

The Scratching Post

MAY 2017

A Message from the Superintendent



**We realize
that there is a
great big world
out there
that our youth do not
know about.
Our job is to ready
them for the discov-
ery.**

This quote has special meaning as we prepare to send our students home for the summer and to send our graduates on to a life of dis-

covery. There is no way that school staff, community leaders, and family can totally prepare our young people for all that they will encounter. Our hope and goal is to give our youth the knowledge and tools needed to be productive citizens, to succeed in whatever they choose, and to be happy.

I want to extend a true thank you to our seniors for what they have given to us. They have shared

a remarkable segment of their lives with Banner County School. Thank you seniors!

Have a great summer!!
Sincerely,

*Lana Sides
Banner
County
School Su-
perintendent*



From the Principal's Perspective—by Charles Jones

It is hard to believe that the school year is ending soon; as school comes to an end for this year we have several events that are coming up. Farm Safety Day for PK-6 will be May 9th, Kindergarten and 8th grade graduation will be Friday May 12th, Pa-

trons Day will be Monday May 15th, and the elementary AR Party will be Tuesday May 16th.

Our Seniors will graduate on Saturday May 13th, I would like to wish our Seniors the best of luck in their future endeavors and welcome

them into the alumni of our Banner Count School community. There will be several camps for the athletes this summer please contact the coaches for more information.

Principal's Perspective continues on the next page.

Principal's Perspective Continued

I would like to thank all of the students, staff, parents and patrons for making this another successful year. I look forward to many more years and

more improvements as we move forward. Remember to like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter and if you have any ques-

tions or concerns feel free to contact me.

A Glimpse at Success-- by MaKenna Dahlgrin

Even with only eight students out for track, everyone is looking forward to a successful season. Courtney Knisley, Seth Dvorak, Deven Sullivan, and Rylie Mason form the long distance group. Gage Alexander, San Juan Whelchel, and Neveah William are the jumpers. Gage, San Juan, and Seth are also participating in sprints. The throwers are Neveah William and MaKenna Dahlgrin. The tracksters traveled to Kimball on March 25 and brought home quite a few medals. Deven was able to claim 1st in the mile and 2nd in the two mile. Seth was right behind him taking 4th in both events. Gage took 4th in triple jump and 5th in long jump. Courtney placed 3rd in the mile and 2nd in the two mile. Rylie came in 6th in the mile and 4th in the two mile. MaKenna placed 2nd in shot put and set a new record for Banner County

Schools. She also placed 2nd in the discus. Everyone is looking forward to improvement and to be able to keep pushing forward throughout the season.



District Music— by MaKenna Dahlgrin

The band and choir students travelled to WNCC in Scottsbluff to partake in district music contest. It was a wonderful day for the Banner County band and choir. The following received a superior rating for their solos:
Josh Boston- piano
Micah Wicker- guitar
Josie Whelchel- vocal

Josh Boston- vocal
Neveah William- vocal
The following received an excellent rating for their solos or duets:
Bailee Underhill- clarinet
Neveah William- clarinet
Bailee & Neveah- clarinet duet
Josie Whelchel- tenor sax
Tiffany Murphy- tenor sax
Jacob Kaiser- trumpet

Josh Boston- snare
Tiffany & Sierra Flores- vocal duet
The following received a good rating for their duet:
Josie Whelchel & Ayden Cross
Band was rated superior and the choir received an excellent.

Congratulations to all of our music students!

Quotes

“What’s amazing is, if young people understood how doing well in school makes the rest of their life so much interesting, they would be more motivated. It’s so far away in time that they can’t appreciate what it means for their whole life.” -Bill Gates

“Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle. As with all matters of the heart, you'll know when you find it.” -Steve Jobs

“Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.” -Thomas A. Edison

Students Contribution Towards their School-- by Alex Gough

In the Banner County science room there was a need for a storage unit for chemicals, so our very own senior, Cole Blanke stepped up to the plate and used his time in shop class to create one. Ms. Leffers is very grateful

that he chose to do that for her. We are very glad that we have the funding for a shop class so that students can take the opportunity and apply the skills they learn in shop class to apply to necessities

throughout the school. It may not be well known around the school, but contributions from the shop are appreciated when it comes to constructing items and repairing school property.

