

# Fort Benton High School

# THE CANNON REPORT

FBHS Journalism

Wednesday, December 7, 2022



## Student Life

### FBHS Concludes Volleyball Season

by Zoe Donner

The Longhorns volleyball team wrapped up their post season at the Northern C Divisional tournament on Saturday November 5th, with a third place finish.

Although their goal was to make it to the big dance at the state tournament, they played their best volleyball in tournaments. The squad placed

third at the Districts 9C tournament which advanced them to Divisionals. Here, they upset the Highwood Mountaineers to advance to the consolation game, and ultimately finished third in the Northern C Divisional Tournament as well. According to Senior standout, Kylie Danbrook, "Third out of sixteen different teams is something to be proud of."

While advancing to Divisionals, Districts were held here at Fort Benton on October 27 through October 29. The first game was against Big Sandy, and the girls still had a taste for revenge after losing to the Pioneers on their senior night. The Lady Horns came out firing, and they defeated Big Sandy in straight sets to kick off the tournament. As they advanced through the rounds, they were met by Highwood, who had defeated them twice in the regular season, and although the Lady Longhorns were poised to play well, they were defeated again by the Lady Mountaineers; they would see sweet revenge the following week.

Divisionals were held at Chinook on November 3rd through November 5th. Riding the momentum from the previous week, the Lady Horns worked to advance through the first round against the Simms Lady Tigers. In their fourth set, Fort Benton was down 14 to 23, and things were looking like a fifth set was inevitable, but the ladies were not all good with that. They ended up catching up to Simms and winning the game 26-24, so they would them to play against the eventual runner-ups, the Chinook Lady Sugarbeeters. Kaydyn LeFurgey says "It felt good to get our first divisional win out of the way," and they were excited to see what they could do against the Beeters.

Suffering a tough loss to Chinook, the Horns would have to drop to the bottom side of the bracket, where they would have to defeat Big Sandy before seeing the tough Highwood team again.

**Continued on Page 4**

### 3rd Place @ Divisionals



#### Bringing Home the Hardware:

The FBHS Lady Longhorn Volleyball team has consistently brought home a 3rd place district and divisional trophy, upsetting Highwood and Simms to get there. Well done, Ladies!

## Sports

### Winter Cheer Kicks it Into Gear

by Kasey Croft

Winter cheer season has started off with a fresh beginning and experienced returning squad members. After the fall season, the team has gained four experienced seniors for the winter months to join many of the same members who participated in the fall.

Co-coaches Tabitha Ringler and Amy Zukoski have expressed their excitement for this season. "I am excited for the quality of cheerleaders we have this season; we are going to be able to do a lot of cool new stunts and dances," said Coach Ringler who is in her fourth season as head coach. Since she took over the program, she has made changes to the program including fundraisers, brand new dances, and bringing back old habits from her old cheer coach, Diane Leman, who Ringler has since created a new award in honor of.

When asked what is the most rewarding part of coaching cheer Ringler said, "When I see the girl's personalities blossom because I think cheerleading pulls girls out of their shells and feel confident in themselves by the end of the season, I think that is the best part of coaching is seeing some of you finally be who you're supposed to be."

Ringler has been joined by Coach Amy Zuhoski for the past three seasons now, and looks to possibly pass on the program to her in the near future in order to spend more time with her family. For now though, both coaches are looking forward to spending time with this special senior group during the winter cheer season.

The seniors of the team, Raine Halko, Taylor Ball, Kylie Danbrook, and Kaseyann Croft, are coming back for their last season on the team. As for me, I really want to end cheer with fun and cool-looking stunts overall; I'm really excited with the girls who decided to be on the team this year and can't wait to see what we can do.

Overall all the girls have expressed how they are excited to show how hard their team works and to cheer for our highschool basketball teams.



### Formal Dress Drive Fun:

Sterling Herzog modeled one of our donated dresses before the formal dress drive for the Snow Ball dance. The National Honor Society hosted a formal dress drive and shopping event at the Governor's Keep on November

18th. They will host more

events before prom. If you would like to donate a dress or participate, contact Miss Woodhouse

## Student Life

### Speech, Drama, and Debate Looks Forward to Their Season

by Lucia Johnson,

Speech and Drama is an MHSA (Montana High School Association) sanctioned program. The season begins October 1st and continues until state, which is usually held at the end of January.

