

## COLUMBUS SCHOOLS

# COLUMBUS SCHOOL DISTRICT

### *Columbus Board of Trustees:*

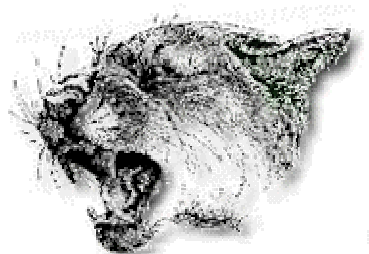
Joe Morse - Chairperson

Debbie Crutcher - Vice Chairperson

Jason Wells - Trustee

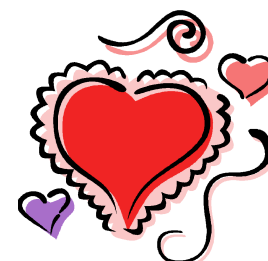
Stephanie Moodry - Trustee

Robert Smith - Trustee



FEBRUARY 2018

MARCH 2018



### ***SUPERINTENDENT, JEFF BERMES***

#### Block Scheduling

There have been a lot of questions and misinformation as to whether the high school is going to move towards a block schedule. We have invested a lot of time looking at the pro's and con's of block scheduling for our high school students. This information has provided a lot of insight into the structure of the school day and has shown that a schedule format change is something that needs to be carefully thought out. At this time, I have decided that Columbus Schools is not ready to move toward a block schedule. The district will continue its current eight period class day with early out on Wednesdays. I am currently looking at ways to increase class time and teacher instruction time to better serve our students in our current class structure. We want to thank all of those who provided input through comments to me or through the survey.

#### Coaches Needed!!

We currently have two openings for coaches at the high school level for track. We are looking for a head coach and an assistant at this time. These positions require an in depth knowledge of the events associated with track and field. The head coach is responsible for practice organization, team goals, player development, and paperwork for all track meets. The responsibilities of an assistant coach are to help and support the head coach. The district would like to have a coach in place by the 1<sup>st</sup> of March. I would also like to encourage any interested in coaching to keep an eye and ear out for upcoming openings in other sports. The district is always looking for qualified individuals to fill our extra-curricular openings.

#### Building Project Update

The Columbus Board of Trustees has voted to move forward with putting together a proposal for the construction of new elementary classrooms and updates to the high school and middle school building. In the next few months, the district will be seeking input on the design and layout of our new project as well as input to how the district should proceed with a new building project. The district will be holding numerous meetings with our community to showcase our project and to answer questions and resolve concerns. Community support is very important in moving forward, and we encourage all stakeholders to provide input and to get involved in this process.

I would also like to take this opportunity to explain the timing of why the district has decided to move forward with proposing a building project. First, the elementary school is faced with issues of large student numbers with limited space. Simply put, we do not have

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

ELECTION NEWS	2
BUILDING PROJECT	2
HIGH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS	3
MIDDLE SCHOOL & SINGING VALENTINE'S	4
ELEMENTARY	5
ADULT ED	6
SAVING FOR COLLEGE	7



***SUPERINTENDENT, JEFF BERMES - CONTINUED***

the room in the current elementary building to support our current enrollment. Given our increasing numbers and limited space, coupled with a deteriorating building infrastructure, the board has determined the time has come to move forward. Second, the district is hindered with an outdated kitchen and cafeteria area to meet the needs of feeding over 700 students. Third, the district will be paying off the last voted bond for the high school gym and middle school addition in July of 2018. This is important as a taxpayer because this current project proposal will be offset by the current bond being paid off. Finally, the future economic picture is uncertain. The nation has seen an increase in interest rates which will affect our costs increasing the overall cost of a project. The current projections are that interest rates are going to continue to go up which is bad news for the school district. Every increase in the interest rates hurts the district by reducing the investment value of our school bonds which hurts our project funding ability. The longer the district waits to pursue a bond, the more the district would be faced with a decreasing value of our bonds which would in turn cost the taxpayer more money. The district also recognizes that the cost of materials is always increasing. Therefore, the Board of Trustees has determined it is time to move forward with the bond in order to improve our buildings while being fiscal responsible and conscience of our taxpayers. I cannot stress the importance of getting involved in this process. This is one of the greatest investments we can make to our community.

We will be setting up a Facebook page to help provide information to our community members. This website will have information on upcoming community forums, group meetings, and the progress on the building projects and other important information and updates.

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**OPEN TRUSTEE POSITION**

Columbus School District #6

The following position will be open on the Columbus School District #6 School Board:

Elementary/High School 3-year term (one position).

The deadline for filing is March 29, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. A Declaration of Intent and Oath of Candidacy For Trustee Candidates form may be picked up from the Business Manager, Merridy Gauthier, at the Columbus High School and returned to the same. The school election will be held on Tuesday, May 8, 2018.

If you have any questions, please call Merridy Gauthier at 322-5373.