Senior Spotlight— by Jadyn Cross

Micah Wicker is the Senior Spotlight of this month’s issue. Everyone is excited for the school year to end, but for the senior it marks a transitional point in their lives where they become adults and start to really prepare to go off on their own and become truly independent. I asked Micah if he was ready to graduate high school and he answered with a firm yes, unique for this year’s seniors, most who aren’t quite ready to be thrown out into

the world. After high school, Micah plans on attending college at WNCC in Scottsbluff, Nebraska to be a software developer. This year, Micah’s been an active participant in school activities, having taken part in yearbook, band, basketball, track, football, and STUCO during his last year at Banner County School. Some of Micah’s favorite things are computer programming, pizza, the color red, and the movie *Star Wars*. We’ll be sad to see him go, but we all wish him

luck in life and hope to see him again in the years to come.





State FFA— by Seth Dvorak

Banner County FFA Chapter had a number of members qualify for state FFA. The state qualifiers are Cole Blanke-Meats Judging and Ag Mechan-

ic, Savannah Jordan-Meats Judging, and Ag mechanics, Seth Dvorak-Meats Judging and Ag Mechanics, MaKenna Dahlgrin-Agronomy, Bailee Underhill-Agronomy, Sierra Flores-Agronomy,

Deven Sullivan- Ag Mechanics and Agriscience, Riley Mason-Meats Judging and Agriscience, Gage Alexander-Agronomy and Agriscience, and Tucker Haug-Agriscience.

Staff Spotlight-- by Jadyn Cross

This month's staff spotlight is Robin Parsons. Mrs. Parsons is our creative and talented art teacher. She grew up in a small town called Pleasanton, Nebraska. Always interested in working with students, soon after high school she went to college at UNK for elementary education and for art education. However, she always had an ad-

ditional interest in doing art. She came to Harrisburg right out of college for an art job here at the school. Nowadays, she works towards pushing kids to unlock their true potential in creative work and send them soaring to success. We hope to have her for a good many more years and are all ex-

cited to see what her outstanding classes will create next.



New Calendar--by Seth Dvorak

The Banner County School board decided at their April meeting to make some adjustments for the 2017-2018 school year. The next school year will consist of thirteen, 4 day weeks and seven of those weeks are teacher training weeks. They discussed several calendars and this is what they concluded.

Is Coffee Good or Bad for You?--by Bailee Underhill

Coffee has been thought of as bad for you, but studies have shown that coffee may actually be good for you. Coffee beans are extremely high in antioxidants and they have many nutrients. They also contain Vitamin B1, Vitamin B2, Vitamin B3, and Vitamin B5. Another great way coffee is

good for you is it may protect you from Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease. Coffee drinkers have a 65% lower chance of developing Alzheimer's disease. One study had shown that coffee drinkers are less likely to become diabetic. Although many aspects about coffee are good, coffee does contain

caffeine which can lead to disruption of sleep and anxiety. Drinking coffee straight with nothing in it is the best way to gain all of the health benefits. Adding all of the creamer and sugar can cause it to be unhealthy. Coffee in moderation can be a great way to stay healthy.

