

April/May 2021

## ROBERTS SCHOOL

### FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

#### **Return to Some Normalcy**

Over the last year, our school, community, state, and country have dealt with unprecedented challenges. These challenges, and the time constraints of these challenges, made us adjust to a more online format for communication. Now that we are catching up and returning to more normalcy, it is time we get back to our traditional newsletter.

I also want to send a sincere and heartfelt thank you to all the community members, churches, parents, students, staff, and other contributors who have helped us navigate the challenges of this last year. "It takes a village" is a time-old adage, but the last year has been a constant reminder of this.

From a school perspective, we are starting to see some normalcy also. Our high school and junior students have been back to a more traditional schedule for the last couple of weeks. We will likely lift the district's mask for students and staff at the April school board meeting. Many students who started the year in distance learning have returned to in-person instruction, and every week or so, we see another family return. We are having a local prom; we are opening crowd capacities for events like the spring concert and graduation. Each of these little changes allows our staff, students, and community a chance to get back to what we experienced only 14 months ago.

#### **Student Happenings**

Despite all of the challenges of operating a school during a pandemic, our students have had a great year. They have had numerous opportunities to grow, challenge themselves, and participate in extracurricular activities.

Our volleyball team had the opportunity to compete in the fall and made the divisional tournament for the third year in a row. This group led by four seniors, three of which were all-state selections, has accomplished unprecedented success in recent years. Thank you to the hard work of these young ladies and our coaches to build and develop such an incredible program to follow.

The football co-op that participates with Red Lodge & Belfry won their second consecutive league title and participated in the state playoffs again. While the fall cross country teams, two participates at state finished 9th and 17th overall. Bringing the Roberts fall all-state selections to four.

As we moved into the winter months, our girls' basketball team qualified for the divisional tournament for the second consecutive year. Our boys' basketball team also returned to a varsity schedule after a year off from competing in varsity. Both teams made great strides and represented our community well as young men and women.

BPA and FFA have also been very active. BPA, went to all virtual models this year, with our students still participating in regionally, state, and nationals competitions and conferences. At the same time, FFA had a hybrid of some competitions online and others in person. It was fascinating to see these organizations adjust to the current situation and allowing our students the best opportunities to stay involved.

### **Friday Programs**

Additionally, as the year has gone on, we have brought back our Friday field trips. We were able to take the students to the pumpkin patch, climbing center, skiing, and zoo. Additionally, we will be ending the year with a trip to Pompey's Pillar on Friday, May 7th.

### **Staff Recognition**

This year we have had a few noteworthy recognitions for current and past staff. First of all, George Nelson was selected into the Montana Coaches Association, Hall of Fame. He joins former coach and superintendent Ron Marshal as the members of this prestigious organization who primarily spent their careers in Roberts. Mr. Nelson's selection was based on his coaching experience in Basketball, Cross Country, and Track and Field. His efforts contributed to multiple titles at the district, divisional, and state levels.

Additionally, Erin Koch was selected as the Teri Fisk Paraeducator of the year for Montana. Her support of our students and staff, willingness to facilitate any role needed in our district, and her overall knowledge lead to this prestigious nomination and eventual award.

### **In General, a Good Year**

Considering all the uncertainties created last spring and knowing some school districts across the nation have not reopened, we have had a very successful school year. Our students had the opportunity to participate in most functions and grow at a more typical rate than most schools worldwide. Our staff has learned new skills and how to support students in a variety of delivery methods. Our community has stepped up and supported us in so many ways to make sure our students have these opportunities. For all of this, I would like just to pass along one more thank you to everyone involved in keeping us rolling along this year.

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. Go Rocket!

Alexander Ator  
Roberts Schools Superintendent  
406-445-2421 or [ator@roberts.k12.mt.us](mailto:ator@roberts.k12.mt.us)

**Because of changes in the School Lunch Program during the pandemic, Roberts School is able to offer both breakfast and school lunch to all students free of charge until the end of this school year through the Summer Food Program. Please note this provision is only through the end of this school year. Funds remaining on student lunch accounts will be carried over to next school year.**

# 2021 School Board Candidates

My name is **Brandon Crane**, and I've lived in the Roberts community for 7 years, serving as a current school board member for the last year (due to an opening that developed mid-term). My wife Alicia and I have 3 kids currently attending the Roberts school, and they have been for the past 6 years. We live very close to the school and are able to be active in many of the kids activities. I've enjoyed learning about the workings of the school in the last year and contributing to its continued success as our kids grow through their school years and as Roberts grows as a community. I'm hoping to continue that effort in the years to come.

My name is **Sarah DeVries**. I have lived in Roberts since 2008 and have served on the Roberts School board since the fall of 2010. I have 2 children who have attended Roberts School. My son graduated in 2019 and my daughter will graduate this May 2021.

