

Fort Benton High School

THE CANNON REPORT

FBHS Journalism

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Student Life

Fort Benton Seniors Travel to the East Coast

by Kasey Croft

For the first time since 2019, Fort Benton High School has been able to go on their planned school trips.

Seniors Tim Lane, Gabe Perkins, Brock Hanford, Aedan Hanson, Kaden Bach, Liana Santos, and Sammy Vielleux went on the Smithsonian Trip to the East Coast led by Mrs. Amy Hanson. They departed on March 21st from the Great Falls

airport and traveled to Boston, Massachusetts. There they took in sights, including Quincy Market, where there was "a lot of good food and shopping," according to Liana Santos. They also toured the Red Sox stadium, and downtown Boston, where Aedan lost his glasses.

From there, the students traveled to New York, which was "a whole new world" for the students. There they saw Times Square, the Empire State Building, Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, and they watched a Broadway show called, Come From Away, about 9/11.

The group also stopped for a short time in Philadelphia where they took a tour and saw the Liberty Bell. In Washington D.C. they saw White House, many memorials including the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument, the Smithsonian Museum, and the Smithsonian Zoo.

All of the seniors expressed how much they loved the trip, and how fulfilling it was to get to see some of the oldest and most cultured places our country has to offer. According to Tim Lane, "This trip was not only educational, but provided me with great memories with my friends that would last a lifetime." Though some of the trip was cold and foggy, they still have said they had an amazing time. Liana Santos said, "I recommend that if you can go on the East Coast Trip, go, even though it seems to not be as fun as the foreign country trips, it still seems like a different world compared to where we live in Montana, and it was nice to see what else happens in the United States."

Eastern Seaboard Adventures



Student Life

Robotics Takes State!

by Sorayah Hull

On March 3rd the Fort Benton Robotics team left for their state competition at Belgrade Middle School in Belgrade, MT. The competition lasted two days with the championship rounds being held on March 5th. During their competition, the Fort Benton robotics team FB3 came out victorious with their alliance with Kalispell.

The team has been working hard all robotics season to make the best robot they could to win the state championship. Their practices started on October 1st, and they held meetings once or twice a week, only taking breaks for holidays. All members of the team had jobs to do; Aedan Hanson is the Project Manager/3d Designer, Kaden Bach is Programmer/Builder, and Cj Griffin takes the team's notes in order to improve the robot and also helps with whatever is needed.

The Robotics team won with an alliance, but what does that mean? When asked, the Robotics coach Ross Hanson answered, "Robotics is a little different; you work in an alliance with another team, and you get points for winning, but it's based on the score of your opposition. So if your opponent scores a lot of points and you still win - that's how you maximize your points. There were 5 preliminary rounds and we scored 385 points, the top 2 teams scored over 500 points!"

Take that as you will; as for The Cannon Report staff? Well, we're still a little lost, but we applaud the robotics team and coaches very much for their efforts and win this season!



Robotics Champs: Along with the team from Kalispell, Kaden Bach, Aedan Hanson, and Cj Griffin took home the #1 spot in the state for robotics. The team formed an alliance with Kalispell, and Kalispell was able to move on to the national tournament!



Another Senior Signing:

Ashlee Wang committed to Rocky Mountain College to play basketball this past month. Ashlee is seen here signing her letter of intent (top), and posing with her mom and sister (bottom) during the signing ceremony held in the high school library on March 1st. Ashlee thanked Fort Benton Schools, her many coaches, and her family for helping to reach her goals of continuing to play basketball at the collegiate level. Ashlee plans to pursue aviation at Rocky. Good luck, Ashlee!



Good Vibes Only

McDonald & Truax to Retire after the 2021-2022 School Year

by Alli MacDonald

Though excitement is in the air as we start to near the end of the school year, that also means we near the end of losing a few teachers and faculty. 5th-grade teacher Mrs. Renee McDonald, and Mrs. Wendy Truax, Fort Benton High School's math teacher, are set to step back from their classrooms, and into their well-deserved retirement.

Mrs. Renee McDonald has been teaching with the Fort Benton School District for the past 31 years. Although teaching many grades and subjects, she is retiring from her current position as the 5th-grade teacher.

