

# ROBERTS SCHOOL APRIL/MAY



## **Student Happenings**

First of all, congratulations to Coach Sarah Wade and the incredible Lady Rockets basketball team for their outstanding achievements this season! Securing 4th place at the State C tournament, the Lady Rockets have soared to new heights, showcasing remarkable skill, teamwork, and determination on the court.

In a historic moment for Montana girls' basketball, the Lady Rockets have solidified their place in the record books as the 3rd highest-scoring team in MHSAA history! Among the shining stars of this phenomenal team, we celebrate Taylee Chirrick for her selection to All-State and All-Conference by setting the MHSAA girls' single-season scoring record. Additionally, please note, Layne Holdbrook was also selected as All-State and All-Conference, while Hailey Croft and Jozelyn Payovich earned All-Conference honors for their performances throughout the season.

The boys' team also took a significant step forward, returning to divisionals for the first time in many years and taking fourth place. Nate Weber and Thommy Howard were selected for All-Conference.

The FFA has also made huge strides this winter as it prepares for the state. This winter, the FFA has had two district titles, one in horse judging and another in mechanics. These and many other qualifying teams are heading to state FFA April 3-6 in Billings!

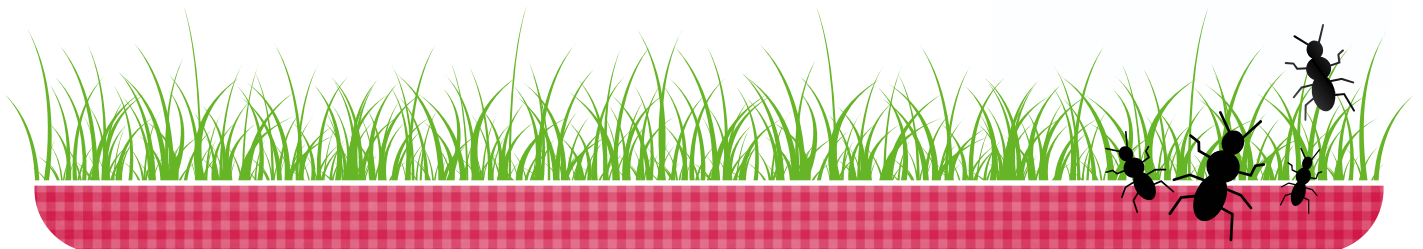
## **Big Picture Update**

We will have one more community meeting on the school levy on April 11th at 7 pm in the gymnasium. We will discuss tax implications and our plan to run the levy in two stages: \$95,000 this year and likely looking for an additional \$95,000 the following year. As laid out in the school board's letter, 90% of the first year's money will go to teacher and classified staff raises. The other 10% will be used to catch up with inflation and increase insurance, utilities, supplies, and other operating costs. The levy passing, paired with using natural attrition of one certified position, will allow us to raise our teachers by 8% and give our teachers a raise of 10% across the board!

Without this levy passing, we will see a significant impact on student programming. We will also need to reduce an additional one or two teachers, which will significantly reduce our ability to support the students of this great community. Additionally, we would likely see cuts to program offerings and significant increases in participation costs for many program offerings.

Please come to the community meeting to ask clarifying questions and get out and vote! 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](mailto:ator@roberts.k12.mt.us) or call 406-445-2421.

Finally, please join me for coffee at the Roberts Cafe on the following Thursdays at 8:30 AM: 4/4, 4/18, 5/16!



Dear Roberts Community Members,

Please be informed we are intending to run a General Mill Levy designed to increase the teacher base salary and thus increase staff retention. As members of the Roberts community, we all share a deep commitment to the success and well-being of our students. Our dedication to providing quality education is evident in the tireless efforts of our educators and staff members. However, we recognize our school district's challenges in recruiting and retaining qualified teachers directly impact the quality of education our students receive.

