

Fort Benton High School THE CANNON REPORT

FBHS Journalism

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Student Life

Senioritis: It's Killing Us, Man.

by Kasey Croft

The Fort Benton High School seniors are officially in the last stretch of their high school years. It is common for this tragic disease to plague the 12th grade class in many schools, not just at FBHS. In fact, it harms students all over the world! This terrible disease is called SENIORITIS. The symptoms include lack of motivation,

inactivity or complacency, and an overall slump in classes. The effects of these symptoms lead to increased stress, procrastination, and a frantic push to complete work.

By the 3rd quarter, the pressure is on to have a college selected, or at least some sort of idea for the future, so the seniors have to work a lot more on what they can do to be successful in those situations. As a result of this, their last classes of high school seem to be put on the back burner. Many students find ways to overcome this issue, and senior Kylie Danbrook has found success in her endeavors, but feels the weight of it all. "Overall I have stayed pretty good with my grades and homework, and I have also taken the time to fill out all the scholarship essays I could, taken quite a bit of college classes, being part of sports and extracurricular activities, so it's very hard to make time for everything in my life right now," said Kylie Danbrook.

Plenty of students just want to be done with high school and start their lives, and grades can tend to decline the most in this period of time. The future of these students is still bright, however, and most worked hard to get to the place they are right now. "I am proud of how far most of us have gone as a class, and I think that all of our futures are bright. I'm excited to finally be done with high school and start my future and to see what my classmates end up doing with their futures," said Rainie Halko.

When students start as freshmen, they are excited for this high school experience, and the end seems so far away, but it always proves to go a bit faster than expected. The senior class of 2023 only have 125 days left of their high school years, but there's no doubt they will make the most out of the rest of their school year and try to keep their motivation up and keep procrastination at the minimum.



Seniors Kasey Ann Croft, and Angela Haugen walk out for the Speech and Drama senior night on the last home wrestling tournament of the year.

Sports

High School Wrestling Thrives in Regular Season

by Zoe Donner

In the past few weeks, the Longhorn wrestling team has competed in several more matches and has gained some new teammates since the 8th graders were allowed to compete.

On December 9th, most of the team competed in their first match at the Glasgow Tournament. The three-time divisional and state placer and senior, Trevor O'Hara, is proving that he is hungry for more hardware this season. Trevor finished in 1st place in the 113 weight class, Cade Ball with 4th place in 160, Nathan Dunham finished in 4th Place in the 182 class and Gavin Schmele received 6th Place, and Damian Ort finished in 7th place in heavyweight. On the girl's side of the tournament, in Glasgow, Cora Johnston placed 3rd in 138, and Rachael Little was 5th in 152.

After the Glasgow meet, 8th graders were allowed to wrestle in high school and began practicing with the high school squad, as well as freshmen Silas Lewis and Etta Wicks who decided to try their hands at wrestling. According to Coach Cline, "The 8th graders are 20 matches behind, but still learning." 8th graders Braydee Lehman, Melodie Starman, Mica Juedeman, Kaiden Hull, Zackary Thomas, and Arrow Hucke have, "Improved a huge amount in the short amount of time since December 12th," says Mr. Cline.

Fort Benton hosted our annual mixer on the 15th where teams from the area came to compete before heading to the CMR Holiday Classic. Each wrestler was able to wrestle at least one match.

On Friday, December 16th and 17th at the CMR Holiday Classic, the Longhorns competed against wrestlers from Class AA to C. Trevor O'Hara placed 5th in the 113 weight class, a rare feat for Class C wrestlers. The rest of the wrestlers were able to continue matches in a mixer after they lost out of the tournament.

All of them found some success there.

In Chester, Trevor O'Hara, Cade Ball, Damian Ort, Rachael Little and Etta Wicks all dominated their matches in that mixer. The wrestlers were set to compete in Cut Bank on January 6th and 7th, but due to the extreme freezing rain, they were unable to travel.

On January 12 at Fairfield the wrestlers competed in another mixer. At the Chouteau Invitational on January 13th -14th, Trevor and Damion placed 2nd in their weight categories, Cade and Nathan both placed 4th in their respective classes, Tyrus placed 5th in 103, and Rachael and Micah both placed 4th in their respective weight classes.

Finally, Fort Benton hosted their final home meet of the season, celebrating senior night for manager, Jeremiah Little, and wrestler Trevor O'Hara. Trevor had a great senior night, winning both of his matches handily.



Seniors: Jerimiah Little (manager) and Trevor O'Hara walk out to be honored for their wrestler senior night.



The Wrestling Team had hosted two at home tournaments one on December 15th and the senior night tournament on January 17th, the team celebrated nights full of wins

Think Big-Go Beyond

FFA Helps in Career Development

by CJ Griffin

FFA competitions are judged contests (otherwise known as Career Development Events) organized by the U.S. National FFA Organization, in which high school students compete based on their knowledge of a particular subject, usually for their school teams.

The Fort Benton FFA Chapter competes in many different events ranging from Agrisciences, to leadership development which can help a student find what they are looking for.