Coach Amy Hanson, who is now in her 5th season as SDD coach explained, "There are 17 different categories for students to choose from in the Northern B/C division, which is where Fort Benton competes. Ranging from Policy Team Debate, to Pantomime, to Impromptu Speaking, there is a little bit of everything and lots of options for students to choose from."

This year, Speech and Drama welcomed two freshmen into the club, Kailyn Rominger, and Amela Hogan, bringing their members to six. "I'm excited for everything; I've never done S&D, so I'm going to be learning a lot of new things and hopefully gain more confidence talking in front of people," says freshmen newcomer, Kailyn Rominger.

Some of the team's goals for the season are to do well, not only as a team but also individually. They also hope to make it to state and find as much confidence and talent in themselves as they can, but this takes one thing, practice.

# Think Big—Go Beyond

## Fort Benton Schools Puts on Veterans Day Celebration

by Hailey Campbell

With the end of Halloween comes our favorite national holiday, Veterans day. The day in which we honor those who have fought for our country from the time of the first world war to the last. The start of this national holiday began on November 11, 1947 in Birmingham Alabama. Raymond Weeks, a World War II veteran, was the one who organized National Veterans Day (NationalVeteransDay).

This day is important because it is the time where we honor all veterans who have fought for our country throughout the years. Some died in honor during battle, others made it though and lived to see another day, but all dedicated time and service to our country and made sacrifices for us.

Here in Fort Benton, we host a Veterans Day celebration of our own! Fort Benton Elementary School, as the principal Mrs. Benjamin said, participated in “a Veterans Day parade on November 11th,” and the teachers and students left at 10:30 from the elementary and marched down Front Street for the parade. They were joined by veterans and other members of the community for the event.

In addition, the Fort Benton High School Choir sang patriotic songs in the park after the parade. According to Simon Marin, a sophomore choir member said they sang, “America the Beautiful” and “God Bless America.”

Fort Benton Schools plans to continue to honor veterans through celebrations such as this in the future and will be involved in Memorial Day services in May as well. The Cannon Report Staff at FBHS would like to thank all of our veterans for their service.

## SD&D Continued from Page 2

Amy Hanson says, “Individuals sign up with me and they PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE. The more the students practice, the better they will do at meets.”

Speech and Drama have had a little pause at the start of their season this year due to some unforeseen circumstances. This and other teams canceling meets have delayed their first meet until December, leaving only four meets until divisionals. “Whether they place at meets or not, I want each of them to walk away at the end of the season feeling good about themselves and loving speech and drama as much as I do” said Hanson.

The Longhorn SDD has had a tradition of success under Amy Hanson, so we wish the team the best of luck in their season.



### Thank You Veterans!

All of the Fort Benton Elementary students helped to put on and participate in a veterans day parade honoring those who have served in the military. Each class made signs and walked in the parade, despite frigid temperatures. This is a relatively new tradition at the elementary school, but one they plan to continue in the years to come.

# Sports

## Volleyball continued from page 1

They proved they were up to the challenge, though, and defeated both teams to advance in the loser out bracket. “As soon as the ball hit the ground at game point [against Highwood], I lost it. I just jumped up and down and screamed. It felt good to knock them out of the tournament. I'd say they were one of our biggest rivals; we had almost beaten them both times during the season, so it felt like getting the monkey off our backs.” Kylie Danbrook says after dominating Highwood on Friday.

Next, they would see Simms again, who seemed better prepared for the Lady Horns. After being dominated in the first two sets, the final three were all about the Lady Horns, so they would advance to the consolation match against the Lady Beeters. Unfortunately, the girls just did not have enough gas left in the tank to win another tight match, but they would still bring home some very hard earned hardware as they placed third in the division.



**Congratulations to both teams on a successful middle school basketball season.**



The boys team placed 3rd in the middle school tournament. The girls placed 5th at the post season tournament.

## Middle School Sports

### Middle School Basketball Closes Their Short Season

By CJ Griffin

The middle school basketball season started on October 14th and finished on December 3rd at their tournament in Gildford, MT.

Included in our conference for middle school are Turner, Box Elder, Chinook, Hays-Lodgepole, North Star, St. Jude, CJI, Big Sandy, and DGSG. Both the girls and the boys teams have seen a lot of improvement throughout the season.

The girls team is coached by Rheanna Fultz and Shannon Grossman, who both are very experienced coaches with high expectations and the tools to help the girls achieve their full potential. Coach Fultz believes that the girls improved each day and performed well at their tournament.