In the years that I have served on the school board, our school and community have gone through many changes. We have had changes in our administration, our staff, and even our school schedule. We hired a new superintendent, replaced teachers who had long careers at Roberts School, and moved our school to a 4-day week. With all of these changes, I feel that the school board always made these decisions with the well-being of our students and our community foremost in our minds. I have seen tremendous positive growth in our school over these years and would like to continue to serve on the board to offer continuity and experience as we continue to grow and build our reputation as one of the best schools in Carbon County.

I would appreciate your support during the May election so that I can continue to serve the community that I call home.

My name is **Sam Langager** and I am running for the school board. I graduated from Roberts High School in 2002 and went on to earn an Ag Business degree from Northwest College. I am married to my wonderful wife Kaylee and we are blessed with three children. In 2017 we purchased some property and were able to move our family and our business back to the Roberts community and enroll our children in the Roberts School. It has been good to be back and to be a part of the community again.

I decided to run for the school board because I believe we have a good school and I feel it is important to do my part to support our school and our community. This past year has definitely produced some new challenges for everyone, especially, the students and faculty of our schools. In spite of these challenges, our enrollment is up this year, good things are happening and our students are able to be present in the classrooms. There will be more changes and growth in the near future. I hope to be a part of this board and help make decisions that have the best interests of our students and staff at heart.





## Kindergarten News.....

The kindergarten class has been soaring this spring. We are **READING** decodable books, heart words, and are getting pretty fluent in recognizing diagraphs. Heart words are also known as "sight" words or "tricky" words. The kindergarteners are currently able to read 67 "heart" words plus sound out just about any c.v.c word(i.e cat, mud, fit.) In Math, we are adding, subtracting, graphing, and recognizing 3-dimensional shapes. The kids are getting really fast at adding and subtracting within 10. These students are really thriving in their learning right now. Also, we are gearing up for our Kindergarten graduation ceremony which will take place on May 26th.



Congrats to the winners of this year's Spelling Bee. Charlotte Kosel took 1<sup>st</sup> place and Bentley Bertolino placed 2<sup>nd</sup>.



**1<sup>st</sup> Grade enjoying a day of learning and play at the Buffalo Bill Museum in Cody, WY**



The graduating class of 2021 began painting a mural with local artist Janice Polzin in April as their parting gift to Roberts School. The mural, which will include mountains, a sunset, and a rocket shooting into space, will be finished in early May. Stop by the school to check out their artwork! Graduation will be held on May 22 at 2 pm. Eight students will be graduating: Kimberly Bear, Emma DeVries, Michael Garcia, Skyler Hess, Jess Hoines, Carson Nelson, McKenzie Pitts, and Lane Smith. We wish them the best as they pursue their future goals!







## Spring Concert

Thursday May 6th @ 6:30 pm

More details to come.....



Thursday April 29<sup>th</sup>, the same night as Parent Teacher Conferences, from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the library. Friday April 30<sup>th</sup>, the same night as BPA Bingo from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

"All for Books" is a program that helps purchase needed books for our school library. When

checking out we will ask if you would like to round up to the nearest dollar. ALL funds raised go toward purchasing new books for our classrooms & library.

Scholastic MATCHES the ALL FOR BOOKS funds.



**Roberts Booster Club will have their remaining clothing items at reduced prices set up in the Library during the Book Fair. There are limited sizes and styles. T-Shirts and Sleeveless shirts \$5.00, Long Sleeve shirts \$10.00, Sweatshirts and Sweatpants \$15.00, Caps \$10.00, Drawstring Bags \$5.00**

Roberts Preschool has been going strong all year. This month we are learning about ladybugs from the beetle stage to Lady bugs, Monarch butterflies from caterpillar stage to butterfly stage. There are also beans, sunflowers, and pumpkin seedlings started at school and hopefully will survive the Montana weather to produce some vegetables. With only 6 days left we are in the home stretch and getting ready to celebrate (weather permitting) with an outdoor celebration in the Roberts Park across the street. Our celebration will end with homemade bubbles and snacks. A big thank you goes out to the Roberts Methodist Church for hosting our preschool. Those wonderful ladies have kept our littles gifted with goodies throughout the year.



## 2021 Summer Volleyball Camps

- |   |                                       |             |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| • Rocky Mountain College – Yang Yang<br>At Roberts School | June 9, 10, 11                        | Grades 5-12 |
| • Billings Senior VB Camp<br>At Billings Senior           | June 7-11                             | Grades 4-12 |
| • Stookey VB Camp<br>At Absarokee High School             | July 5 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> | Grades 7-12 |

Please contact the school for more information and to pick up an application for the camps.

