



CUB REPORTER

**Student
Spotlight**
Anna Kerst

04 Elementary News

16 Drama Plays

21 March Lunch



▲ Treven Kocerha blocking a shot during the Elbert vs. Simla game.

📺 UPCOMING EVENTS

1 March
JH Wrestling
@ Walsenburg

8 March
HS Basketball
Regionals TBD

6 March
K-12
Parent/Teacher
Conferences
3:00-8:00 pm

HS Track
Early Season
Meet

17 March
State
Knowledge
Bowl

20 March
Elementary
Science
Fair
4:30 pm



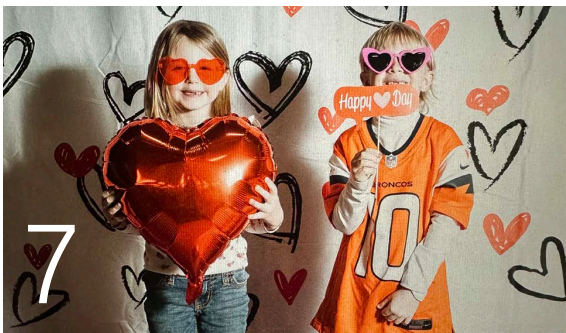
SPORTS

Results and Highlights
from Our School Teams

Girls Basketball:
vs Hoehne W 49-40
vs Holyoke W 55-25
vs Burlington L 51-41
vs Elbert W 76-18

Boys Basketball:
vs Salida W 71-56
vs Hoehne W 77-47
vs Holyoke W 64-43
vs Burlington W 81-44

Come support the Boys & Girls Basketball teams at regionals March 7th & 8th





STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: JOURNALISM STAFF

ANNA

KERST

This is Anna's first year in journalism! So far she has shown how naturally talented she is with a camera! Anna enjoys making Cub Reporter Spreads and taking photos for the yearbook! On top of journalism, Anna is a student athlete! She is truly incredible!

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THUMPERS RULE

In the elementary, we are working on following Thumper's Rule which is: "If you can't say something nice, don't say nothing at all." Words are powerful, and we want to make sure that we are using them wisely.



REMINDER

Cell phones

Elementary students are not allowed to have cell phones out in the classroom. They can be brought to school and kept in a student's locker or in a designated area in the classroom. Teachers will allow students to check them periodically during the day. If you need to get in touch with your child at a certain time or if an emergency arises, please feel free to call the front office, 719-541-2291.

TUCKER TIDBITS FOR ELEMENTARY



KATHY TUCKER ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL



THANK YOU SO MUCH PARENTS!

We so appreciate parents for supporting your children and ensuring their success by partnering with us at school. In addition, thank you, in advance, for attending parent/teacher conferences and for hosting our Valentine's Day parties. According to the article, "Parental Involvement is Key to Student Success" by Grace Chen, research overwhelmingly supports the following conclusions:

1. Academic achievement increases when parents are involved in their children's education.
2. Parental involvement leads to better classroom behavior.
3. Parents should stay involved from preschool through high school.
4. Reading together at home greatly improves reading skills.
5. Parental involvement lifts teacher morale.
6. Parental involvement benefits children and parents.



The annual True Sport games were held on Thursday, February 13 th for K-5 students. This event was provided by our high school True Sport athletes and Mrs. Montague. Our Cub's Den groups had a great time! Thank you, high school athletes and Mrs. Montague!

"THE MORE THAT YOU
READ, THE MORE THINGS
YOU'LL KNOW. THE MORE
THAT YOU LEARN, THE
MORE PLACES YOU'LL GO."
— DR. SEUSS



A JOB WELL DONE!
To all elementary basketball teams!!

5th grade boys got 2nd in the league championship tournament! Way to go boys!



SCIENCE FAIR

Our elementary STUCO is sponsoring a science fair on March 20 th from 4:30-6:30. Any student who would like to participate is welcome to do so. Registration forms have already been sent out. Make plans to attend on March 20 th to view projects, eat snacks, win prizes, and visit interactive displays provided by various vendors and organizations. It will be a great evening for all!

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE!