**Building Project**

The Columbus School Board would like to invite the community to a presentation of a recent Demographic Study the district conducted to determine the Columbus School District's current population and future growth patterns. This study will be used to help the district plan for the expansion of current buildings. If you would like to learn about our committees current population trends, please plan on attending. The meeting will be held on February 19, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

***HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL - GEORGE MCKAY*****"Building a Community of Excellence, One Student at a Time"****ACADEMIA RENEAU**

My Webster's dictionary (copyright 1972) does not list 'reneau' as an English word. I chose it because it sounds intellectual. Its French, I learned it off of the internet so it must be true. I mean it to apply to 'renew' as in at the beginning of 2<sup>nd</sup> semester we are renewing our pursuit of education. In the high school this is a new beginning on grades, effort, attitudes toward school, and overall growth, both socially and educationally. My first article at the beginning of a new semester encourages students to "keep on swimming" (trying), in the words of Dory in Finding Nemo. In order to receive acceptable grades in class one must TRY. In order to maintain acceptable grades in class one must keep on trying (or swimming if you are Dory). We all have good days, better days, and bad days. The goal is to have those 'good days' more often and hopefully turn them into better days along the way. The key phrase here is 'keep on trying'. The requirements for graduation are rising each year. There is narrowing allowance for poor attitude/poor effort/not trying, et al, if a student wants to get that diploma on time.

The common factor in getting grades, whether passing, average or excellent, is the need to TRY. Not everybody is an 'A' student but everybody can TRY to do their best. All philosophy aside....Keep on TRYing!

On a different note I would like to extend my thanks to all those who pitched in on the Divisional Speech Meet held in Columbus on January 20<sup>th</sup>. About 210 students from around the southern half of Montana flooded the halls and classrooms to perform their event before about 70 volunteer judges. Numerous other coaches, bus drivers and support people added to the fun. The volunteers deserve a BIG HAND for donating their time and expertise to the smooth functioning of this quite complicated competition. The Columbus Speech Team garnered the second place trophy and will send 16 competitors to the State Meet on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Good Luck to all the orators and thespians.

A thespian is an actor, as in the drama portion of speech and drama. It's a neat word. I believe I first learned it relating to John Wilkes Booth, the actor who assassinated President Lincoln. I do receive a 'word of the day' on the internet, which includes origin. Some are French, so they must be true. I find new words to be interesting, especially when they pertain to my areas of attentiveness. I use them sometimes, share them with others at other times and can tie them to current scenarios very frequently. Take for example the word 'enfant terrible'. It's French, believe it or not. It is a noun, hence a tie to English class. It is defined as "an outrageously outspoken or bold person who says and does indiscreet or irresponsible things". I can apply that to much of our current political environment today. Hence, a tie to politics, government, and social studies. How about 'quodlibet'. It is "a subtle or elaborate argument or point of debate, usually on a theological or scholastic subject". That has ties to the part of speech competition in debate. 'Quodlibet' is also "a humorous composition consisting of two or more...complementary melodies". Our music man, Mr. Kapor, easily applied it to music class when I showed him the definition. Finally, my friend Dave gave me one recently. 'Scapegrace' is a noun meaning "an incorrigible rascal", or mischievous miscreant. We all have one in our lives. Every teacher has one in the classroom. I used to be one. Then I became more of a 'corrigible rascal' meaning compliant miscreant. The purpose of me bringing up all these terms is to share with you my belief that education is a steady and consistent learning process. I learn new words for a hobby, but I learn them through TRYing to place them into an experience. Our students experience new terms, concepts, philosophies and processes every day. They (and we) all can learn from them. Learning and applying new ideas represents growth in our person, character and competence which is what builds us into contributing members of the environment in which we live and ultimately choose to live throughout our careers. Keep TRYing. It will open many doors to your Future!

## ***MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL - RON OSBORNE***

**“Equip students with the skills to develop their talents and become productive, responsible citizens.”**

As 2018 is now upon us, and January almost gone, I can't help but think about what we accomplished in 2017. There were small successes, larger ones, and certainly a fair share of bumps in the road. However, our school community is as strong as ever. I am very proud of our students and faculty for their compassion and ability to work together for the good of others. Even though we stress academic excellence, it is also important to note that we aim to develop productive, responsible citizens who work hard to help each other.

Once again, I want to emphasize the importance of having your child tell an adult if they are being teased or bullied or if they know of someone who is. Children don't want to say anything because they don't want to “tell on” the other students. As we've seen too many times in the past, the anti-”tattling” culture can have gravely damaging results. Please help us encourage our students, your child, to tell us and enlist adult help when they or others are being teased or bullied. If we can encourage kids to be involved rather than being silent bystanders and get rid of the culture of “not telling,” we can stop teasing and bullying and make our school safe for everyone, and I'm convinced that we can work together to accomplish this! We are working hard at educating our students about the dangers of bullying and harassing but it does take a group effort to make sure they understand the effects it has on others. It is a constant battle in dealing with this but it is a battle we are willing to fight and with your help we can minimize the effects it has. Thank you for your support and understanding with this very important matter. No child should have to endure what bullying and harassment does. Bullying can only be stopped if we work together and the students themselves learn to stop.