For example, an Agriscience fair separates into five different categories them being Animal Systems, Environmental Services/Natural Resource Systems, Food Products and Processing Systems, Plant Systems, Power, Structural and Technical Systems and Social Science. Any of these categories can help a student find what they want to do for a career and help them improve upon it at an early stage.

Most recently, the Fort Benton FFA chapter has had some success at their recent events. At the Judith Basin Districts, John Lippert placed 5th in Senior Mechanics and Sadie Cole placed 4th in Vet Science.

The FFA students will also be competing in Great Falls at the KMON on the 18th of this month, and in Clyde Park on January 31st.



The High School Band (Left) and Choir (right) show the town their many talents and spread more holiday happiness throughout the Christmas season on December 12th.



The FFA team has competed at many tournaments so far (right) and has hosted their annual home tournament (left).

Student Life

Fort Benton Band & Choir Perform Christmas Concert

By MyCal Lane

On December 12th the Fort Benton High School band and choir put on a wonderful performance for the local community. Altogether the 5th-12th grade students performed a total of 22 songs with the 5th grade playing three songs, the 6th grade playing five, the middle school with four, the high school band with five, and the high school choir singing five as well.

Their pieces sounded great as they showed a lot of progress. Band and choir director Kathleen England says, "I think the concert was really good. Our musicians worked hard, prepared some challenging music, and showed tremendous growth throughout the short concert season."

Although their performance went very well there were a few bumps and kinks along the way. "If I could go back and do it again, I would fix a few things, especially with technology. My sincerest apologies to the choir for the super low microphones! I also would have had a stage crew to help reset between groups." says Miss England.

All in all the band and choir put on a beautiful performance that stunned the crowd. We certainly hope they continue to create wonderful music as they grow and flourish into the better musicians and singers that we know they are.

Student Life

Robotics Qualifies for State in Bozeman

by Lucia Johnson

This year our high school robotics team has attended two qualifier events. The first qualifier, held on November 12 in Helena, was meant to get some experience with competition for the young robotics team. Though they did not compete at the event, they went to “better understand the process and to get ideas on how we can improve our robot and make valuable connections, which we did.” says coach Aaron.

After going to the first qualifier, the team learned some valuable lessons, including how to build a robot that has a “fully fleshed-out design that is competition ready.” On December 3 the team competed in a qualifier at Montana Tech University in Butte. The team went from having only a small chassis and wheels on their robot to having a complete robot with mecanum wheels, vertical motors, an expansion hub, an elevator arm, 3D printed claw and lots more.

On arriving at the competition, the team was already in work mode rushing over to the practice field to finish their program for the 20-second autonomous period. After perfecting the autonomous, the team had to quickly finish the engineering portfolio and find a printer to give it to the judges. Though zip tied together, the engineering portfolio got the team second for the Think award. After being judged the team’s robot was checked to make sure that it met the requirements, though having no red beckon the robot passed the inspection.

After a short opening ceremony, the team found their schedule and began planning strategies with their alliances. The team's first match did not go as expected, not accomplishing their autonomous period and only scoring around 7 points in the whole match. This did not let them down though, and they got better and better throughout the day.

At the end of the qualification matches the team was in tenth place but they had been picked by the fourth-place team to continue to the quarter-finals. This meant the team would be able to advance to the state competition on February 3rd in Bozeman! In the meantime, the team hopes to continue to improve before then.



Top Left: the High school robotics engineering portfolio which was printed at the second qualifier at Butte. Top right and bottom left is the team's current robot. On the bottom right the team's robot is going through the safety inspection.



Reuniting with the RoboScout Squad at the first qualifier in Helena.

Student Life

Fort Benton Schools Battles Several Illnesses

by Hailey Campbell

In recent months, it is clear that “Cold & Flu Season” is here, and the students at Fort Benton Schools have been battling severe illnesses, which are being passed between students and teachers K-12.

Several students have told stories upon their return to school of illnesses including influenza A and B, strange cases of strep throat, and the common cold. Even after a few years, students and teachers are always fearful of Covid-19 breakouts as well, though we seem to avoided it well this far. Each of these illnesses is very contagious, and I have personally experienced Influenza B and strep throat; both were painful experiences.

Simon Marin, a sophomore in the school explains how he feels about the situation. He says “Though it has been getting a lot better throughout the year, we've been struggling with illness around the school and it was so bad a while ago; all of my friends were gone!”

Right before break, we experienced many absences, and paired with a -40 wind chill, the school chose to close the day before break. Since the winter break, the absences have seemed to decline, however.

Our school secretary, Mrs. Hanson says “As we neared Christmas break, the number of students called out of school due to various illnesses increased dramatically. On the 19th of December, I had just over 40 students out because of sickness.” She then explains how she feels about this and how it’s gotten better over recent months as she says, “The long break seemed to help matters as our attendance has been back to more normal numbers. I also have seen a lot fewer students in my office complaining of ailments”

It appears that the break came at the perfect time in order for everyone to be comfortable to stay home and get better. Regardless, best policy is always, if you’re sick, stay home.