To address this issue, we are proposing a general mill levy of \$95,000 to support raising the base salary of our teachers by 8%, which equates to an approximately 10% average salary increase across our current teaching staff. This increase is crucial in remaining competitive with neighboring districts and attracting the best talent to our schools. By offering a more competitive salary, we aim to enhance teacher recruitment efforts and ensure that our students continue to receive the high-quality education they deserve. Without this levy, we are still looking at a reduction of staff accompanied by only offering increases to steps and lanes, or about 1.5% across the board. Per anonymous staff vote, the higher raise would lead to an increase in staff retention.

We understand that implementing this mill levy may pose financial concerns for some community members. However, we assure you that we are approaching this issue with careful consideration and fiscal responsibility. In addition to seeking community support through the mill levy, we are committed to using natural attrition to reduce one teacher position, thereby sharing in the cost of increasing teacher salaries.

Furthermore, we anticipate the need for a similar general mill levy in the upcoming year to further enhance the compensation of all staff members, both certified and classified as well as bolster our general budget. Investing in our educators and staff is an investment in our community's future and our students' success.

Your support for this initiative is invaluable. By coming together as a community, we can ensure that Roberts School District continues to provide exceptional education and opportunities for our students. We invite you to consider our general mill levy to benefit our students, teachers, and community. Thank you for your continued dedication to the success of our schools.

Taxable Value	Cost Per Year	Cost Per Month
\$100,000.00	\$41.07	\$3.42
\$150,000.00	\$61.61	\$5.13
\$200,000.00	\$82.14	\$6.85
\$250,000.00	\$102.68	\$8.56
\$300,000.00	\$123.21	\$10.27
\$350,000.00	\$143.75	\$11.98
\$400,000.00	\$164.28	\$13.69
\$450,000.00	\$184.82	\$15.40
\$500,000.00	\$205.35	\$17.11
\$550,000.00	\$225.89	\$18.82
\$600,000.00	\$246.42	\$20.54
\$650,000.00	\$266.96	\$22.25
\$700,000.00	\$287.49	\$23.96

## **Get to know Mr. Jim Burrows**

**By: Emily Smith**

Jim Burrows is Roberts Public schools Janitor, custodian and maintenance man. He also mentioned during his interview that when he was in high school here, he was a part of the Rocketeer staff. When I first sat down with Jim, he was more than willing to answer the questions that I had prepared. The first one I asked him was how long he had been in Roberts. Jim had quite the answer, and did not disappoint. It turns out that he grew up in this very town, but only has been working at the school for 6 years. Jim graduated from Roberts High in the year of 1973. In his words "I enjoy being here, and will most likely spend the rest of my life in this town." Jim informed me that his favorite class of this year is either the Kindergarten class or the first graders. He

made sure to let me know that he loved everyone equally still. Saying that Roberts "is the best place there is." Out of the many reasons he loves this school and town one stuck out to me the most. The main reason is because he sees these kids coming from bigger schools to Roberts, and he knows that their individual relationships with the teachers are better than at the bigger schools. I finished off the interview by saying is there anything else that he would like to add and his final statement before getting back to keeping this school together was "Go Rockets!"



## **Learn about Ms. Janice Polzin**

**By: Madison Koch**



Ms. J has been teaching for twenty years, and she started before she graduated from college. Her favorite part of teaching is the creative challenge that comes with it. She enjoys that it forces her to continue growing as an individual artist and educator. She has had experience teaching people just learning to walk, to people now needing walking assistance. Mrs. J started off working in less fortunate communities, in order to give more opportunity for people to partake in art. She hopes to continue teaching people for the rest of her years. Her main goal for her career is to always teach, and eventually travel the world sharing her art.

## **Get To Know Mrs. Lisa Young**

**By: Hayden Webb**

Mrs. Lisa Young has been a valued member of the Roberts school for almost four years. This year, she transitioned into her role as school counselor after previously serving as a paraprofessional. Her passion for teaching shines through in her dedication to getting to know her students and making a positive impact on their lives. Lisa teaches 7th-8th grade career exploration, conducts character education sessions with elementary students weekly, and provides counseling support. Her goals include helping those she encounters, engaging with diverse individuals, learning from others, and finding joy in her work.