She says that despite the fact she's had many fun times in the classroom, many of her favorite memories have taken place outside of school on field trips that she's chaperoned. From the infamous 5th and 7th-grade canoe trips to meeting Marcia Melton in Bannack, Mrs. Renee McDonald says she has, "too many favorite memories." Taking her classes on as many field trips she's allowed, she says, she will miss taking students on new adventures and to places they've never been.

Mrs. McDonald has big plans to do some of her favorite things in her retirement, such as projects she's always wanted to finish, gardening, quilting, canoeing, canning, kayaking, hiking, and camping. She adds as a leaving thought, "There are so many books to read, places to visit, and so many things to do at home. Perhaps I'll get chickens again and a few other animals."

As for the high school, even though there aren't any other known faculty changes, math teacher Mrs. Wendy Truax will be retiring at the end of the school year. Of her 31 years of teaching, 23 of them have been with Fort Benton High School. Giving mention that watching students "get it" is very rewarding, Mrs. Truax also comments that she will miss the interactions with students the most.

When asked about her favorite memory while teaching, she responds, "I think instead of one event my favorite memory of my entire career is getting to teach with the Buckingham's, Mrs. Lulf, Ms. Koch, Mr. Schoonover and the Utterbacks. When I first came to Fort Benton they were the staff here and there was always laughter, jokes and pranks. It made for a very fun and uplifting teaching environment!"

Despite the fact the fact we appreciate everything she does for Fort Benton Schools and her absence will be felt, Mrs. Truax's dedication to this school makes her all the more deserving of her retirement. She mentions that she looks forward to spending more time with her grandkids and just having more time at home. In her newfound free time, she is looking forward to, "not having a hectic schedule" and, equally, "looking forward to sweats and a t-shirt being my new wardrobe."

A big thank you to Mrs. Renee McDonald and Mrs. Wendy Truax for everything they've contributed to the school, and equally to the other faculty and staff that are set to part ways with Fort Benton Schools. We wish them all the best in their future adventures.



East Cost Vibes:

Left: Samantha Vielleux tries to coax a seagull into being her friend at Ellis Island.

Right: Timmy Lane takes a selfie while Kaden Bach, Aedan Hanson, Liana Santos, Sammy Vielleux, Mrs. Amy Hanson, Brock Hanford and Gabe Perkins pose behind them in Washington, DC.

Sports

2022 Spring Sport Season Begins

by Maddie Doney

For the last couple of weeks the Longhorns have been busy getting ready for the 2022 Spring Sports Season. After showing off the Longhorn's athletic abilities in Fall and Winter sports, the Longhorns are ready to get back into competition.

This year, there have been changes in the spring season starting with the weather. In past seasons, the first few practices have been extremely cold. However, this year despite a little wind, all coaches said the first few practices were a great success and held outside.

As far as MHSAs regulations go, several sports are experiencing some changes as well. Golf, will now have a divisional tournament and the pre-state qualifying numbers have also changed. According to Coach Marta Ferguson, "We now have Divisional instead of scoring at meets." This adds a one day tournament on May 9th, and a chance for the whole team to go to state if they place in the top 5. Girls can pre qualify for the state tournament if they score an 100, and boys can pre qualify for state by scoring an 85. Previously, girls had to score a 120 and boys had to score a 100 to qualify. There was no divisional tournament to give golfers an additional chance to qualify for state.

As far as Longhorn Golf goes, there are also enough girls to create a team this year with 3 participants. There are 9 boys golfers as well. With 12 total participants for both boys and girls the 2022 Longhorn Golf team is ready to show off their skills. Their first meet was March 25th, but they travel to Great Falls, Anaconda Hills on April 2nd. From there they have a total of 11 more meets before their Divisional Tournament.

Longhorn Tennis also has had some big changes this year. The Longhorns are in a new division this season with Harlem, CJI, Fairfield, and Chinook, and they will hold their divisional tournament in Havre, MT this season.

Last year's assistant coach, Miranda Woodhouse, has moved up to head coaching position, and Fort Benton High School alumni, Emily Engen, has filled the assistant coach position.