State CMAS Tests 2025 In April, our 3rd , 4th and 5th grade students will take Colorado’s statewide assessments for math, language arts/reading, and science. Third, fourth and fifth graders will take the math and ELA portions of the CMAS test. In addition, fifth graders will take the science

CMAS test. This is a great chance to display what has been learned throughout the year. Students will have the opportunity to apply test-taking strategies that they have learned during the test to earn points. If enough points are earned, then they will qualify for a trip to Urban Air or Sky Zone on May 2nd! Bearcubs, accept the challenge and rock it!

MUFFINS WITH MOMS/SONS

Since fathers and daughters had the opportunity to spend time together, now it’s time for our moms and sons. Come join us on May 1 st , 7 am-7:45 am for our second annual Muffins with Moms/Sons in our cafeteria. More details to follow.

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Kindergarten graduation

will be on Tuesday, May 20, 2025. This will be the last day of school for our kindergarteners. On the following day, Wednesday, May 21st, Kindergarten Roundup will take place. More information will follow in the upcoming months regarding registration.

PRESCHOOL

With the passage of UPK in our state, some things have changed with regards to preschool. If you have a 3-year-old child who would like to attend our preschool, you can pick up a registration packet in the front office. If you have a 4-year-old, you will need to log onto

<https://upk.colorado.gov/> and fill out the required information to register your child. Please call our front office at 719-541-2291 if you have any questions or concerns.

TOYS

Toys are not allowed at school unless previously approved by a teacher for classroom purposes.

STUDENT DROP OFF/ PICK UP

Thank you, parents, for using the drop off areas. As a reminder, please do not park in the drop off lane in front of the elementary doors to walk your child into the school. This includes preschool students. Please park in a parking

space as this will keep the lane moving without any interruptions. Also, please do not leave a car unattended with the motor running in the parking lot or drop off areas. We want to keep all students safe. Thanks for your help!

ACCOUNTABILITY MEETING

The next accountability meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 11, at 3:00 p.m. in the library. The April meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 8, 2025. Thank you, accountability members, for serving our district on this committee.



Congratulations to Hudson Golanski on bringing home the state championship trophy in pee wee wrestling!



▶ Kids cheering at the True Sport games

ELEMENTARY BASKETBALL SEASONS WRAPPED UP

Thank you to all coaches for working with our students!



The 5/6th girls and the 3rd grade boys both won the championship in the elementary BFL league





WHAT A GREAT TIME WE HAD AT OUR VALENTINES PARTIES!



FIFTH GRADE FIELD TRIP

Our fifth grade students worked through a space mission at the Challenger Space Center on February 18th. Thank you, Mrs. Stanko and Mrs. Townley for providing learning beyond the classroom!



EASTER PARTIES

Preschool will celebrate on Thursday, April 17th during their regular class times. On Friday, April 18th, elementary parties will be held beginning at 3:00 p.m. Once again, thank you, parents for the parties this year.



MARCH/APRIL STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Scarlett is a shining example of dedication and hard work in the classroom. She is becoming an excellent reader and puts extreme effort and detail into all that she does. She cares that her classmates are learning and growing as well and is always ready to help out!



MARCH/APRIL STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Domyenic is a great student with a terrific attitude. I love having him in class! He always has a smile on his face and is ready to learn! He puts forth his best effort, is fantastic at making very neat letters and is becoming very number savvy!



Hoop Shoot 2025... Congratulations to our Hoop Shoot winners who made it to the regional competition in Deer Trail, CO!



SECONDARY PRINCIPAL NOTES:

SAMMI SWENNES



PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

The second semester conferences are on Thursday, March 6 th from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Secondary conferences are open conferences, and we would love for all parents to attend these conferences. If you are unable to attend, and you are concerned about your student's progress, please call your child's teachers, to request a time to sit and discuss your concerns. This proactive approach is encouraged and will be a meaningful avenue of communication

for both the parent and teacher.

SAFETY

As part of our school safety program, we are asking that you please remind your children to always keep their safety as a priority at home and at school. We encourage parents to monitor what their children are viewing on the internet, and to pay special attention to whom their children are spending time with, away from school. Parents, please consider getting an

VALENTINES FUN!

Mrs. Tucker and Mrs. Swennes jumped in during the Journalism's Valentines photoshoot to show the kids how to take fun pictures



internet filter, to limit what your children can be exposed to and ensure their internet viewing safety.

SPRING BREAK

Just a reminder that Spring Break will be from Saturday, March 22 nd to Monday, March 31st. School resumes on Tuesday, April 1 st .