## **Learn More About Mrs. Caitlin Hall**

**By: Madison Koch**

Mrs. Caitlin Hall has been a teacher for ten years, and has spent the last five of those years teaching here at Roberts. Her favorite part about her job is the wonderful interactions she has with children. She says it is super cool to be able to work with them to help build their skill set. Her enjoyment extends through all subjects including grades fourth through sixth. Her future career goals include obtaining her P.H.D. in the Science of Reading, learning extensively about literacy, perhaps becoming a professor, all while she continues to teach.



# RETURN LIBRARY BOOKS!!!

As the school year winds down inventory must begin. Please check your homes for ANY school library books & return them.



Fines will be sent out beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Last day to checkout books will be Wednesday,  
May 1<sup>st</sup> and Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

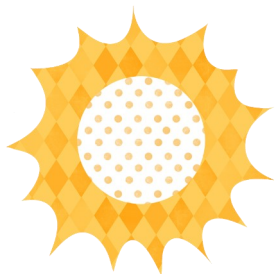
All books and fines must be in by Thursday, May 16.

Thank you. Mrs. Pitts



## Preschool Celebration

will be Wednesday May 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 at the Roberts Methodist Church. We will finish up in the Roberts City Park. Parents and family members are welcome to join us. We will have pictures, cupcakes, and homemade bubbles for everyone to enjoy.



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!

## ATTENTION ALL INCOMING KINDERGARTEN AND PRESCHOOL STUDENTS Kindergarten and PreSchool Roundup



Friday, April 26th— 9:00-12:00. Please contact the school to sign up



**Rocket Camp** is fast approaching. Rocket Camp is open to all students entering Roberts Kindergarten in the 2022-2023 school year. Incoming students will join the current Kindergarten class on Wednesday April 3, 10, 17, 24 from 11-4. Please sign up with Ms. Nancy.

# School Board Candidates

We have two school board positions that are up for election this year and there are five individuals who have filled out an application to run. The election will be held on Tuesday, May 7th at the **ROBERTS SCHOOL** from 12:00 pm—8:00 pm

Roberts Community,

My name is **Mike Bissonnette** and I live at 756 Clear Creek Rd in Roberts. I work in Billings, MT for National Seating and Mobility as an Assistive Technology Professional. I moved to Roberts about 10 years ago from Great Falls, MT. I was raised in Great Falls and lived there most of my life. My dad was in the US Airforce and was stationed at Malstrom AFB. My mom still lives in GF and unfortunately my dad passed away in 2010. I have a sister who lives in Maryville, TN with her husband and two kids. I come from a very close and hardworking, conservative family. I was raised with family and friends being of upmost importance. I'm married to Karla DeVries, the daughter of Roly and Chris DeVries. Karla and I have been married for 9 years and we have 4 kids all together. Sam, Alex and Grayce are my step kids and we had Trystan together. I've seen Alex and Grayce grow up and attend and graduate from Roberts school. Trystan is now in first grade in Ms. Herta's class and is doing great.

I'm running for one of the open positions on the Roberts schoolboard because I believe the kids in all grades (K-12) deserve to have the best and safest learning experience possible while they attend Roberts school. I also believe giving them the tools needed to excel and succeed in whichever path they choose after graduating will only better their chances of a bright future. I will be a strong advocate for the students of Roberts, making sure that I have their best interest at heart. Ensuring that the students have the best teachers and staff possible to help raise their test scores to a better national level that will only help them succeed even more. I believe providing the safest environment for the students of Roberts school will allow them to better focus on their school work and activities without the stress of a possible bad situation happening. Fiscal responsibility and some good, common sense are just a couple of the things that I think can make Roberts school an even better school than it already is.

I hope to have your support in the upcoming schoolboard election and I look forward to serving Roberts school in the near future. Thanks!!!