The most exciting moment of the tournament for the girls came in their first game of their post season tournament. In their third meeting, the girls upset the Box Elder Lady Bears with a 40-34 victory. The coaches attribute this win to “clicking offensively and playing like a team.” The Lady Horns would finish the tournament in the 5th place spot, but are most proud of their improvement of skills, teamwork, and grit throughout the season.

On the boys side of things, Coaches Megan Lords and Callie O’Hara, have put together a competent squad as well. Coach Lords has been at this coaching thing for over 20 years, and has coached at Fort Benton for about 8 years now. She is joined this year by Cali O’Hara who helped with girls basketball last season.

The Horns started their post season tournament by storming through the first rounds, defeating Chester, Box Elder, CJI, and Northstar. In the semi final matchup, they were narrowly defeated by Big Sandy in overtime by 2 points. Though losing was an upset, they still managed to secure an admirable 3rd place finish in their tournament finishing their amazing season.

# Sports

## High School Basketball is Back!

by Trinity Hunter

On November 16th, the high school boys and girls basketball teams had their first day of practice. Both teams are coming off of divisional runs from the previous seasons with key returners on both teams.

Both teams see returning coaches; the boys coaches will again be Tyler Pasha and Hardy O'Hara and the girls coaches will be Eddie Fultz and Erich Wellman for the second year.

The goal of junior varsity basketball is often to develop better fundamentals with the upcoming freshman, underclassmen or developing players. Girls basketball assistant coach, Erich Wellman, says that his goal is to "Develop the JV squad's basketball skills and fundamentals necessary for each player to be able to contribute at their highest levels; whether it be a top rebounder, lockdown defender, and/or ball handler."

There are expected to be 7-8 freshman girls coming up to high school basketball. Erich Wellman says, "In order to develop a strong, lasting program, the more numbers we have at the JV level, the better."

The returning varsity girl's coach, Eddie Fultz, is excited to be back this season. His girls had a wins-to-loses ratio of 15-11, placing third at Districts, and fourth at Divisionals last season. Fultz says that he hopes to see his girls "Come together as a team and be their very best come tourney time in February and hopefully March." He would also like to see the girls, "get better individually and as a team every single day from beginning to the end of the season and to give 100% effort at all times."

The coaches' goals are pretty simple: to compete no matter the opponent. Fultz stated, I think every year that is the main goal of our program. Compete at all levels against everyone and anyone including ourselves. Reach our potential, whether that's winning 5 games or 35, just be our best."

December 7, 2022

We are excited to see what kind of example the girls and boys set for our school on and off the court. We are thrilled to watch them play and see how this season turns out.



### Winter Formal Fun:

The senior class put on the annual winter formal, or the Snow Ball dance, on December 3rd. There were over 60 attendees, and people from several schools attended.

# Student Life

## FBHS Sees New Book Club

By Kailyn Rominger

In the last few weeks, several high school students have begun a student-run book club. Senior Emerson Geise - along with the help of some of her classmates and supervisor Ms. Woodhouse - organized the book club to create an outlet for, "(...) anyone who loves to read to really hone in on their love and find others that will motivate them to cultivate it further" says Emerson Giese.

Giese also says that, "It will also allow for those who are looking to find a deeper meaning in reading to do so." She goes on to say that this is also an opportunity for students who might not notice each other out of book club to get a chance to interact.

The book club meets for lunch on Wednesdays each week in Ms. Woodhouse's room. Currently we have 10 members, but students are encouraged to join, as, "It is an opportunity for anyone to find a passion for reading thorough interesting books and academic conversations."

Continued on Page 6

## Student Life

### Playing with the Pep Band

by MyCal Lane

The Fort Benton pep band has finished their first busy season of playing for the fall events including home football games, and some home volleyball games as well as the district and divisional volleyball tournaments. They are already getting ready to start a new busy season for the winter months and sports.

With a total of about 30 students from grades 7-12, the FBHS pep band is as peppy as ever. According to the pep band director, Miss Kathleen England, "Pep band is a unique group, not just because it brings together different ages of students, but because it appeals to basically everyone at an activity,".

Despite spending little time together, they have already started to build chemistry. "Yes I love the group. We have so much fun together," says trombone player Brinly Reid, "I can't wait for another season."

Although they may not be the biggest of bands, Miss England is not worried. "If I could change anything about our pep band, it would be to have us playing more music and being more involved in what's happening on the field or on the court. The band is a team, and all of us who are part of it have a job to do."