SPECIAL SCHOOL DAYS

Don't forget we will be having Monday School on March 3 rd and no school on Friday, March 7 th . We will also be having Monday School on March 10 th and no



Hayden Pfost at the State Wrestling send off.

school on Friday, March 14th .

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

Great job to all of our wrestlers this season. We had two wrestlers, Hayden Pfost and Adam Shults, qualify and compete at the state wrestling tournament!!

BASKETBALL

Our high school basketball teams are nearing the post season, which will start the first week in March.

FBLA

Congratulations to all of our State Qualifiers that will compete in April!

MATCHWITS

Congratulations to the Simla Matchwits team, they will be attending the State Knowledge Bowl in Greeley on March 17 h and 18 th . Good luck to all our state qualifiers!!

PROM

The juniors will be hosting prom on April 26, 2025. More details will be coming out soon.

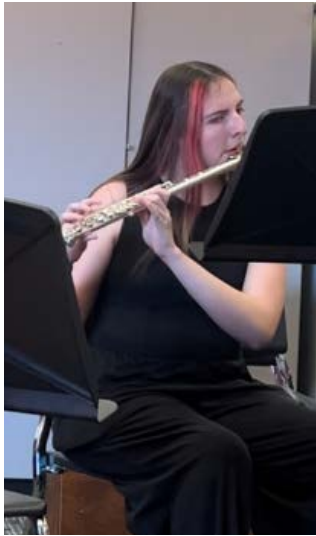


END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

It is hard to believe that we are just 12 short weeks away until the end of the school year. Please look in the May Cub Reporter for dates and information on Decision Day, 8th grade graduation, and Academic and Athletic Awards night. Also, there will be information on the Class of 2025 Graduation Ceremony.



JH AND ELEMENTRAY HONOR BAND/CHOIR



Elementary Honor Choir

The elementary and junior high honor choir and band have been putting in lots of time and effort competing!



COUNSELOR CORNER

CHAD THIEMAN

As always, if I can be of assistance in any way, please let me know. I am available to talk to students and members of the community one on one and I ensure confidentiality. Mrs. Hoops, our student advocate and School Counselor Corps Grant Manager, is also available to talk with students as needed and is meeting with some students on a regular basis for check-ins and support. Please remember, the only information that we are unable to keep confidential would pertain to potential harm to self or to another person. Thanks for your trust in us!

REPORT CARDS

3rd quarter report cards will be sent home in March (the quarter ends March 6 th and Parent/Teacher conferences will also be held on that date this year). Please remember that this report card serves as a mid-term progress report. Students have through

the end of the semester to raise their percentages. Only the final semester grades (May 22 nd) are posted on the student's transcript and count toward cumulative grade point averages. The coming warm weather can bring with it the tempttion to "slack off" in the classroom. Remind your student(s) to finish the year strong by earning the best grade that they can in each course. I've heard many seniors say that they wished that they had gotten better grades when they had had the chance. Grade point average and SAT/ACT scores play an important role in college admissions and scholarship contests.

FINANCIAL AID

Seniors - This is the time to be finishing up the Financial Aid process! Getting your FAFSA submitted in a timely manner is the key to being offered Financial Aid from prospective colleges. Work through the following steps ASAP: 1. Create an account at www.studentaid.gov. You will establish a username and a password to use when completing the FAFSA and as a signature when you have it finished and are ready to submit. The student and his/her parents need an account. 2. Complete the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.gov. Remember that the FAFSA has two parts – questions that apply to the student and questions that apply to the student's parents. I would be glad to help you work through the application if you have questions or are having problems. Be sure to include the colleges on your FAFSA that you want your financial information sent to. If you have applied to 3 colleges, indicate on the FAFSA that you want the results sent to all 3 of those specific colleges. You may always go back into your previously submitted FAFSA and add new colleges at any time. 3. Your FAFSA will be processed and you will be provided a student summary report. This report summarizes all of the information provided on your FAFSA. The key result from this report is your Student Aid Index (SAI). Carefully review your report. If corrections need to be made, go to www.fafsa.ed.gov and select "Make Corrections to a Processed FAFSA." 4. The colleges that you have been accepted to and who have received your financial information through the FAFSA process will send you a Financial Aid Award Letter or post a document through your student account on their online portal. The college takes the Cost of Attendance and subtracts the Student Aid Index resulting in your Financial Need. The award letter will list what the college offers you to help cover this need including: grants, work-study, and loans. They may also include certain scholarships given specifically by that college. Private scholarships are outside of this process. Remember – you are not required to accept loan offers. Check your online college portal regularly for updated financial aid information. I am available to help community members (not just our high school seniors) in this process as well. Feel free to call me at the school if you need assistance with college/trade school financial aid!