Sincerely,

Mike Bissonnette



Hey there Roberts! My name is **Brandon Crane** and I'm running for re-election as a Roberts School Board member. I currently sit as Vice-Chair on the board and have been a member for 3 years.

My family and I live in town, near the school, and have lived in the community for 10 years. My wife and I have 3 kids attending the school, and are as involved as we can with school activities being busy parents. Our kids love the small school feel of Roberts, the focused class sizes, parental feel to the teachers, and general Ownership the school community has for the success of all the students. I am an engineer, and my wife works in the medical field and we both feel Roberts is the best place to raise our kids in this part of Montana. We attend church in Joliet, with several families from Roberts, but additionally get to interact with other families from Class C schools across the county as a result.

Roberts is a small place, but offers it's students amazing potential. We have students that are taking college courses in High School, students going to state and national competitions, students graduating with trade experience and significant scholarships to universities, and more importantly, students who are responsible and hard working, courteous members of the community. I feel strongly that we need to equip our students with a variety of skills by the time they graduate, preparing them for adult life in whatever endeavor they choose. This includes a college education, but also training in trades, business and financial training, the ability to communicate effectively, and to be contributing members of society. Every student has a different plan for their life, and while each one will graduate with basic education, one differentiator at our school is the ability to tailor an education to match the student's path after school. I would like to see this continue and expand in my time as a board member.

I've also seen early education students brought out of both learning and behavioral disabilities and now able to contribute to classroom success. Some of these students lacked confidence, the knowledge to get through a course, or the focus and attention to be able to learn without disrupting other classmates. Roberts School has a knack for filling in these gaps for the student and steering them towards success with gentle nudges in the right areas of their learning development. I believe laying an early foundation for learning is something we need to continue to focus on.

Related to the above two line items, both of these have the best chance for success with a vote for the Mill Levy. Please consider this while also voting for your Board Members.

My name is **Brad Norman**. I am running for Roberts School Board. Here is some information about me. I completed my undergraduate education at Biola University with a degree in Biology in 1995. After college, I did lobster research in the Maldives and worked for the National Marine Fisheries Service in Alaska. I went on to complete my Masters in Education in 2004. I taught and coached soccer at the high school and middle school level from 1999 to 2022 teaching science subjects such as Marine Biology, Oceanography, Criminalistics and Physical Sciences.

After retiring from teaching in 2022, my wife and I relocated to Roberts. I would like to get involved with the school board because I want to ensure success for all students. As a coach, my players were held accountable for every decision they made. They knew I was always watching even when I was not there. I want everyone to be successful. Being a former teacher, I understand the struggles teachers face every day and want to be able to make sure they have all the necessary tools for success. I want the Roberts School Board to represent the whole community.



My name is **Mariah Holdbrook**. My husband Luke and I both graduated from Roberts School and have raised four children primarily in the Roberts school as well. I am a woman of God, a nurse, and volunteer serving our community.

Both Luke and I attended multiple schools growing up and found something in Roberts school as students, that I believe is still there. It's a place where you feel like family, you are well educated, and people care. Although the faces have changed and will continue to, the culture

of the school remains. This is what has driven me to serve on the school board. I can use my perspectives as a parent, taxpayer, school chaperone, community member and school board official to make more informed decisions. I also believe, as a community member, it is my civic responsibility to support the school.

First and foremost, I make decisions that serve the kids the best. Our kids are the future of our community, country, and our world. I have spent time serving in our school as a volunteer and it has given me a firsthand perspective. Although our classes are smaller, the load on the staff is increasing due to the lack of parental involvement. Most parents are both working, and the staff stands in the gap to support our students and activities. Having well cared for and quality teachers directly impacts the education of our kids. Finally, I work hard to be a good steward for our community. I know that our community members work hard. I am also aware the school is the heart of the community and without it, a community dies.

As far as direction, I would like to see the school offer more career development opportunities. Right now, we have a few kids that are doing online school through Roberts and working out in the community. We also have kids doing dual credit courses where they get college credit and high school credit for classes. I have been working with the OPI representative, our school counselor, and superintendent to explore opportunities for our kids to have job shadows, internships, and brainstorm ways to tap into resources to better prepare our students to enter the workforce.