There are also a large number of new girls on the team this year. With 6 new players the total number of team members is 15, which according to Coach Woodhouse, "is the largest number we've had for almost a decade." Coach Woodhouse is excited to, "see more growth in the team and in the individual student athletes." The Longhorn tennis team will travel to MeadowLark Country Club on April 1st for a clinic and matches, then on the following day host Chinook and Fairfield for a home meet.

Longhorn track has been able to go, "outside everyday and the athletes are getting some technique work in as well as getting their bodies acquainted with the rigors of track and field," said Coach Shaw. Roughly 27 athletes are participating in Track this year and the boys team is getting ready to defend their state title. Coach Kevin Shaw said he was excited for, "teaching skills to new faces, new goals for the old faces, and working with a great group of athletes." The Longhorn Track team's first meet is at home on Thursday, March 31st. That following Saturday, April 2nd, they travel to Frenchtown and compete in their first away meet.

The Longhorns are ready to put in their all, so if you get a chance, come watch them and show your support.



REACT MT Contest Winners:

The 9th and 10th grade PE/Health classes at FBHS designed T Shirts for REACT MT, a tobacco use prevention organization. The freshmen class won the contest, so their T Shirt will be designed and distributed this year, so it will be seen statewide!



Middle School Wrestling Action: Fort Benton hosted a home Middle School Wrestling match on February 25th. For the first time, Fort Benton also has girls wrestling!



PROM 2022: OUT OF THIS WORLD!

Top: Kaden Bach and Liana Santos and Hanna Bach and her date from Turner, MT, pose under the rocket arch at Grand March. Bottom: The Sophomore Class poses for a class picture following Grand March.

Student Life

FBHS PE/Health Classes travel to the PEAK

by Gabe Perkins

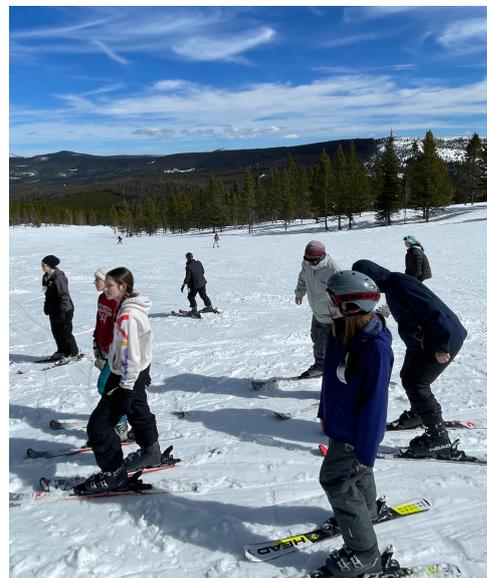
On Monday, March 7th, the Fort Benton High School weights and conditioning classes took a trip to the Peak and Health Wellness Center in Great Falls, Montana. While there, the students completed an aquatic and cardio workout. Both workouts were led by an instructor provided by the Peak.

According to Mr. Connor McKillop, "The Weights classes had taken this same trip a couple of years ago, so we felt it would be fun to do once again."

The field trip is designed to show students some lifelong fitness habits and possibilities, as well as show them workouts that might not be possible at FBHS. Of course, another part of the trip was to just get away and have fun, which hopefully the students were able to do.

Coach McKillop said, "The trip was quick and pretty efficient. The students got a great workout in the Peaks pool and cardio areas, and everyone made it there and back safely. Those were the most important parts of it for me."

As far as the trip happening annually, McKillop said, "There are definitely things that need to be changed or tweaked if we do the trip again next year."



Ski Buddies:

The PE Program has had a busy month of March. The 7th and 8th graders traveled to Showdown Ski Area for a lessons and some liesure skiing on March 23rd.

Student Life

Fort Benton Middle School Skiers Take on Showdown Ski Hill

by Francesca Genovese

On March 23th, 37 seventh and eighth graders went on the annual ski trip to Showdown, accompanied by Mrs. Dawn Dunham and Mr. Andrew Kilpatrick, and chaperones Adam Jaques, John Feif, Ryan Rominger, and Damon Molinario.

