

The Scratching Post

SEPT. 2016



A Message from the Superintendent

Local Producers Support School Lunches

Thanks to the generosity of local beef and pork producers, students at Banner County School will again be served locally raised meat this year. This is the second year Banner County School has served locally grown meat. Last year three beef and two pork were donated; and this year producers are again stepping up to ensure that our students get quality meat in their school lunches.

With this pro-

gram the school is able to maintain a community connection between local agriculture producers and the school in addition to being able to serve quality meats at lunch. All the donated meat is processed at KDK Meats, a USDA inspected facility, and the school lunch is marked for the days that locally grown meat is served. Some students get excited about the locally grown meat; one young student exclaimed, "Yeah, today we get real meat!"

If the lunch program gets one more

beef donation, there will be enough locally grown meat to last the entire school year. Anyone interested in donating a beef, learning more about the program, or donating toward the processing costs please visit with me or one of the School Board members. We deeply appreciate the generosity of the community and all the support given to our students!

*With Appreciation,
Lana Sides, Superintendent*



From the Principal's Perspective—by Charles Jones

I am very excited to begin year two and the best school with the best students and a great community. It is hard to believe that we have been in school for five weeks, it seems that time is flying by, fall activities are in full

swing. Homecoming activities will begin October 3rd there are plenty of fun activities and all of our junior high and high school activities will be in action so stop in and catch our athletes in action.

NWEA testing went well and is completed for the fall, this will help our school to make decisions about the education for our students. The elementary reading program is off and running and there are several good things happening there.

Principal's Perspective Continued

If you have any questions please feel free to contact us, visit the website for the latest calendars and

happenings. As always like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.

Charles Jones
Principal

Just Keep Running— by MaKenna Dahlgrin

Along with football and volleyball, cross country is another fall sport that is currently in action. Courtney Knisley and Josh Boston are the only two high school students involved in the 2016 cross country season. Courtney is a two-time state qualifier. Cross country is coached by Mrs. Kari Gifford.

What is your best time for this season

Courtney- 23:44.4

Josh- 20:27.7

What is your overall best time?

Courtney- 21:46.0

Josh- 20:27.7

What is the best thing about running

Courtney- It's fun and keeps you in shape. I have always enjoyed it.

Josh- Best thing for me, is that it just

keeps me in shape for the next season.

What do you still want to accomplish?

Courtney- I want to go to state and medal more.

Josh- I still want to accomplish my goal of finishing and making it to state. I just have to keep on practicing as hard as I can.

How do you feel about it being your last season?

Josh- This may be my last one, but I will not go down without a strong run to finish it. I will continue to work hard and increase my efforts.



Beginning with a Fresh Start— by MaKenna Dahlgrin

With only two returning varsity starters, the Banner County Volleyball team is starting out green in terms of varsity experience this year. The coaches have their work cut out for themselves with four freshmen and two newbies joining the team. Working hard at every practice is a must in order to prepare for games. I interviewed Rylie Mason and Abi Smith about their take on volleyball as freshmen.

Why did you go out for volleyball opposed as to cross country or football?

Rylie: I wanted to go out for a sport and wanted to achieve my goal of being a better passer.

Abi: I can't run and I am not strong for football!

What was the hardest thing about your first game?

Rylie: I wasn't really nervous or anything.

Abi: I was nervous and worried about getting my serves over.

What is your favorite thing about volleyball?

Rylie: I love working together as a team and serving.

Abi: I like working with the team.



Football is Back Again— by MaKenna Dahlgrin

The Banner County football team is back and in full swing. After only being able to play two quarters in the 2015 season, the strong six-man team is back! Due to such low numbers and injuries, the football team was only able to play two quarters against Maywood last September. However, with eleven players out this year, the team is becoming stronger and improving each week. Although this is Mr. Jones' first year coaching at Banner County, he

had previously coached at Lamar, CO, New Ramer, CO, Ridgeway, CO, Pine Bluffs, WY, and Maywood, NE.

What position do you play?

Gage- Quarter back and linebacker.

Seth- Halfback and line-backer.

Payton- Wide receiver and halfback

Cole- Center, nose guard, halfback and defensive end.

What is the strength of your team?

Gage-We are good at running the ball.

Seth- Running the ball.

Payton- We can run our routes good.

Cole- We play well together and we do a good job of always putting a 100% in.

What are you looking forward to for the rest of the season?

Gage- Winning more games.

Seth- Winning some more games.

Payton- The next game, that is all I'm focused on.

Cole- Playing games with my team members for the last time.

Staff Spotlight— by Seth Dvorak

Our staff spotlight for this month is Mr. Chris

Cooper! I asked him a series of questions such as; what is your favorite color? Or what college did you attend?