My name is **Amy Bailey**, and my family and I moved up to Montana two years ago. We wanted to live in a place that had the same core values and beliefs as us, a place where we could plant our family roots and raise our son. My husband and I both moved around a lot in our younger years, lots of different schools and new faces and while that helped shape us into the people we are today, that is not what we wanted for our son. We chose the Robert's School because we liked that it was smaller, more hands on with the students, and has a family feel to it. Raising kids in an environment where they feel safe, confident, and supported is important, and that includes our school. I became interested in being on the board because I want what is best for not only my child but the children of the friends that we've met here. Being on the school board allows me to listen to community ideas and help bring those ideas and goals to the table. I don't think most parents know how much of a voice they have, and I want them to feel heard. I have an education background, but life took me down a different path, but with that knowledge I believe I can ask the right questions when it comes to curriculum, board policies, student achievements, and resources. The decisions that those on the school board make can have a long-term impact on our community, and I don't take that lightly.

Roberts Track Schedule 2024					
updated	3/27/2024				
Date	Host	Location	Level	Start Time	
Monday, March 11	Roberts Lower Gym	1st day of High	V	4:10 PM	
TBA	Parent Meeting	Gym	V	6:15 PM	
Thursday, March 28	Snowflake	Columbus	V	9:00 AM	
Tuesday, April 2	Railyard Trails	Laurel	V	3:30 PM	
Saturday, April 6	Red Lodge Classic	Laurel	V	9:00 AM	
Monday, April 8	7/8 1st Practice	Lower gym	JH	4:10 PM	
Tuesday, April 9	Railyard Trails	Laurel	V	3:30 PM	
Friday, April 12	Joliet/Park City	Laurel	V	9:00 AM	
Monday, April 15	5/6 1st Practice	Lower gym	JH	4:10 PM	
Tuesday, April 16	Beartooth Invite	Red Lodge	V	3:00 PM	
Friday, April 19	Harlowton	Harlowton	JH	10:00 AM	
Saturday, April 20	Manhattan Christian	Gallatin HS	V	9:00 AM	
Tuesday, April 23	Red Lodge	Red Lodge	V	3:00 PM	
Wednesday, April 24	Absarokee	Absarokee	JH	9:00 AM	
Friday, April 26	Park City	Laurel	JH	9:30 AM	
Saturday, April 27	Harlowton & Park City	Laurel	V	10:00 AM	
Tuesday, April 30	Top Ten- Invite only	Laurel	V	3:00	
Wednesday, May 1	Tri-Valley	Laurel	JH	8:00 AM	
Wednesday, May 1	Tri-Valley	Laurel	V	12:00 PM	
Thursday, May 2	Freshman Meet- Invite Only	West High	Fresh-	3:00 PM	
Friday, May 5	Harlowton	Harlowton	JH	TBA	
Saturday, May 4	Stillwater Invitational	Laurel	V	9:00 AM	
Tuesday, May 7	Custer	Custer	JH	1:00 PM	
Friday, May 10	6-C District Track	Laurel	V	8:00 AM	
Monday, May 13	Junior High District Track	Columbus	JH	9:00 AM	
5/16/2024	Divisional Track	Laurel	V	9:00 AM	
5/23-5/25	A-C State Meet	Great Falls	V	TBA	

# YEARBOOKS ON SALE NOW!!

## ORDER FORM

ROBERTS SCHOOL 2023-24 ANNUAL

### PRICE \$25

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE  
NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

