

ROBERTS SCHOOL

2024 FEBRUARY—MARCH NEWSLETTER

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Student Happenings

As we head into February, we are hitting our busiest time of the year. The Lady Rockets are currently seeded in first place in the 6C and are ranked #3 for Class "C" in Montana, while the boys sit in third in the conference as we head closer to district basketball in Red Lodge on February 15-17. The FFA and BPA have been busy and continue to be busy with district and regional competitions as they prepare for state. Also, our Friday program has two ski days left on February 2nd and 23rd, then goes to the Steep World Climbing Center on March 22nd.

Big Picture Update

Last fall, we had a community meeting to help us connect with the greater community, update on school finance, and collect information to accomplish two big goals. The first is to update our Strategic Plan (big picture goals and how to meet them) and then create a Graduate Profile (a list of values and skills all graduates should have). The board and the superintendent have drafted a Strategic Plan, and we would like your feedback on this and the likelihood of a mill levy for the school on Thursday, February 22nd, at 7 pm at the Roberts Fire Hall.

Our next steps will be to take feedback from this meeting and likely approve a proposal to run a general mill levy for the district at our board meeting on Friday, February 23rd, at 5 pm. The school and, specifically, the students urge your support and questions. Our school offers a variety of programs and curricular opportunities that are likely to be cut or reduced if we cannot pass a mill levy as we look to balance the budget in tough financial times for everyone. We at the school understand it is a tough ask, as many of you are feeling financial difficulties with inflation and the increases in local housing costs. Still similarly, we are also experiencing the same limitations at the school and need your support to continue to offer high-quality programming here.

As we release talking points, they will be shared on social media (Roberts Rockets Facebook Page & school Remind app) and shared at locations around town. Please call the school and ask questions as you encounter them. As with any information, there are natural questions, and we want to support you in ensuring that we will be transparent and honest in our answers.

As always, thank you for the opportunity to work with the children of this great community in our school. If you have any questions or concerns, please email ator@roberts.k12.mt.us or by phone at 406-445-2421.

Additionally, please join me for coffee at the Roberts Cafe on any of the following Thursdays at 8:30 AM: 2/8, 2/22, 3/14, 3/28!

Alex Ator
Superintendent of Schools

Valentine's Day Gift

NHS *Order Form* **Due by:**
February 8th

Buy a Gift for Someone Special
Check the Heart to Pick the Gifts

♡ *Stuffed Animal \$3*
♡ *Heart Shaped Balloon \$2*
♡ *Heart Shaped Lollipop \$2*

Name: _____ *Total:* _____

Write a note below

♡



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Blood Donation

BLOOD DRIVE DATES

Monday, April 8th

Tuesday, July 16th

Monday, September 30th

Tuesday, November 26th

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Our second Scholastic Book fair of the 2023-2024 year will be the week of March 11th-16th. Thursday, March 14th, during Parent Teacher Conferences will be our big night of sales. Students to fill out a wish list on Wednesday March 6th and Thursday March 7th. The wish list is used for family members that would like to purchase gifts for students or for students that are absent on the days they get to choose their free book.

I will be having a treat sale at the same time as the book fair. Each item will be \$1.00. All proceeds will go to "Share the Fair". FUNDS CAN BE USED TO:

- Provides books to children who otherwise could not afford them.
- Gives kids access to books they want to read through classroom libraries.
- Cultivates a love of reading and a love of helping others.
- Reinforces that literacy is a priority for schools, families, and communities.



Reading builds the knowledge to make the puzzle pieces fall together! The Star of the West Masonic Lodge in Red Lodge donates Kindles to encourage students to read. This program runs through the 3rd quarter starting Monday, January 15th through Thursday March 30th. I will be keeping track of each book returned and having each student read for 15 minutes during Library checkout days. This program is for Kindergarten through 6th grade students. Each student will put their name on the back of a puzzle piece then assemble the puzzles then taken apart for the drawing. The drawing

will be held the week of March 28th or April 4th.

BPA EASTER EGG HUNT AND BAKE SALE

**SATURDAY
MARCH 30TH
BAKE SALE 9 AM
EGG HUNT @ 10**



Friday Program Schedule

These are the dates for our Friday Programs. Forms will be sent home for sign ups.

DATE	
2/2	Ski Day
2/23	Ski Day
3/22	Steep World
4/9	Zoo Montana

Donations:

We collect USED PRINTER CARTRIDGES to earn money for library needs. We are still recycling markers through COLORCYCLE by Crayola. All items can be placed in the blue basket outside the library door. THANK YOU for your help

Hello from Kindergarten!

We have been learning to read and have started learning about sentence structure. We are a bunch of math whizzes! Time, measurement, greater than, less than, and equal to are new skills. Soon, we will practice tying shoes!



