

Fort Benton High School

THE CANNON REPORT

FBHS Journalism

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Student Life

FBHS Selected as 1 of 5 Schools to Participate in OPI Sponsored Leadership Training

by Christine Banks (Grade 9)

Fort Benton High School juniors and seniors attended a leadership training called “Figure it Out,” offered by a leadership training company, Canvas Creek, and sponsored by the Montana Office of

Public Instruction at the Community Bible Church Community Center on Monday, February 26, and Tuesday, February 27.

During the training session on Monday morning, 15 students worked through various obstacles with teachers and community members in order to get to know one another better before being able to solve various problems together. The student leaders included juniors Hanna Bach Ayyah Benhart, Trenten Broesder, Kellan Diekhans, Caeli Hanson, Dylan Reeves, and Kaylyn Sieler. Senior leaders included Laela Borero, Sarah Clark, Katie Cline, Casha Corder, Michael Mosser, Damian Ort, Jon Strongbear, and Lina Vaughn. Staff members included Mr. Hould, Mrs. Martin, Miss Woodhouse, Mrs. Fultz, Mrs. Lords, Mr. Ayers, Mr. Gilbreth, and Mrs. Vielleux. There were also community members that included business owners, long standing residents, retired teachers, and other community leaders. This large group of people were mixed together in small groups where they worked together to solve problems and discuss positives about the school, but also some things they would like to see improved.

Activities included group discussions and “getting to know you” activities, a blank canvas painting (which was to be completed in silence), followed by a discussion activity about improving Fort Benton Schools. To begin, the participants outlined positives about the school noting that the school feels “warm and welcome” and expressing good communication between teachers, administration, and parents. Students also noted that they felt teachers genuinely care about their overall well-being and not just their achievements.

The group then progressed to outlining some things they would like to see improved within the school, in which they expressed they want to see accountability for students rise.

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Leaders in the Making



OPI Training from Page 1

The largest issue expressed was the need for a tutoring program, and consequences for cheating. Also discussed was celebrating academic achievement as much as athletic achievement.

These topics would be the topic of discussion for the students in the afternoon, as well as with all of the junior and senior students the following day.

On Tuesday, all juniors and seniors attended the training led by the 8 student leaders from the previous day, and worked through similar activities including the quiet canvas painting, a fan favorite, before getting down to business trying to improve the school.

"At the OPI Training, I got to experience a great opportunity for us students to learn how to collaborate with others," Hailey Campbell, a sophomore, was able to share her perspective of this work-together activity. "We did a large art project in which we painted on a large piece of paper, and then the [Canvas Cree] leaders smeared it with white paint so we had to adapt to the situation."

Overall, students expressed that it was a great opportunity to mix with other students and get to know each other better. Campbell continues, "I had a great time with my classmates and older kids, learning more about each other and having a good time while also problem solving different situations that were given to us."

The Fort Benton High School's new principal, Mr. Pat Hould, followed along with the students and he had some positive feedback after the training. Hould shared, "The juniors and seniors did an amazing job working together. They were actively engaged in the activities and had positive attitudes throughout the entire training hours both days."

Canvas Creek specializes in these collaborative efforts, and seamlessly creates unexpected collaborations. In fact, Hould stated, "Students whom I had never seen interact with each other before were working together to create amazing paintings and making plans to help make the school even better."

The focus of the training was to help students understand how they can affect change. The Leadership Team formed what is now called the Accountability Tutoring Inclusion, or ATI Movement. The first project they focused on was

finding opportunities to tutor middle school students to improve their grades and their overall academic performance. The goal with this is to have a trickle effect so that once they are high school students, we will have a stronger foundation of problem solving skills.

Student Life

Fort Benton Faculty Loses Four Staff Members by the End of the 2024 School Year

by Paetyn Templet (Grade 9)

At the beginning of the 2024 school year, Fort Benton gained three new teachers. These included Miss Brooke Johnson, the agriculture and shop teacher, Miss Emily Nishikawa, the high school science teacher, and Mr. Mark Ayers, who stepped up from a paraprofessional to becoming the full time high school math teacher. Although three new arriving teachers were just starting their first years at our high school gym, five new teachers will be having their last year here.