Attendance, as always, is a big concern to me. Attendance is a critical factor in school success for students. Studies have shown that consistent school attendance, academic success, and school completion have a positive correlation. The educational process requires continuity of instruction and students need to experience classroom discussions, debate, and independent study in order to increase achievement. Please make every effort of having your child at school. Please visit the following website to get an insight on why attendance is so important. The website is: [http://awareness.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/AAMMessages\\_2015.pdf](http://awareness.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/AAMMessages_2015.pdf) We have to work together and realize the importance of being at school for the success of our students and your child.

All of us at CMS thank you for your continued support in making our school the best educational institution possible. If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me any time by phone or email as listed above or on our web site [www.columbus.k12.mt.us](http://www.columbus.k12.mt.us).

### **Singing Valentines!**

\$5 for a song, candy, and a flower!

Delivered on Wednesday, February 14th.

**Deadline is February 9th.**

Contact a cheerleader or Mrs. Frank (Middle school) to purchase

#### **Song choices**

\*You Are My Sunshine \*Hey Mickey \*Amazed \*LOVE \*I'm Yours  
\*You Belong With Me \*My Girl \*Stuck Like Glue \*Head Over Boots

To: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade/Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_  
First, Last

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Song: \_\_\_\_\_

Secret Message: \_\_\_\_\_

Delivery Address: \_\_\_\_\_

***ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL - MARLENE DEIS***

**“Providing a foundation of skills to prepare students for life.”**

Dear Parents and Community Members,

Happy Ground Hog’s Day! Will he or won’t he see his shadow? We are quickly moving through the winter months and I am looking forward to sunshine and warm weather! I’d be happy if we could just get rid of some of the ice that is everywhere! During February, we will be busy celebrating Valentine’s Day and I Love to Read. We will also be holding the District Spelling Bee on February 13 up at the Middle School. This is for students in grades 4-8. (4<sup>th</sup> grade is new this year) Teachers in these grades hold spelling bees in their classrooms and then the top 5 from each grade compete at the District event. The top 10 from that Bee will represent us in the County Spelling Bee on February 28. Parents, family and friends are invited to attend the District and County Bees.

We are over half way through the 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester. Teachers are busy teaching new concepts to their students. Good attendance is key to making good progress this time of year! We want your child here with us!

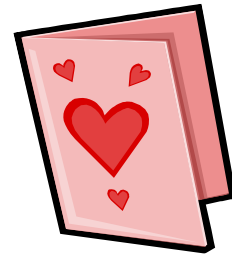
The ball is starting to roll on a potential building project. Information is being gathered and timelines are getting established. Be on the look-out in the near future for opportunities to make your voice heard about ideas you may have. When those types of meetings get set up, I will be sure you get the information! Our numbers are still high with 343 students listed in Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade!

Teachers will be sending home Valentine’s Day party info later in the month. If you want to share the love that day, come visit us!

Marlene Deis

**Up-coming Dates:**

- February 1 – Wow Assembly
- February 4 – MAPs testing starts for grades 2-5
- February 13 – District Spelling Bee at the Middle School 2pm
- February 14 - Valentine Parties (1:00-2:00)
- February 16 - No School
- February 28 – County Spelling Bee at 7pm in the HS cafeteria
- March 2 – End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester, Wow Assembly
- March 9 – Report Cards Go Home
- March 29 – Wow Assembly
- March 30-April 2 – Easter/Spring Break
- April 9 – Spring Pictures by Lifetouch



## Columbus Adult Ed 2018

### HiSet (GED)

Call Katy Matovich at 322-5546 for more information

### GUITAR

Beginning/intermediate lessons, Mondays 6-8 HS Library. Call Chuck Sweeney at 322-4579 for more information.

### ACRYLIC PAINTING

Mondays from 6-8 in the HS art room. Call Ann Sweeney at 322-45779 for more information.

### STILLWATER STRONG HEARTS

Mondays from 5:15 - 6:15 West Annex (old hospital basement). Please call 321-2777 or 322-8035 for more information.

### WALK WITH EASE

Wednesdays from 5:15 - 6:15 in West Annex (old hospital basement). Please call 322-8035 for more information.

### CARD MAKING/STAMPING

Every second Saturday at 1:30 at the HS art room. To register call 322-5356.

### KNITTING

Beginning/intermediate, Wednesdays from 6-8 at the MS library. Call Karen Tyra at 322-5219 for more information.

### CROCHET

Beginning/intermediate, Thursdays from 6-8 at the MS library. Call Karen Tyra at 322-5219 for more information.

### WALKING INDOORS

Starting January 8 come in out of the cold and walk the halls of Columbus High School at your own pace on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Come on all or any day and stay as long as you can. Call Judy at 322-5800 for more information.

### COUNTRY WESTERN DANCE

To be taught by former dance competitors Sharon Luloff and Robert Haskins. This is a beginner/refresher couple dancing class. (no partner required) Includes basics and more of two step, waltz, east coast swing, and cha-cha. HS cafeteria every Tuesday from 7-9 starting February 27. Please call Sharon at 861-3649 to register.



# COLUMBUS SCHOOLS

Columbus School District  
433 North 3rd Street

Elementary Phone: 406-322-5371  
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High School Phone: 406-322-5373  
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