BPA NEWS

Thank you to sponsors of our annual Roberts Community Calendar. Our Roberts BPA members are now preparing for the Montana State Leadership Conference which will be held in Billings on March 10, 11, and 12

FFA NEWS

The Roberts FFA Chapter just competed in the District Vet Science and Floriculture Career Development Events (CDEs) on January 23rd in Red Lodge. Competing in Vet Science was Lilly Hyvonen and Taylee Chirrick. The Floriculture CDE consisted of a senior team of Jozelyn Payovich, Laynee Holdbrook, Hailey Croft, and Molly Mitchell. Laynee placed 8th as an individual and Molly placed 9th individually. The team placed 5th overall and will now be headed to the State FFA Convention in Billings on April 2nd-6th to compete at the state level. The junior team consisted of Zach Fetz, Robert Downam, and Terryn Chirrick. Zach placed first in the junior division. The month of February will be quite busy for chapter members as some of them will be traveling to Miles City on February 2nd, Melstone on February 5th, Billings on February 7th, Columbus on February 8th, and Billings again on February 14th. They will be competing in several events including ag mechanics, welding, livestock evaluation, horse evaluation, ag business and two middle school members in Creed Speaking. During the week of February 18th - 24th the chapter will be celebrating National FFA Week with a number of activities taking place at the school during the week. The members will be making and serving breakfast to the Roberts School staff on one day during the week. The month of March will only have one CDE taking place, which will be the District Ag Mechanics CDE on March 5th in Columbus. The members will be working hard through the month of March as they prepare for several CDE competitions taking place at the Montana FFA State Convention in Billings on April 2nd-6th.

Mr. Grove

FFA Advisor

Mrs. Kennedee Blankenship

By: Colt Holdbrook

I interviewed Mrs. Blankenship in regard to her positions as the seven-twelfth grade history and geography teacher. She is still a pretty fresh teacher with only two years under her belt so far. Mrs. Blankenship enjoys making history fun and educational for students. Another thing she really enjoys about her job is that it never gets boring because "it is something new everyday." She has taught seven-twelfth grade history and geography along with helping coach basketball and she is the STUCO advisor. Her career goals are to eventually take on an administrative position. We are so glad to have her as a teacher and are very thankful for everything she contributes to our school.

Mingling with Mrs. Misty Pitts

By: Maria Castro

We are interviewing the teachers, just to get to know them better not only in the teacher light, but also personally. Misty Pitts is the Librarian, MTDA, Journalism and Yearbook, and Preschool teacher here at Roberts. I asked four questions. First, how long have you been teaching? Mrs. Pitts said she received her certificate in 2000. Officially she's taught at Roberts, Lodge Grass, Custer, Billings District #2, Luther, Red Lodge, and Stanley ND. In total, she has about 14-15 years of teaching experience. Next, what is your favorite part of teaching? She said getting to see that "ah ha" moment when they finally realize what you're asking of them. Moving on, what grades/subjects have you taught? For the favorite it's Kindergarten and Preschool. And she's taught Preschool, Kindergarten, High School Title 1, First Grade, Special Ed Para, 2-3 Para, Art, MTDA, and Yearbook and Journalism. Lastly, what are your goals for your career? Mrs. Pitts' goal is to get back into a self-contained classroom at some point.

Learn about Mrs. Herta

By: Molly Mitchell

Have you ever met Mrs. Ressa Herta? If so, then you know she is a kind person. If not, here are some facts about her. Mrs. Herta has been teaching for 23 years, twenty of which she was a k-12 paraprofessional. She has taught fifth through eighth grade, first, and as previously mentioned, special education. Her favorite part of the job is "being able to get to know the personalities and families of her kids." Mrs Herta's future career goal is to become more fluent in teaching ELA. A fun fact about this wonderful lady is that she enjoys paddle boarding and bow hunting outside of school. Now you know a little more about Mrs. Ressa Herta, Robert's first grade teacher.



Rowdy Roberts Rockets Rodeo

By Molly Mitchell

Rodeo is a thrilling event where a person can watch or take part in it. Well, if you haven't, there are a couple students who participate in events in Roberts school. These students are Colt Holdbrook and Taylor Koch. This month, we are featuring Colt! He started rodeoing with his family and participates in bull riding. This event consists of the rider trying to ride a bucking bull for eight seconds while holding onto a braided rope that is around the animal's stomach. Since he was little, he has been learning about multiple rodeo events. Colt's goal is to make it to the Montana High School Rodeo Association

Mrs. Denyse Vanek

By: Maria Castro

Mrs. Vanek has been teaching for 8 years (12 including years of Para). Her favorite part of teaching is the excitement when the kids learn something new. She said "Kindergarten is just excited to be here and learn." Mrs. Vanek has taught Kindergarten, a Montessori for 3-7 year old's, second grade, and she was a Para for k-8. Her career goals are to just remain a teacher and continue learning new things.