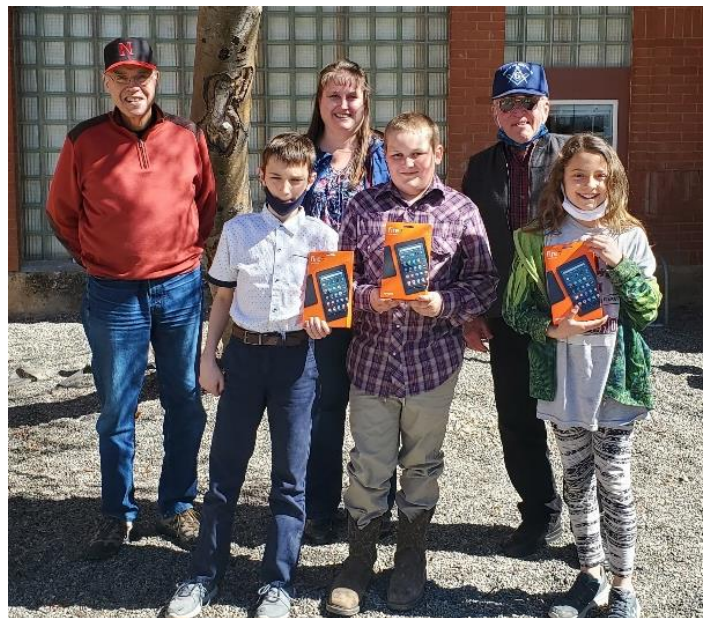
We were finally able to have the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter “Kindles for Kids” program sponsored by Star of the West Masonic Lodge of Red Lodge this year. With school closed last spring we were unable to complete the contest, therefore, we had 3 extra Kindles to give away.



K-3 Winners; James Milligan Kindergarten, Carson Crane 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, and Levi Wentworth 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

4-6 Winners; Parker Young 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, Chase Wilson 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, and Jurnee Blackburn

Our Kindergarten through 3rd grades checked out and read just over 260 books. Our 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades read just over 200 books. Roger and a fellow Mason came down to join our celebration. Some students already have Kindles or Tablets chose Scholastic posters provided by the Roberts Library.



Poster Winners for 4-6; Daryl McIntosh 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, Rachel DeVries 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, Colson Crane 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, Emmett Guasp 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, Zoey Croft 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, Reba Cooper 4<sup>th</sup> Grade and Mya Garvey.

At publishing time I don't have pictures of our K-3 Poster winners.



The last day of school will be Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup>.

This will be a full day with the students being dismissed at 4:00.

# May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Sloppy Jo Fries Veggies Fruit Milk	4 Nachos Beans Milk Veggies Fruit	5 Italian Dunkers Salad Fruit Milk	6 PBJ Tuna Sand. Chips Veggies Fruit Milk	7	8
9	10 Quesadillas Rice Veggies Fruit Milk	11 Hamburgers Fries Veggies Fruit Milk	12 Chef's Surprise	13 Chicken Strips Veggies Fruit Milk	14	15 Menu may change
16	17 Fish Sticks Veggies Fruit Milk	18 Chicken Parry Veggies Fruit Milk	19 Pizza	20 Ham-Salami Sand Veggies Fruit Milk	21	22
23	24 Hot Dogs/K-6 Polish 7-12 Veggies Fruit Milk	25 Walking Tacos Veggies Fruit Milk	26 Chef's Surprise	27 Sandwiches Chips Veggies Fruit Milk	28	29
30	31 HAVE	A	GREAT	SUMMER!!!		



## Drivers Ed Classes Scheduled

**We will be offering Drivers Ed Classes starting May 31<sup>st</sup> and going through the month of June. Students must be 14 ½ by the first day of class.**

**Please contact the school for more information**

### ATTENTION PRE-SCHOOLERS!!!

**If your child will be 5 by September 10, 2021 they are eligible for Kindergarten in the fall.**

**Children who will turn 3 before September 10<sup>th</sup> are eligible for Pre-School.**

Please call Mrs. Ronning or Ms. Nancy if you would like to enroll. 445-2421



**Friday April 30<sup>th</sup> -Roberts BPA School**  
**Carnival, Bingo Night, and Silent Auction.**  
6– 9PM. Silent Auction tables closing each hour.

## GRADUATION

**THE 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE AND SENIORS WILL  
HAVE THEIR GRADUATION CEREMONY  
ON SATURDAY, MAY 22**

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES THURSDAY, APRIL 29<sup>TH</sup> FROM 4:30-8:00

## SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS @ the Fire Hall TUESDAY MAY 4<sup>TH</sup> 2021

Roberts School

PO Box 78  
Roberts, MT 59070

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