QTY ☐

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_



**PAYMENT AND ORDER**

**FORMS ARE DUE TO FRONT**

**DESK BY MAY 23RD.**



# APRIL MENU

	Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday	
BREAKFAST	4/1	NO SCHOOL	4/2	Cereal	4/3	Yogurt	4/4	Oatmeal
LUNCH				Walking Taco		Biscuits N Gravy		Hot Dogs
BREAKFAST	4/8	Cereal	4/9	Yogurt Parfait	4/10	Biscuits N Gravy	4/11	Cinnamon Swirl Toast
LUNCH		Soup N Sandwich		Nachos		Pizza		Chicken Sandwich
BREAKFAST	4/15	Cereal	4/16	Pancake On A Stick	4/17	Breakfast Burrito	4/18	Bagels
LUNCH		Cook's Choice		Burritos		Chili N Cinnamon Rolls		Hot Ham N Cheese
BREAKFAST	4/22	Cereal	4/23	Mini Waffles	4/24	Sausage Biscuit	4/25	<u>Poptarts</u>
LUNCH		Chili Cheese Fries		Taco Soup		Mac N Cheese		Pigs in a Blanket
BREAKFAST	4/29	Cereal	4/30	Muffins	5/1	Yogurt	5/2	Cinnamon Swirl Toast
LUNCH		Grilled Cheese N Tomato Soup		Tacos		Chili Frito Pie		Burgers

# MAY MENU

	Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday	
BREAKFAST	4/29	Cereal	4/30	Muffins	5/1	Yogurt	5/2	Cinnamon Swirl Toast
LUNCH		Grilled Cheese N Tomato Soup		Tacos		Chili Frito Pie		Burgers
BREAKFAST	5/6	Cereal	5/7	Bagels	5/8	<u>Egg McMuffin</u>	5/9	Yogurt Parfait
LUNCH		Cook's Choice		Taco Salad		Baked Potato Bar		PB&J or Tuna Sandwich
BREAKFAST	5/13	Cereal	5/14	Breakfast Burrito	5/15	Muffins	5/16	<u>Poptart</u>
LUNCH		Soup N Salad Bar		Fajitas		Cook's Choice		Pulled Pork
BREAKFAST	5/20	Cereal	5/21	Mini Waffles	5/22	Sausage Biscuit	5/23	Bagels
LUNCH		Chef Salad		Nachos		Breakfast for Lunch		Rib Sandwich
BREAKFAST	5/27	No School	5/28	Yogurt	5/29	Pancake on a Stick	5/30	Cereal
LUNCH				Walking Taco		Italian Dunkers		Corn Dogs

# Roberts School Board Community Levy Meeting

## Roberts Gym - April 11 @ 7:00 PM

Please join us in the gym to hear our school districts plan for the \$95,000 mill levy. At our previous meeting, we heard that the community wanted this money to go to the Roberts Staff. We listened to that, and 90% of the levy will go to our teachers and classified staff pay raises.

### SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

**MAY 7TH 12:00~8:00 pm AT THE SCHOOL.**

**SEE CANDIDATE INFORMATION INSIDE**

### Spring Art Shows at Carbon County Arts Guild

**K-8 April 6-27**

**High School May 4-25**

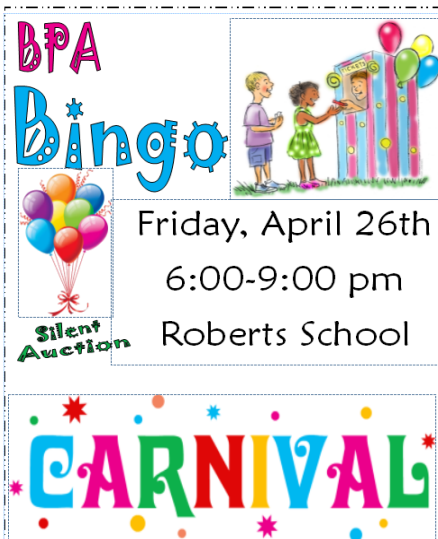
The High School Prom is on April 23rd at Swift River Ranch.

**LAST DAY OF SCHOOL—MAY 30TH**



Roberts Public School  
PO Box 78  
Roberts, MT 59070  
(406) 445-2421

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
ROBERTS SCHOOL  
ROBERTS, MT 59070  
Permit 1



**GRADUATION—SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2024 @ 2:00**