January 18, 2023

Sports

Fort Benton Basketball Pushes Through Regular Season

by Simon Marin

The basketball season has proven to be a tough but fun season for both our boys and girls teams. They have been working hard this season, and putting in as much energy as possible. They have had several close games in which they have come up short, but are looking to improve these results in the second half of the season.

The girls have started with a 4-3 win/loss record, dropping games to CJI, North Star. Most recently, the most recent girls game in this season has been a close one, with the girls suffering an unfortunate loss. The final score was 35-44, with Chinook taking the win over the Lady Longhorns. The Lady Longhorns have defeated Hays/Lodgepole, Big Sandy, Box Elder, and Turner in their conference.

On the boys end, they are boasting a 6-3 win/loss record, losing to Big Sandy, Turner, and CJI, but defeated conference opponents North Star, Chinook, and Hays/Lodgepole, and Box Elder. Their most recent game ended with an 11 point lead in the boys favor over the Chinook Sugarbeaters.

We hope that the Longhorn boys and girls teams keep pushing to be the best they can. They have proven themselves to be a formidable team, and our whole school has full confidence in their abilities.

This coming weekend, the Longhorns will start the second half of their regular season, facing Turner. They will also play a make up game against the Conrad Cowboys and Cowgirls on Monday, January 23rd.

We wish them the best of luck as they head into the second half of their regular season and gear up for tournament time!

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Student Life

Speech and Drama's Strong Start to the Season

by Kailyn Rominger

Despite only having 5 students participating in Speech and Drama, the team has started off the season strong.

In their first meet at Malta, everyone placed third or higher. As a team, they took home the first place trophy for Class C Speech. In informative, Angela Haugen placed third, Kasey Croft placed second, and Kailyn Rominger placed first. In Memorized Public Address, Hanna Bach placed first, and in Dramatic Oral Interpretation Caeli Hanson placed third.

At the second meet, which took place in Choteau, they took home their second Class C First Place Trophy. This meet was much bigger than their first, but each participant still placed similarly. In Informative, Angela placed fourth, Kasey placed third, and Kailyn Rominger placed second. As for Hanna, she placed first for the second time this season. Caeli placed second, showing improvement from the first meet.

Senior Kasey Croft says that she is, "happy with the results we've had so far," and that, once the time comes, "we all have the potential to place at state."

Despite the team's success, the team also gains valuable life experiences and skills. Junior Caeli Hanson says that, "Speech and Drama has been a life-changing experience for many people, including me." She goes on to explain that it helps many people conquer their fear of talking in front of people and helps build their speech-writing skills. It also creates an opportunity to socialize with like-minded people.

Speech and Drama can be very difficult for some people, and senior leader Kasey Croft says that, "We are all supportive of each other," and that this is one of the reasons that they are so successful.



Top Left: The Speech and Drama Team's first meet in Malta.
Bottom Right: Team poses at Choteau's Tinsel Tournament



Top Right: A team picture with the Class C Speech First Place trophy.



Bottom Left: Team holds up medals from the Malta Invitational



Protect Yourself from Germs: WASH YOUR HANDS



The Fort Benton Cheerleading team has worked hard and long on stunts to show the town and cheering on the girls and boys basketball teams. The cheerleaders are ready to help lead the student section throughout the tournament season for the basketball players, and hope that people come to help cheer these athletes on.

Middle School Sports

8th Grade Girls Join the High School Squad by Grace Wright

Middle school basketball finished just three days before the Fort Benton School Board approved the 8th grade girls to join the high school girls team to play some JV ball.

Coming off a short middle school season, the 8th grade girls have learned some helpful tips to prepare them for this high school season. The girls participated in their first Junior Varsity game against Box Elder on January 7th, and despite not bringing home a win, they took some new experiences home with them.

High school ball looks a bit different than junior high, though. "The speed of the game was obviously different. There was more pressure and it was more of a mental game," says eighth grader Paetyn Templet.

Along with the change in game the girls have experienced a few other benefits as well. For example the new team dynamic. "I feel like I have progressed a lot because the high school girls have really pushed us to be better," eighth grader Alexis Clark says. "I feel like I've started to have more confidence when I play with the older girls," agrees Templet.

All of the new learning and progressing the girls have done and will do this season is all skills they can carry on with them into their future high school seasons. It's safe to say that the Fort Benton Longhorn community is excited to watch them grow and progress with every game.

Pre-Order Your 2023 Pioneer Yearbook TODAY:

The Pioneer Staff is working to complete this year's yearbook, and they have selected the theme "Stay Gold" in a nod to the youthful personalities of this 2023 class, as well as the novel/movie, The Outsiders. The film was released in 1983, making this the 40th anniversary. In order to pre-order your yearbook and secure the \$45 price, contact Miss Woodhouse TODAY!



Girls Basketball
Senior Emerson Geise goes up to score another point for the girl varsity basketball team. Throughout the season the team has worked hard to get where they are now and are ready to take on any challenges ahead while they head into tournament season.