

# The Scratching Post

FEBRUARY 2017

## A Message from the Superintendent

### Good Attendance is a Priority

When we are employed, we understand how essential good attendance is to our jobs. We, in turn, can help our students understand the importance of good attendance at school. Research shows that students who attend school regularly:

Do better in reading and math.

Are less likely to drop out. A first step to dropping out is skipping

school.

Are less likely to get in trouble outside school.

Schools where students attend regularly:

Are more orderly, which creates a safer school environment.

Have teachers who are more committed to their jobs.

Have teachers who set higher expectations for their students.

Following are tips that may help our youth with good attendance:

Limit late-night hours to weekends.

Make sure each child

has a loud alarm clock. Stress why it is important to get to school on time. No employer will let him show up whenever he feels like it.

The majority of Banner County School students value good attendance, and the parents are very supportive. Thank you to all families that stress the importance of good attendance.

*Appreciatively yours,  
Lana Sides, Superintendent  
Banner County Schools*

## From the Principal's Perspective—by Charles Jones

It seems to me that the calendar continues to turn faster each year, we are already well into February and part of me wants to think that it was not that long ago when we started school. With that being said, we are winding down our

winter sports and activities good luck to all of our participants and sponsors over the next couple of weeks.

One thing that I am excited about is the growth our students are making on the NWEA testing, we

are trying a different approach to the testing, instead of testing in the spring after the NeSA test we tested in January. We had a high percentage of students who showed growth and improvement on their NWEA test.

## Principal's Perspective Continued

Before long spring activities will be in full swing and that seems like it is always a busy time of the year, please help our students to stay

focused on their schoolwork to finish the good year we have started. As always, if you have any questions or con-

cerns fell free to contact me, follow us on Twitter and Like us on Facebook. Have a great and GO WILDCATS!

## Junior High Boys Basketball-- by Seth Dvorak

This month's upcoming Junior High boy's basketball games are: February 9<sup>th</sup> MAC Tourney at Chappell February 11<sup>th</sup> MAC Tour-

ney at Chappell Coach Cole Wyatt is exited for this season and is saying, "He feels good about this

season, the kids are working hard and having fun" he has one win under his belt and is looking to have more.

## Victory is the Goal-- by MaKenna Dahlgrin

As the winter sports season is coming to an end, the wrestlers are still working hard and giving everything they have every practice. They know it does not get any easier towards the end of the season. With only two wrestlers out, Josh Boston and Gage Alexander, they know they'll have to push each other dai-

ly in order to see improvement. The wrestling coaches, Mr. Bill Gifford and Martin Olsen, also want the best for their wrestlers. Gage still has his mind set on going to state, while Josh is looking to get a win on the mat for his senior year. We wish them the best and hope they all achieve their personal goals by the end of the season.

## Book Grant

English teacher, Mr. Montgomery, and seventh graders will be able to enjoy a new book thanks to a book grant. Mr. Montgomery was scrolling through Facebook when he came across "free books." All he would have to do is fill out a form explaining how the books would be used, how many he would like, etc. The next day he received a verification email stating he would be granted with fifteen copies of *Serafina and the Black Cloak*. The Seventh graders are thankful for this surprise.

## First Semester Honor Roll

Semester 1 High Honor Roll, Banner County Schools  
Savannah Jordan, Grade 12  
MaKenna Dahlgrin, Grade 11

Semester 1 A-B Honor Roll, Banner County Schools  
Sierra Flores, Grade 11  
Courtney Knisley, Grade 11

Rylie Mason, Grade 9  
Kathryn Blankenship, Grade 8  
Marissa Fullam, Grade 8  
Avery Wicker, Grade 8

## Why Do People Read?--by Alex Gough

Escape. Escape. Escape. An entire world encased in paper offering one of the most basic desires anyone could ask for.

Escape.

Hours, days, even years of work poured into a novel and the reason it becomes so popular is due to the fact that there are hundreds of people working towards the same specialized brand of mind numbing drug. The one thing that can take away the constant limbo of their own thoughts and lives. Does the struggle of some-

one else, fictional or real, painted in ink on a page somehow validate our own struggles? Or does it simply remind us that our lives could be a lot worse for wear? Maybe we subconsciously have a desire to watch those we care about hurt under the pressure of their own problems or be manipulated by an invisible hand of which they aren't aware. Perhaps we see ourselves in these characters. Or maybe the story just

has enough content to keep us turning the page. No matter the real underlying psychological reason, one thing seems to be agreed upon by everyone who reads novels. It gives what we as human seem to desire the most.