Junior and Senior Quiz Bowl-- by Alex Gough

The Junior High Quiz Bowl team had a brilliant win at their home Quiz Bowl tournament. Playing in the eighth grade division, it came down to a tie breaker between the top three teams with the wild-kittens coming out on top. Ms. Bohac was extremely proud of her team! Quiz bowl members this year consisted of Kelton Conn, Trey May, Makyla Mason, Kairyn Miller, Mycala

Jones, Patrick Miller, Marissa Fullam, and Haddie Grubbs. This year Banner County School was invited to be part of High School Quiz Bowl and we were very happy to be part of it. MaKenna Dahlgrin, Micah Wicker, Rylie Mason, Savannah Jordan, and I, Alex Gough were chosen to represent the school and display our array of random pointless knowledge. They asked us many different questions,

shockingly many about mythology and medical facts. We may have come in last; however, that's okay since we were only chosen to even out the number of teams and wouldn't have been able to win anything if we had placed well, we still tried hard and answered as many questions as we could. We hope to be invited next year and have a chance to do well.

Cereal What's Bad and What's Good-- by Emily Triolo

Here are three cereals that are really bad for your body. Raisin Bran is one of the worst cereals for you. Raisin Bran contains 18 grams of sugar and 46 grams of carbs. Corn pops are another cereal bad for you because a study published in "Archives of Toxicology Supplement" found that the dye caused allergic responses as frequently as artificial dyes did. Lastly there is Trix because they are sugary balls of cornmeal. They have 27 grams of carbs.

Here are three cereals that are good for you. Cheerios are good for you because it has whole grain oats as the first ingredient, boasts 3 grams of fiber per serving and has only 1 gram of sugar per serving. Uncle Sam is another cereal that is good for you because it is 100 percent whole grain, with at least 3 grams of fiber, and 2 grams or less of added sugar. Another is Wheat Chex because it's low in

New Music-- by Emily Triolo

There will be a lot of new music coming out by popular artists during 2017.

If you like country music then Brad Paisley is coming out with his new CD which is Love and war on March 3,2017. Also May 26, 2017 Justin Townes Earle is coming out with Kids in the street. Another country song is by Lady Antebellum coming out on June 09,2017 with Heart-break.

If you like pop music then Kelly Clarkson, Christina Aguilera, and Iggy Azalea will have CD's coming out later this year.

Nebraska's Most Venomous Snake-- by Quentin Munoz

The list of poisonous snakes can go on for a long, longggg while. But I want to talk about this state's most poisonous snake. This snake is called the rattlesnake and can be identified, along with other rattlesnakes, with a large or small rattler connected to its tail. It has this weird timber color pattern on it and its head looks like a triangle. Rattlesnakes can curl up and strike the distance of their body length. When they bite, they pump a lot of venom into the victim, enough venom to kill a person in minutes. Not only does the rattlesnake use its rattle to warn people and animals, but it hisses too. When the rattlesnake sheds its skin it is twice as dangerous. The reason being that when its old skin passes over its eyes, the snake is temporarily blind and will strike at anything that moves. The ones you really have to watch out for are the babies because they don't have rattlers yet and their venom is extremely potent. Baby rattlers are deadlier than the adult ones. As the weather warms up, so will snake spotting. Be aware!

Tattoo Popularity in Today's Culture

In today's culture tattoos have become really popular. Some people may ask why these marks on our body have become so popular when they were once frowned upon. Some of the answers are in our own youth and what we watch today.

According to the *The Huffington Post* tattoos have become so popular because of today's TV shoes. These TV shows have in-

troduced the beauty of body art. Shows such as: Miami Ink, LA Ink, NY Ink, and Ink Master have introduced some of the world's greatest tattoo artists. People see these amazing tattoos that these people do and they want to get one.

To some people tattoos have a lot of meaning. Some people get tattoos just

for fun and some people get them for a certain thing like depression, losing a loved one, or for a supporting of an illness such as cancer. All in all people get them for a reason or no reason at all. In today's culture they are very popular and show a new type of art.