Mr. Cooper's favorite hobby is playing basketball. His favorite food is pachamanca. Pachamanca is a traditional Peruvian dish based on baking with a hot stone called

Huatia. It contains lamb, mutton, pork, chicken, or guinea pig, marinated in spices. His favorite color is blue. Now let's get serious for a second. Mr. Cooper's very first job was mowing lawns while attending school at the one and only Banner County School. He went off to college

where he attended Wheaton College which is a top-ranked, academically rigorous Christian liberal arts college located west of Chicago in Wheaton, Illinois. Now he works here at Banner County School as a counselor. His words of wisdom are "Never give up, Never surrender"



Senior Spotlight— by Jadyn Cross

Savannah Jordan is this month's featured senior. Savannah is known for putting in her all. She is involved in many activities, but her favorite activity would be FFA. Savannah's favorite school subject would be Anatomy and Physiology and she wants to go to col-



lege for teaching or secondary teaching. She said she isn't mentally ready for college, but has a list of scholarships and three colleges in mind. Savannah has been a great example in the school.



A look at FFA— by Seth Dvorak

Since the school year has only just begun, FFA hasn't held many competitions. However, Banner County FFA-ers did participate

in Range Judging on September 14 in Dix, NE. The FFA senior team placed 5th overall. The team consisted of Bailee Underhill, Cole Blanke,

Savannah Jordan, and Sierra Flores. District Land Judging will be held on October 5th in Garden County.

Silverware is the New Seconds— by Alex Gough

This is so stupid." "What a dumb rule." "I'm not doing that." These are among the things you may have heard lately thrown between students in casual conversation. So quickly we are to reject something we don't understand rather than trying to figure out the reasoning behind the change, especially when it comes to a new rule. The rule in question that has been receiving ridicule lately has, of course, been the silverware

rule. If you aren't familiar with it, this instructs that in order to receive a second helping at lunch you must bring your silverware with you to the line. Everyone has been so quick to demonize this new decree, but no one has thought to ask why exactly it's been instated. But a few of us have grown curious. So, we tracked down our esteemed principal, Mr. Jones and asked him the reasoning behind his new rule. "It's to keep

people who didn't pay for lunch from going back and getting free seconds," he told us. "Bringing your silverware to the line shows us that you payed for lunch the first time. I'll be watching the silverware to make sure no one tries to cheat the system." Thanks to Mr. Jones, this is no longer shrouded in mystery. Before you immediately write off something you don't understand please at least try to see the reasoning behind it first.

Quote by Marianne Williamson

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our dark that most frightens us. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people don't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine as children do. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own lights shine, we unconsciously give other people to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

Junior High Football— by Jadyn Cross

The junior high football team started the season off with a game against Potter-Dix. Their next game will be on September 28 at Minatare. The boys have been working hard in practice and are getting prepared for the games ahead. I went and interviewed one of



the teammates, Eli Wolf, and asked him a couple of questions. He said that he sees a lot of potential in his team and that he is looking forward to the games. The boys are hoping to have some wins by the end of the season!

Junior High Volleyball— by Jadyn Cross

Arms flushed red, sore muscles, tired legs. These are the many staples of a volleyball player. Despite not being part of any state competitions the junior high volleyball team is still working hard and giving it their all. So far they have had no wins but they aren't letting



this dampen their spirits. They want to get wins before the season ends. Many of them are experienced with junior high volleyball from last year and are excited for the years ahead.

Junior High Cross Country— by Jadyn Cross

This year's cross country team has several junior high runners on the team. I interviewed one of the girls, Makyla Mason, and she said she is happy with her times and has been im-

proving her times every meet. The junior high travels with the High School Cross Country and has had five meets so far. They have been working and running hard. All of

them are excited for the rest of the meets and are hoping to keep improving their times.



A Big Wildcat Welcome to Miss Lashmett— by Alex Gough

This year in Banner County School we have a few new additions making a splash with the students and fellow faculty. Now calling the third grade room home is Rebecca Lashmett from Lusk Wyoming. A short visit to her classroom reveals her doing a fantastic job motivating and her students to learn and preparing them for the world of tomorrow. However, that's not all she's doing. She's also getting involved with the older kids by coaching One Act and performing a dramatic play, a big change of pace for Banner County.

But how did she end up here in the rural panhandle of Nebraska? When asked she replied, "Banner County was my fifth interview. I accepted it because I liked the small community feel." Her answer wasn't surprising as it seems the sense of a close knit community tends to attract people from all over.

Everyone who's been around children knows that it's a stressful job. When asked how she likes teaching third graders, Rebecca told us, "At first it was fun and it still is, but it has its ups and downs. Despite all that I really do love it." Hearing this was a breath of fresh air as the world can never get enough teachers who are truly dedicated to their noble profession.

Banner County is definitely no stranger to new people, so hike on down to her classroom and show her a warm Wildcat welcome!