Escape.

But if that's the truth then does that imply that those who don't like to read have nothing to run from?

## Junior High Girls Basketball-- by Jadyn Cross

The junior high girls are getting close to rounding up the season. They will be going to Chappell for the MAC tournament.

Kathryn Blankenship said she had fun this season and her favorite moment was how they

played against Scottsbluff. She's excited for MAC, but doesn't want the season to end.

## Staff Spotlight— by Seth Dvorak

This month's staff spotlight is Karin Jones. Karin has been teaching here for thirty four years and two additional years in Grover, Colorado. She attended multiple colleges such as Adams State, Northern Arizona University, and University of

Northern Colorado. Her favorite hobbies are camping, hiking, reading, and she likes to spend time with her new granddaughter. Karin's favorite sports are football, and basketball. As of now she is doing her dream job which is teaching.





## Taking Part in FFA— by MaKenna Dahlgrin

On January 10, members of the Banner County FFA chapter competed at the District CDE competition in Scottsbluff. Welders Savannah Jordan and Cole Blanke placed 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> individually, respectively. The Livestock management team, consisting of Jadyn Cross, Emily Singleton, Ayden Cross, Rylie Mason, and Sierra Flores, placed 12<sup>th</sup> as a

team. On February 1, some members of the FFA chapter traveled to Gordon, NE to participate in a CDE competition. Savannah Jordan took 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Electrical portion of Ag Mechanics. Her teammates were Cole Blanke, James Sandberg, and Deven Sullivan. They placed 4<sup>th</sup> overall and will be heading to state. The Vet Science team, Sierra Flores,

Emily Singleton, Jadyn Cross, and Rylie Mason, placed 8<sup>th</sup> overall with Sierra taking 9<sup>th</sup> individually. The Envirothon team also did well. They placed 3<sup>rd</sup> overall taking 1<sup>st</sup> in soils after tying with Sidney. The team consisted of Bailee Underhill, Seth Dvorak, Gage Alexander, and MaKenna Dahlgrin. We hope our FFA-ers do well at state and wish them the best.

## Honor Band-- by Bailee Underhill

The Doane University hosted an honor band at the Gering High School. The band director from Doane was the conductor, Jay Gilbert. Jay Gilbert said just for the students playing in the band that day he would offer them a \$2,000 scholarship if they were going to attend Doane University. The band had 17 schools there but only a few students from every school. Banner County School was represented by Josh Boston and Bailee Underhill. The conductor picked out the music and sent it to the students so they could practice a few days ahead of time. The songs that were played are called Legend of Tizona, Softly Speaks the Night, Normal March and Festival Fanfare Movement 2. The students arrived at Gering High School and then warmed up their instruments before the conductor introduced himself. Then they started tuning their instruments and practicing the songs. After some time, the students broke off into sectionals. This means woodwind instruments would go to one room, the brass into another room and the percussion would stay on the stage to practice individual parts. About 40 minutes later they rejoined to work with the conductor on all the songs. At lunchtime they got a break and a few more breaks after that. The rest of the day was practicing for the performance which was for the band members' families and friends. Honor band was a very fun way to learn new things about your instruments, and a way to meet new people.

## DRAKE-- by Quentin Munoz

It feels like nothing else  
 matter since I lost you  
 With or without you, I  
 can't be happy any-  
 more  
 But I just can't let you go  
 because you were there  
 for me when no one  
 else was  
 This is killing me slower

than a knife  
 You are all my eyes want to  
 see, since I lost you  
 Your absence it swallows  
 the world a void in the light  
 I can see  
 You are not just an animal,  
 or a pet  
 You were my best friend.

My other half  
 Nobody understood what  
 you meant  
 Nobody knew how I felt  
 But it left a dent in my  
 heart  
 The day I lost you  
 Was when I lost my other  
 part

## Kindergarten Resolutions

The Journalism I class decided to find out what the Kindergarteners think they are good at and what they wanted to get better at for the new year.