Mr. Van Every, the high school history teacher, has decided to finish his last year here. He will be moving to Colorado due to personal reasons. Mr. Van Every started his first year here in the 2022-2023 school year. When asked what he will miss the most about teaching here, Mr Van Every states, "I have felt that I have really created strong relationships with every student in Fort Benton, even if I don't teach them. Having those relationships with the students truly makes my job enjoyable and worthwhile.

Additionally, I will also miss my coworkers. Every single one of them has assisted in one way or another at the beginning of my career."

Mr. McKillop, the middle and high school P.E teacher has decided to resign early, making this the last of his 5 years. He will pursue interests outside of education.

Mrs. Ringler, the middle school math and science teacher, will be accepting a new job in Great Falls, where her and her family have lived since the middle of this school year. Mrs. Zuhoski, the art and FACS teacher, will be having her first child in April. She will continue to stay at home next year, but may return in the future years.

FBHS has already filled the high school history position and has held several interviews for the others. Staff and students are alike that these positions will be filled with quality educators who are passionate about our school.

High School Activities

High School Sports

Longhorns in Theater Gears Up for its Fourth Show

by Hailey Campbell (11th grade)

It is time for the Longhorns in Theatre Troupe to set the stage as they prepare for their 4th annual performance. This year's performance will feature the murder mystery, *This Murder was Staged*, by Patrick Greene and Jason Pizzarello, and produced with special permissions from Stage Partners. The troupe started practicing on February 19th with part selection and line memorization. They are now holding more formal practices as they prepare for their performances on April 5th and 6th.

LIT advisor, Amy Hanson, is pleased with their participation this year. According to Hanson, "[There are] 19 students that are involved this year, 16 actors and 3 behind the scenes. Of those 19, 11 are returning from previous years. Kailyn Rominger, Caeli Hanson, and Etta Wicks are the only students involved in all of my theater productions to date."

Murder mystery comedies are Hanson's specialty, but they are also a crowd favorite. Out of the 4 productions Hanson has put on, all have been murder mysteries. "This play is a great combination of my previous murder mystery plays, with some fun twists and turns," says Hanson.

The play will be performed on Saturday, April 6th, and Sunday, April 7th in the auditorium of the Elementary; the troupe hopes to see plenty of people there for the performances. Hanson states that, "As always, I have a great group of kids involved and I am excited to see the final product come together."

High School Spring Sports Kick Off Seasons

by Allyson Jacques (9th grade)

On March 11, high school spring sports began practices, and all three sports were able to hold practices outside as the weather was fair-- a big change from last year. Track and field athletes kicked off their season with a slideshow of past years to get the athletes pumped up and ready for the new season. The tennis girls got right to work with conditioning and drills. Golf also got straight to work swinging clubs at the driving range.

High school track and field is led by longtime head coach, Kevin Shaw. Jamie Ball and Connor McKillop are also joining Coach Shaw again this season bringing some consistency to the program. Senior returners include Sarah Clark and Brock Grossman. Along with the 12 freshmen newcomers, Michael Mosser, Shana Jackson, Landon Good, and Layne Wallace all joined track this year. Overall, the team has 31 participants in total between girls and boys. The track team is set to compete on Thursday, March 28th in Cut Bank.

The high school tennis team has 13 girls out for the season, including two brand new seniors, Alli MacDonald and Laela Borero, two incoming freshmen, Alexis Clark and Paetyn Templet, and nine returning players. Returning for their final season are seniors, Katie Cline, Maddie Doney, Sorayah Hull, and Lina Vaughn; junior players include Hanna Bach and Seeli Jameson; the sophomores include Zoe Donner, Kailyn Rominger, and Grace Wright. The team is coached by 3rd year head coach, Miranda Woodhouse, and assisted by 3rd year assistant coach, Emily Engen. Deanna Farwick is also volunteering as a coach this season. The tennis team will play their first tennis match next Thursday, March 28th at Meadow Lark Country Club in Great Falls come rain or shine, as they will have access to indoor facilities.