Arriving at the Showdown ski hill, the students started their day by renting their gear and then participating in a ski lesson from an instructor at the hill. Each student chose to take a lesson based on their level and then made their way to their group's flags to begin their ski lesson. The beginning level groups started on the small hill while the more advanced levels went to the slopes shortly after the lessons started.

Fort Benton had students in each of the levels and they enjoyed the lessons, even though the snow conditions weren't the best. It didn't seem to slow the students down a bit. Every middle school student who took a lesson was able to take something away from it and improve their skills.

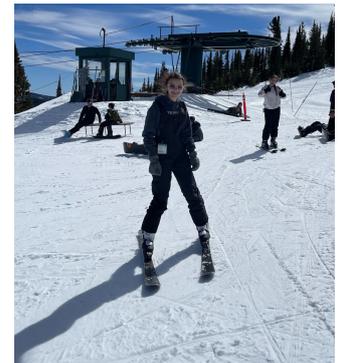
According to Mrs. Dunham, "I was able to go green runs (beginner) with the Fort Benton group on their first run. The ride wasn't without occasional crashes, but overall they all went great! Their second and third trips down the slope were much better. It's so good to see them improve and start loving skiing. "I was also able to ski with some of the more advanced students. There are some great skiers here in Fort Benton."

The annual ski trip is a great way for students to try something new, or even improve on skills they already have. Either way, it is sure to be memorable for years to come.

Dunham reminisced about her ski trips stating, "I remember my middle school ski trips and the fun it was. I'm sure the [students] who went to Showdown will remember this as a great time spent with their friends!"

After the lesson, the students were able to ski at their own paces on the hills that they wanted to according to their skill levels. All the students had a great time on the trip, and it was a nice warm day up at the hill!

There was a lot of chatter on the way home about the fun times they had together, and a lot of rosy cheeks the next day at school.



Fun in the Sun and Snow!: FB middle school students enjoy their lessons at King's Hill on March 23rd.



Middle School Divisional Wrestling Placers:

Cora Johnston (top left) placed 3rd, and Gavin Schmele and Tyrus Reimer placed 1st at the divisional wrestling tournament for middle school wrestlers. Other placers include Destiny Bach (5th), River Carrel (2nd) and Wyatt Cline (1st). Well done wrestlers!



Student Life

Junior Class Puts on a Prom that was "Out of this World"

by Abbe Starr

On Saturday, March 19th, the Fort Benton junior class hosted Prom at the Montana Agriculture Center after Grand March, which was held in the high school gym.

The juniors picked a spaced theme, and they decorated accordingly. The gym was decked out with a star patterned walkway with balloons, planets hanging from the rafters, and a large rocketship arch for pictures to be taken under. A fog machine was used for effect, which apparently made pictures a bit difficult. The juniors also decorated the announcer's podium with stars and clouds falling down the sides.

The end of Grand March brought the crowning of Prom Royalty. The Sophomore prince candidates were Damian Ort, CJ Griffin, and John Strong Bear, and the Sophomore princess candidates were Sarah Clark, Maddie Doney, and Kylann Nack. CJ Griffin won for Prince and Maddie Doney won for Princess.

Next up was the junior class. Junior prince nominees included Shawn Ruby, Mateo De la Socorro, and Jeremiah Little, and princess nominees included Kylie Danbrook, Francesca Genovese, Kayden Lefurgey. The Junior Prom Prince and Princess was Shawn Ruby and Kylie Danbrook.

Lastly the Seniors were crowned. The nominees for prom king were Aedan Hanson, Gabebriel Perkins, and Jackson Schmele, and the prom queen nominees were Cloe Kalanick, Fabienne Fontaine, and Ashlee Wang. Jackson Schmele was named as the prom king and Ashlee Wang was crowned queen.

After Grand March, the students headed over to the Ag center for some dancing; their tickets were spaced themed wristbands. The junior class hired a DJ and setup tables for people to sit at when they were tired of dancing. They had snacks and drinks. In the sitting room, they had a photobooth set up for spaced-themed pictures. Everyone seemed to have a great night as they danced the night away.

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Prom Royalty: Maddie Doney, Kylie Danbrook, Ashlee Wang, Jackson Schmele, CJ Griffin, and Shawn Ruby were all crowned prom royalty on March 19th,,