First, they were asked what they are good at. Carter Garner said he was good at math, and liked reading and playing in the big gym. Shevelle Van Winkle likes math and having free time. Luke Olsen thinks he is good at going to the big gym and math. He thinks that doing worksheets will help him learn. Kassie Loutzenhiser says she is good at math and free play. She thinks that if she counted more she would be better at math. Marco Galindo thinks he is pretty good at music. Kayleigh Whelchel says she is really good at bringing show and tell. Harper Lerwick replied he is good at math. Tate Olsen said he is good at hunting. Natali Cordero is good at math, playing nicely at recess and sharing with people. Jax Grove said he is good at playing outside and show and tell.

After they told their interviewer what they were good at, they were asked what do they want to get better at!

Carter Garner wants to get better at reading especially knowing his ABC's. Shevelle Van Winkle also wants to get better at reading. Luke Olsen wants to get better at reading and going to sleep at night. He thinks he also needs help with science. He isn't very good at it. Kassie Loutzenhiser wants to work on math and going to sleep at night. She thinks she will also need to get better at her handwriting and counting higher. Marcos Galindo wants to get better at running. Kayleigh Whelchel wants to get better at math. Harper Lerwick wants to get better at math and playing outside. He also wants to be a dad when he grows up. Tate Olsen wants to get better at playing outside and English. He wants to be a firefighter or an army guy. Natali Cordero wants to learn her letters better so she can start spelling words out. Jax Grove would like to get to the bathroom on time more often. He needs to clean up faster so he isn't always last. He doesn't like getting in trouble.

These are what Kindergartener's have for resolutions. What are yours? Did you keep them?

## Tour of Banner County School Part 1

The present day Banner County School was built in 1957. It was paid off in 1960 with tax dollars. There was an oil boom at that time and the oil was taxed. This is where a large amount of money came from to pay for the cost of the building. Those tax dollars also helped pay for the roads to bus the students to the new building. Then the addition was built on because they needed more space. Mrs. Revelle a teacher at Banner County Schools took the Journalism I students on a tour of the school to explain the history of the building. She started Kindergarten in the building the first year it was built so her connection with the building makes her a very good resource.

We started in the high school wing. The first thing that has changed and only this year are the outside doors. As you look at those doors on the left is currently Mrs. Olsen's math room. It has always been the math room. Across the hall is Mr. Montgomery's English room. It also has always been the English room. The room next to Mrs. Olsen's room currently Mr. Bob Cooper's which was called the commercial room in the plans. That was to say it was the business room. It was full of manual typewriters and later electric typewriters were added. Business classes, shorthand and journalism were also taught in the business room. It has recently been the history room, math and upper science classroom. Across the hall is Miss Leffer's science room and lab. It has always been the lab. Not very many changes have taken place in there except for new tables. We go across the hall and we are in Mrs. Revelle's classroom. It was called home economics and now it is the Family Consumer Science room. She explained that it is mostly the same except for the countertops. They were changed only a few years ago. She could have gone with the original light blue color they were but decided to update and change colors. The hallways and bathrooms are the same. The hallway lockers are new. A few of the old lockers survive in the hall going into the shop. Before we go into the shop there is a small room with a shower to the left. It used to be where the Referees changed and the whirlpool was. Now it is used for speech and other student services. When you go into the shop it is basically the same except for the tables used for class. They were not there. There is a door that goes into the Mrs. Parson's current office and art room and that is where the shop classes were taught. There was no art. In the art room a few years ago they added the current storage cupboards. The ceilings in most of the building have been lowered and have covered the skylights. The art room kept the high ceilings and chose to decorate the skylights with metal and ceramic tiles. Now we will go out the door to the hall and turn right. The cafeteria and kitchen are on the right. They have had very few changes. They have had the windows updated. All the windows started at the bottom of the present windows and went to the ceiling. The kitchen has the original stack ovens. They aren't used today. Across the hall is the library. It is basically the same. New shelves and tables have replaced some of the old ones. This started out as the elementary and high school library and it has gone back to that today. The elementary library was in the Elementary hall for awhile before moving back.

Next month we will continue our tour down the Junior High hallway and sections of the addition.



## Famous Board Games-- by Dado Castillo

Board games have always been a fun way to spend time with you family, and just to have fun. Most people still play them, or they have forgotten about them because of the new technology. Here is a remind of some of the board games people you forgot are you still love to play.