◀ **Tatum Kocerha**
dunking the ball
against Elbert.

PORTFOLIO ITEMS

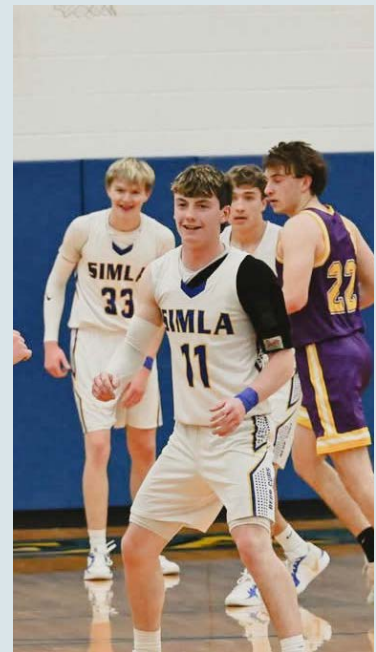
As we finish the school year and many award certificates are given out, please have your student keep their certificates to put in a cumulative folder. When your students are seniors they will be glad to have a folder full of examples of accomplishments that they can use when applying for scholarships. It is also a good idea to keep a list of community service activities completed that shows what service was completed, when the service was completed, the amount of time spent on the service, and a name and address that can be used for a reference pertaining to the service completed. All of these items can be scanned for use in an electronic portfolio as well.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Seniors should continue to work on scholarship applications. Parents – check with your student to see what progress he/she is making in this area. We are in the “busy season” for scholarships so it is important that seniors stay organized and keep track of due dates. It is important to know whether a scholarship application is due to the recipient by a certain date or if it only has to be

postmarked by that date. Check out the school website at www.bigsandy100j.com and click on the “Counselor” tab and then “Scholarships” for a listing of scholarships. Many of our local scholarships, including the Mary Casey Lasater Memorial Scholarship, the Alan Lasater Outreach Foundation, the Glenn & Jennie Kimble Memorial Scholarship, the Simla Cubs Booster Club Scholarship, the Big Sandy Alumni Scholarship, and the T.R. Hamacher Memorial Scholarship are due soon!



PERSONAL WORK-FORCE READINESS (SENIOR SEMINAR)

We are finishing up a unit using "The Job Hunting Handbook". We worked through the process of finding a job to apply for (a fictitious JH Tutor position), completing the written application materials, and our students are currently sitting for an interview. This unit ends with discussions about important qualities of a successful employee, etiquette in business/social settings, and understanding what constitutes harassment in the workplace. We have also partnered with Farmers State Bank to teach important "Money 101" topics. Each senior is given an "occupation" by the bank and then receives a working debit card on which their paychecks are deposited and debits for regular expenses are posted. Upon completion of the unit, Farmers State will give each of the seniors \$100 on their debit cards! Thanks to FSB for their contributions to our students!

The 4th quarter in Senior Seminar includes finishing the FSB Money unit, completing scholarship applications, and practicing public speaking through various types of speeches.

JUNIORS

Colorado Boys State will be held at NJC in Sterling June 1-7. This is a chance for junior boys to "experience real life America while they create and operate their own cities, counties, and state governments." The full cost is covered by the American Legion. Register at: www.CoLegionBoysState.org



org by May 1st. Colorado Girls State will be held at NJC in Sterling June 9-15. This is a chance for junior girls to "run for mock public office, write, debate, and pass bills, engage in a mock trial exercise, and attend panels consisting of guests from every level of Colorado government and beyond." The full cost is covered by the American Legion Auxiliary. Register at: www.alacolorado.com/girls-state by May 1st.

SAT

All Big Sandy juniors will be taking the SAT on April 16th. The best preparation for SAT testing is to take rigorous classes and to work hard in each of them. 11th graders will also be taking the CMAS Science test in April. There is no cost to take the SAT.

