We are indebted to Steve for his many years of civic service. We have lost a servant leader and a friend. May we continue to do our best by "the kids" he so cared about.

The Butte Falls School Board acknowledged Steve’s tenure of service at its October 10 Board meeting. The Board also interviewed two applicants, Bonnie Freeman and Chris Mathas, to fill the remaining eight months of his current term. The Board will make its selection at its November 14 meeting.

Opportunities for You to Serve our School Community.

1. This next spring, **the Board will have two School Board positions on the ballot for mid-May 2023.** To run for the School Board, you must a registered voter and a resident of the district for one year immediately preceding the election. Jackson County oversees all elections in the county and will have information about these positions available on its website in January, 2023. For a helpful informational flyer, visit <https://getonboardoregon.org/resources/>.
2. The District is also recruiting applicants to serve on the **District Budget Committee.** This is an annual task that usually requires one or two evening meetings in May. The Budget committee is comprised of the five School Board Members and up to five community members who live within the boundaries of the District. If you are willing to serve in this way, please contact Julie Freeman (541-865-3563, option 5) or email her at jfreeman@buttefalls.k12.or.us.
3. Throughout this year we will be asking students, parents, and staff and community members for feedback on ways to best serve our students and their families. This feedback is very helpful as it influences how we set goals for the District (CIP) and what services we should fund through federal (ESEA, IDEA) and state grants (SIA, HSS). **Please look for notifications regarding surveys and meetings from the district and help us by providing feedback.** You may always send us your thoughts via email at feedback@buttefalls.k12.or.us.

Staffing Positions to Fill.

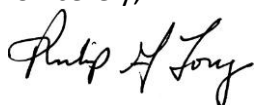
We continue to have openings for educational assistant positions, classified substitutes, and substitute bus drivers. We are also looking for substitute teachers. If you are interested in applying for one of these positions or would like to know if we have other openings, please contact Julie Freeman.

Hello November! Here are some important District Dates.

- MS Boys Basketball games as listed on our District website.
- End of the First Quarter for Students – Thursday, Nov. 3.
- Teacher Inservice Day/End-of-Quarter planning – Friday, Nov. 4.
- Monthly School Board Meeting – Monday, November 14 at 6:00 p.m.
- Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences – Monday-Tuesday, Nov. 21-22. (No classes).
- Thanksgiving Break – November 23-24. (No classes).

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

Sincerely,



Dr. Phil Long, Superintendent

From small seeds grow mighty trees!