### **1. Monopoly**

Monopoly is a game where money is everything. A key point to winning the game is to buy as much property as you can. To win the game you have to bankrupt all of your opponents. Although the game takes so long to win it is still a great way to spend time and have fun with family and friends. Your ultimate goal in the game is to achieve monopoly. There are many different forms of the game that pertain to different people's interests.

### **2. The Game of LIFE**

This game is all about life as the title says. Going through this game you go through life where all the choices are up to you. Throughout the game you have to make particular choices that can either make your life great, or it can make your life bankrupt and no money. There are certain points of the game where you get married. There are also parts where you can have babies if you land on a certain spot. Another all time classic game.

### **3. Checkers**

Probably one of the most famous board games ever is checkers. The key concept to win the game is to take away all of your opponents checkers. For some people it is a serious game, and for others it isn't so much. The game takes a lot of strategy whether people think about it or not.

### **4. Sorry!**

One of the best games played is Sorry! The whole concept is to get all of your pieces around the board and into the home spot. The hard part is getting to roll dice so that the pieces can go back to the home spot. A very competitive game when playing with the right people or with a sibling.

### **5. Scrabble**

Scrabble is a game where words mean everything. You have to create words and you get so many points for the word you spell. The longer the word you create the more points you get. To win the game you have to have the most points. This is a good family game for everyone. Here are some other classic board games played during a family night:

6. Chess
7. Mancala
8. Clue
9. Risk
10. Battleship

This is just a refresher of great board games you played or still play. You can also start a game night with you family, and start making new memories.

# Spelling Bee Results

The 2016-17 spelling bee was held on February 2, 2017 at 12:30. There were 66 participants from 1st grade to 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Jeri Revelle was the reader and head judge. Sue Harrison and Sharon Lease were assistant judges. They did a super job!

## Spelling Bee Winners:

1 <sup>st</sup> grade:	1 <sup>st</sup> Shawnie Mason	2 <sup>nd</sup> Kyrie Roldan	3 <sup>rd</sup> Jackson Onstott
2 <sup>nd</sup> grade:	1 <sup>st</sup> Kelani Cross	2 <sup>nd</sup> Ashlynn Anderson	3 <sup>rd</sup> Leeigh McGowan
3 <sup>rd</sup> grade:	1 <sup>st</sup> Camrin Mullins	2 <sup>nd</sup> Gabriel Teeple	3 <sup>rd</sup> David Sinner
4 <sup>th</sup> grade:	1 <sup>st</sup> Eddie McGowan	2 <sup>nd</sup> Alexis Marez	3 <sup>rd</sup> Riley Jones
5 <sup>th</sup> grade:	1 <sup>st</sup> Andie West	2 <sup>nd</sup> Adam Knaub	3 <sup>rd</sup> Nate McGowan
6 <sup>th</sup> grade:	1 <sup>st</sup> Kelton Conn	2 <sup>nd</sup> Trey May	3 <sup>rd</sup> TJ Onstott
7 <sup>th</sup> grade:	1 <sup>st</sup> Makyla Mason	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mycala Jones	3 <sup>rd</sup> Kairyn Miller
8 <sup>th</sup> grade:	1 <sup>st</sup> Avery Wicker	2 <sup>nd</sup> Kathryn Blankenship	3 <sup>rd</sup> August Sandberg

## Final results:

- 8<sup>th</sup> place Adam Knaub 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- 7<sup>th</sup> place Kathryn Blankenship 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- 6<sup>th</sup> place Avery Wicker 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- 5<sup>th</sup> place Andie West 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- 4<sup>th</sup> place Mycala Jones 7<sup>th</sup> grade
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place Kelton Conn 6<sup>th</sup> grade
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place Trey May 6<sup>th</sup> grade

CHAMPION SPELLER WAS **Makyla Mason** 7<sup>th</sup> grade

## NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION

The Banner County Chapter of National Junior Honor Society held their Induction Ceremony on February 6, 2017. The following students were inducted: Kathryn Blankenship, Aubrey Clement, Makyla Mason, and Kairyn Miller. Savannah Jordan, Makenna Dahlgrin, and Courtney Knisley, members of NHS, and Rylie Mason and Marissa Fullam, NJHS members, performed the induction. Refreshments were served following the ceremony. The sponsors and members would like to thank those attending the ceremony.

### THANK YOU!!!

The National Honor Society members would like to thank everyone who donated to the food baskets. It is greatly appreciated and the community is so supportive of this yearly drive.