FEBRUARY MENU

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
BREAKFAST	1/29 Cereal	1/30 Yogurt	1/31 Muffins	2/1 Mini Waffles
LUNCH	Biscuits & Gravy	Tacos	Chili & Cinnamon Rolls	Corn Dogs
BREAKFAST	2/5 Cereal	2/6 Breakfast Scramble	2/7 Biscuits & Gravy	2/8 Oatmeal
LUNCH	Cooks Choice	Walking Taco	Grilled Cheese & Tomato Soup	Pulled Pork
BREAKFAST	2/12 Cereal	2/13 <u>Poptart</u>	2/14 <u>Egg McMuffin</u>	2/15 Cinnamon Swirl Toast
LUNCH	Spaghetti	Chicken Strips	Chili Cheese Fries	Cheeseburgers
BREAKFAST	2/19 Cereal	2/20 Pancake on a Stick	2/21 Bagels	2/22 Yogurt
LUNCH	Italian Dunkers	Beef Enchiladas	Orange Chicken	Rib Sandwich
BREAKFAST	2/26 Cereal	2/27 Muffins	2/28 Sausage Biscuit	2/29 Breakfast Burrito
LUNCH	Hot Dogs	Burritos	KFC Bowls	Chili Frito Pie

MARCH MENU

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
BREAKFAST	3-4 Cereal	3/5 Mini Waffles	3/6 <u>Poptart</u>	3/7 Cinnamon Swirl Toast
LUNCH	Soup & Sandwiches	Tacos	Chicken Alfredo	Mac N Cheese
BREAKFAST	3/11 Cereal	3/12 Yogurt Parfait	3/13 Pancake on a Stick	3/14 Bagels
LUNCH	Scalloped Potatoes & Ham	Taco Salad	Chicken Fried Steak	Breakfast for Lunch
BREAKFAST	3/18 Cereal	3/19 Sausage Biscuit	3/20 Muffins	3/21 Yogurt
LUNCH	Egg Salad or Bologna Salad	Fajitas	Shepherd's Pie	Finger Steaks
BREAKFAST	3/25 Cereal	3/26 Breakfast Burrito	3/27 Mini Waffles	3/28 <u>Poptart</u>
LUNCH	Popcorn Chicken & Waffles	Super Potato <u>Ole's</u>	Sweet & Sour Chicken	Burgers

2023-2024 BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Thursday February 1,2024	Plenty Coups	Roberts	JVG/VG/VB	4:30/6:00/7:30
Saturday February 3,2024	Fromberg	Roberts	VB	5:00
Thursday February 8,2024	Bridger	Bridger	JVG	5:30
Friday February 9,2024	RPR	Reed Point	VG/VB	6:00/7:30
Saturday February 10,2024	Absarokee	Roberts	JVG/VG/VB	2:00/3:30/5:00
2/15-2/17	Districts	Red Lodge	VG/VB	TBA
2/28-3/2	Divisionals	Miles City	VG/VB	TBA
3/6-3/9	State	Great Falls	VG/VB	TBA

2023-2024 JUNIOR HIGH GIRLS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location	Level	Time
Monday February 12,2024	First day of practice	Old Gym	Elem/JH	TBA
Monday February 19,2024	Absarokee	Roberts	Elem/JH	5:00
Tuesday February 20, 2024	Broadview-Lavina	Broadview-Lavina	Elem/JH	4:30
Monday February 26, 2024	Bridger	Roberts	Elem/JH	5:00
Monday, March 4, 2024	Bridger	Bridger	Elem/JH	5:00
Tuesday March 5,2024	Fromberg	Roberts	Elem/JH	5:00
Monday, March 11, 2024	Plenty Coups	Plenty Coups	Elem/JH	4:30
Tuesday March 12, 2024	St. Charles	St Charles	Elem/JH	4:30
Wednesday March 13,2024	RPR	Roberts	Elem/JH	4:30
Saturday, March 16, 2024	Harlowton	Harlowton	Elem/JH	10:00

2023-2024 TRACK SCHEDULE

(This is what we have so far—we will be updating it as meets are scheduled)

Date	Host	Location	Level	Start Time
Monday, March 11	Roberts Lower Gym	1st day of High School Practice	V	4:10 PM
TBA	Parent Meeting	Gym	V	6:15 PM
Tuesday, April 2	Railyard Trails	Laurel	V	3:30 PM
Monday, April 8	7/8 1st Practice	Lower gym	JH	4:10 PM
Tuesday, April 9	Railyard Trails	Laurel	V	3:30 PM
Monday, April 15	5/6 1st Practice	Lower gym	JH	4:10 PM

FEBRUARY/MARCH NEWSLETTER

ROBERTS SCHOOL
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CHECK THE WEBSITE www.roberts.k12.mt.us FOR UPDATES AND SCHEDULES

Basketball Tournaments

Districts—2/16-2/19 @ Red Lodge

Divisionals—3/3-3/5 @ Miles City

State—3/9-3/12 @ Great Falls



SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

The annual Trustee Election will be held on May 7, 2024. Two seats on the board are up for election for three (3) year terms. Declaration of Intent and Oath of Candidacy for Trustee Candidates forms are available at the office of the district clerk and must be completed and returned to the district clerk by March 28, 2024. Candidates must be registered voters of School District #5.

Ski Days: Fridays - Feb 2nd, Feb 23rd