With the banging of their drums, sliding of their slides, and pressing of their keys, they have made some beautiful music for all to enjoy at games. They have received many compliments from various people on their boldness and sound. We are very thankful for our loud and proud pep band and we hope they continue to their greatness throughout the next season.

### Book Club continued from Page 6

It would benefit all students, where those who already love reading can share that passion with those who reciprocate that interest, and those who don't read much can come to develop a love for it.

Emerson says that she hopes the book club, "(...) helps students examine life and what it entails through books and come to find what it is that is worth writing about," and that's definitely something that they can carry on and keep with them after their years at Fort Benton HS. She also said something that everyone should take the time to think about, and it's that, "Books are an opportunity to not only get lost in them, but to find exactly what makes life and humanity so incredible, so worth exploring."

If you are interested in joining the book club, you can contact Miss Woodhouse or any of the book club members. Our next book will be *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini.

## Sports

### High School Wrestling Looks to Continue Program Success

by Grace Wright

As the year ticks by, we jump into a brand new season of sports. The FBHS wrestling team looks forward to another successful season. It also looks a little different this year with the addition of girls wrestling.

Our Longhorn wrestlers began their season on November 17th, and many wrestlers are anxious to get the season started. "I have no idea how far I will make it being a freshman coming off an easy 8th grade year," says wrestler Gavin Shmele.

With every group of excited athletes comes an equally excited coach to follow. Coach Colby Cline, who is in his second season stated, "I'm excited to see how each of our wrestlers have progressed from last year. I also enjoy going to some of the big tournaments and seeing different teams from all over the state."

This wrestling season has brought in a whole new array of interested students. A large portion of which, being girls.



# Elementary Student Life

## Elementary Students Celebrate Annual Red Ribbon Week

by Simon Marin

Everyone down at Fort Benton Elementary School celebrated the annual Red Ribbon Week from October 24th-28th. They celebrate this week to bring awareness to drug abuse in America. It was created to honor a very brave and hard working man who passed away due to drug related violence. This week is used as a way to communicate that drugs are harmful to everyone.

Each day of the week has a dress up theme, and each of those days were very unique and interesting. The first day of the week was red, white, and gold day, where the students were wearing red white and gold themed outfits. Tuesday was favorite team day, in which the students were allowed to wear their favorite team memorabilia to school. Day 3 was made to be a mismatched day, in which the students wore outfits that were mismatched, like socks, shoes, and other articles of clothing. Thursday was a crazy day, in which students wore crazy and wacky outfits, and with no limits to the students imagination, they were able to create some hilarious and over the top outfits for this day. The final day, Friday, was Longhorn Pride Day, where students showed of the incredible amounts of longhorn pride by wearing longhorn t-shirts, jackets, and other pieces of clothing.

In addition, the high school PE/Health students joined in on the drug abuse awareness by presenting short informational and often humorous videos informing young students about the dangers of drug use, and they also made posters to hang up around the elementary school. The videos are available to view on YouTube.

This was an amazing week for students, and they went all out! The students and teachers had a lot of fun, and they all hope to see the new crazy, wacky, and amazing outfits that these creative students can put together next year.

## Wrestling continued from page 6

They have 9 boys and 5 girls wrestling this year. “I think that we've had some try it in junior high and had fun so the attitude about wrestling is changing. A lot of people are starting to realize that it is a good way to stay in shape and have fun at the same time” says coach Colby Cline when asked why he thinks this year's group of wrestlers is larger than past years.

Like any athletic coach, Mr. Cline has goals for his wrestlers this season. “I would like our team to place at state again and to have 2-3 state placers or more. Another goal is to finish the season with all of our wrestlers that we started out with,” he says. All of which can be easily attained with hard work and dedication as our wrestlers continue to apply themselves to everything they do. So as the season progresses they continue to work hard as well as grow and improve.

The Longhorn wrestlers participated in their first meet on December 2nd, in Cascade, MT, but many did not attend due to the Snow Ball dance. Trevor O’Hara placed 6th in his weight class at that meet. They will travel to Glasgow this weekend, and then they will have their first home meet on December 15th before heading to the Holiday Classic at CMR. Good luck, wrestlers!



## 1st grade celebrates annual Thanksgiving Feast:

The first grade Thanksgiving feast has been a long-standing tradition at Fort Benton Elementary. This year it was led by teachers Tracy Debruycker and Deanna Farwoick

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