Tour of Building Part II

Part II of the school building tour will start in the middle hall or the junior high hall. Looking west, or from the front of the building down the first door on the right will go into the kitchen. The door across the hall is the entrance to the gym. The gym hasn't changed in appearance much. The seats have been recovered and the floor has been completely replaced. Mrs. Rev-elle still has a piece of the original floor. There have been new banners and new wall pads added just this year. We go down the hall and the door on the right is the maintenance room. There have been many changes due to updates in equipment over the years. The next door to the right is the history classroom which for a few years was math and science. The next door to the left is the door leading to the boys' locker room if you go down or if you go up the steps you will be on the stage. The stage used to be the music room. There are very large wooden accordion doors that would be shut so that music and PE or sports practice could go on at the same time. There were two small rooms on the north end that were for storage of instruments and practice rooms. The room on the south was the music teacher's office. Music storage was in the rooms above that which are accessed by ladders. This was used until they added on. The black curtains on the stage are also new and the blue front curtains replaced the original ones. Back in the hall to the right is a door that was the 8th grade classroom and is now occupied by Mrs. Stauffer. Part of the wall was removed on each side and windows were put in when the computer lab was added. That way a teacher could observe a student in the room and still have class in another room. The lab has been removed because we are now a one to one building. All students 7-12 have laptops. Across from this room is the entrance to the small gym which was part of the addition. On the wall in the small gym you can still see the service entrance where the trucks backed up and unloaded. The small gym has had the lights changed to more modern and brighter lights. The next room on the right was the 7th grade classroom which is currently the business room. Each classroom taught two of the four cores subjects. Across the hall is the current teacher's lounge. It has been a storage room. The next room on the right is the Distance Learning Lab. This was part of the addition and was the foreign language classroom. There were cubbies with tape players and you listened to your class for the day. On the other side is the band room which is part of the addition. As you go down the short hall on the left is the additional electrical needed for the addition. On the right there are two doors. This used to be the high school band storage and room for the students to make their own reeds and do minor maintenance on their instruments and the second door was the music teacher's office. There was a wall down the middle between where the two doors are to enter. It was the counselor's office, the teachers' lounge and special education teacher's office and classroom before it became the elementary lab and now just the lab. Outside the back doors is more of the addition. Outside the doors is the outside concession stand and bathrooms used for activities like football, track meets and field day.

Next time we will go in to the main lobby, offices and elementary hallway.

Tour of Building Part III

The last hallway is the elementary hallway. There have been very few changes to this hallway. The restrooms and classrooms have new sinks and some have new tile floor. When the pre-school was added a few years ago, the classes shifted down the hall. So Kindergarten went into the first grade and so on until fifth grade. The preschool and kindergarten share a restroom and the first and second share a restroom. After the fifth grade classroom the next room in the new addition was divided in two and stayed title and added special education. The last classroom in the hallway became 6th grade. The sixth grade had been the elementary library and then it was the special education room. The doors going outside were replaced this year. Across the hall from the title/sped room is a small hallway to the band room. There is a large storage room that still has marching band uniforms and instruments. Going down the hall there are restrooms. As you pass the handicapped assessable bathroom and the girls and boys restrooms you go to another small hall. If you go to the left you go in to the small gym. But you can go down the stairs to the girls' locker room. Go down the hall a little farther and there is a door into the gym. You can go into the gym or up the stairs to the stage. Down the hall a little farther and there is another doorway to the gym.

We are now to the front entrance and offices. The front doors haven't changed too much. The outer set of doors was added for security and weather. If you come in and turn left the first door to the left is the Bookkeeper's office which was the principal's office. The next door goes into the Secretary's office or the front office. This office has remained the same except for moving the counter shelving unit to different places. At one time it went across the doorway and you did everything over the counter from the doorway. It was also moved in the middle of the office and you could go on either side of it. It has been in its current location against the window for a long time. The principal's office now was the superintendent's office. The superintendent's office was divided. In the back were the sick beds and a small restroom and the front was the nurse's office. The back of counselor's room and Ken's room had no wall and was the board of education room. It had a large table that filled the room. The teachers used it to eat lunch and work. The room in front was the teachers' workroom. Presently the first room after the superintendent's office is the counselor's office. The next and last room on the front is the nurse's room and the technology room is in the back. With that, the tour of the main building is complete.