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White Chocolate Saltine Toffee

Easter Crack or Bunny Bark

Ingredients

- 1 Box of Saltine Crackers (I used 1 full stack)
- 1 Cup of Butter
- 1 Cup of Brown sugar
- 1 package of white chocolate chips
- 1 package of marshmallows
- 1 package of Easter M&Ms
- 1 box of honey nut chex mix cereal
- 1 cup of semi-sweet chocolate chips
- sprinkle of powdered sugar

Optinal*- Sprinkles, other candies of choice,

Instructions

- Heat the oven to **325°F**
- Melt butter and Brown sugar in a sauce pan on medium heat, bring to boil and stir constantly while **boiling for 2-4 minutes. (careful not to burn mixture)**
- Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper or aluminum foil, then place crackers evenly on pan. Pour Brown sugar & butter mixture over crackers. Bake in oven for **8-10 minutes.**
- Melt white chocolate in microwave according to package, pour white chocolate mixture over crackers once out of the oven and spread evenly.
- Top with chex mix, semi-sweet chocolate chips, Easter M&Ms, & Marshmallows
(I used about a cup of each, feel free to add any other toppings you would like here) Sprinkle with powdered sugar.
- Let cool completely for about **30-45 minutes**, the break into pieces and serve.



Happy Easter

Easter Break 3/29-4/1

Middle School Sports

Middle School Wrestling Begins and Ends Short Season

by Braydee Lehman (9th grade)

The Fort Benton Middle School wrestling team has opened and closed their short season which began just before the high school season ended. The middle school wrestlers are coached by Colby Cline, Tyler Starman, and Damon Gilbreth. Colby Cline and Damon Gilbreth are both in their third years of coaching middle school wrestling, and Tyler Starman just stepped up from being a Little Guy coach to his first year of middle school wrestling.

Coach Cline says that his goals for this year was to get more wrestlers to try it out and to build the fundamentals for high school wrestling. Cline says that the number was about the same as last year, starting off with 19 wrestlers before losing a few to injuries and illnesses.

Taylor Benhart, Cooper Ferris, Wyatt Cline, Maia Campbell, and Maycee Ort have all won at least one tournament this season, and were well-prepared heading into the final meet of the season.

The Longhorns competed at the North/South Middle School Divisional tournament in Lewistown. This is one of the hardest tournaments in the state because everyone from AA, A, B, and C schools participate in the middle school tournament. Despite this, three wrestlers were able to place.

Coach Cline says this season was an interesting one to coach, he had many experienced wrestlers and very many first year wrestlers. He states "The new wrestlers all showed improvement throughout the season." He says that he is looking forward to the oncoming years as middle school wrestling coach.



Middle School Wrestling Finishes Season:

There seems to be a lot of potential for the wrestling team. There were over 20 participants for middle school wrestling, and much success.



Disco Prom:
The junior class put together a disco themed prom this year. Royalty included Grace Wright, Brett Evans, Angeline Reiner, Teagan Riemer, Sarah Clark, and Cade Ball. Below are all of the nominees.



KEEP CALM



IT'S THE 4TH QUARTER

Spring Sports from Page 3

The golf team has recruited many new golfers this season, bringing their total participation to 14 as well. Senior and three-time state placer (state champ 2022), Casha Corder is joined by returning senior golfers Cade Ball and Jon Strong Bear. Senior Ky Nack has also joined golf for the first time this year! Junior returning golfers include Addison Reichelt and Spencer Molinario; sophomore returners include Landon Good, Judah Miller, and MyCal Layne. Newcomers include freshmen Abby Carrel, Mica Judeman, and Arrow Hucke, sophomore Lucia Johnson, and junior Sadie Cole. The first golf meet is set for March 28th as well in Shelby.

The seasons begin now and end in the middle to end of May. Each season will end at the state tournaments. State golf will be May 13th-15th in Hamilton, state track will be held in Great Falls on May 24th-25th, and state tennis will be held May 23rd - 25th in Missoula. We look forward to seeing how these student athletes progress throughout the season.