ACT

The next ACT national test date is April 5th and the regular registration deadline for this assessment is February 28th. The late registration deadline is March 16th.

More information is available at www.act.org.

PSAT

All Big Sandy 9th and 10th graders will be taking the PSAT on April 16th. The PSAT 9 & 10 are administered to all public school 9th and 10th graders in Colorado.

CMAS

The CMAS test window is April 7th - 24th. All 3rd - 8th graders will be taking English Language and Math assessments. 5th, 8th, and 11th graders also take Science assessments and our 4th graders will be taking the Social Studies assessment. Most testing is completed online but 3rd graders will complete the English Language Assessment on paper again this year.



Evan Guy competing with his team during the elementary True Sport Games.





SUPERINTENDENT BOARD NOTES



STEVE WILSON



SUPERINTENDENT FINALIST

David Robinison has been named the sole finalist to be our Superintendent for the upcoming school year.

PROJECTS

We are working on several projects around the school. Mr. Tucker is working on a technology grant to replace and upgrade interactive flat screens and computers in the classrooms. We are receiving bids for redoing the exterior fencing at the baseball and football fields. New goalposts will be installed soon. We have some drywall work going on as well as some roofing work.

OUTSTANDING COUNSELOR

Congratulations to Mr. Thieman for being recognized as an Outstanding Counselor in the state of Colorado!

ATHLETICS

Congratulations to our wrestlers who wrapped up a great season at the state tournament! As well as our basketball and Matchwits teams who are in the final stretch of great seasons!

STATE FBLA

We wish the Future Business Leaders of America

participants success at the State Competition! Over twenty of them will be moving on from districts and competing at the state level!

JOB OPENINGS

We currently have opening for the 2025-2026 school year: 6th Grade Teacher, Industrial Arts Teacher, Bus Drivers, and Substitute Teachers.

HAVE A GREAT
MARCH, APRIL,
AND SPRING
BREAK!



SPIRIT POINTS MINGLE

Ashley attempting to win the spirit point competition for the freshman class



HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA PRODUCTION

Join the High School Drama and Drama Tech classes:

When: May 1st @ 7:00 pm on the Simla stage.

For: "Willy Wonka JR.

Oompa Loompa Doom-padee Doo, There's a Performance...a Performance for You! Oompa Loompa Doom-padee Dee, Starring the Students from Big Sandy!

Join the Simla Bear Cubs Theatre Group as they transport you to a "world of pure imagination" with their production of Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka JR., a musical based on Roald Dahl's timeless children's book Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

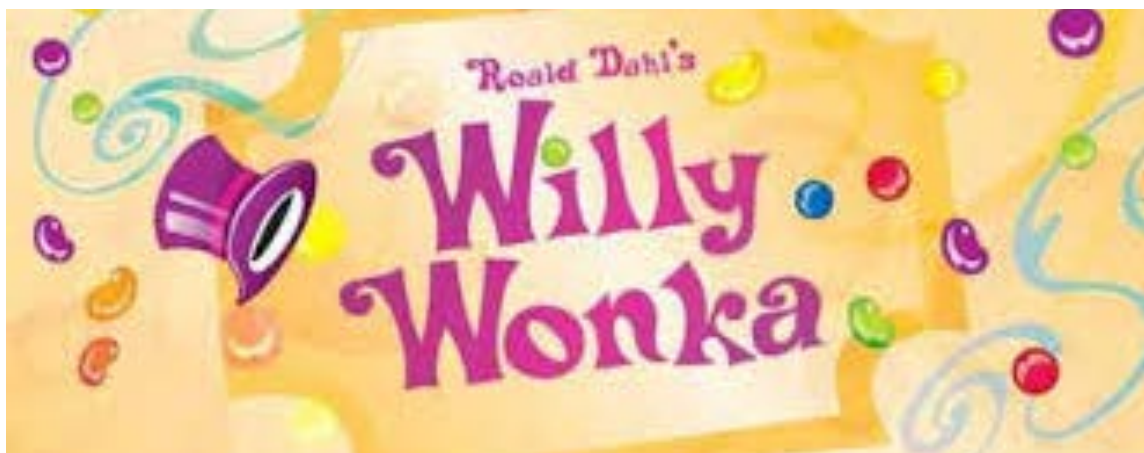
In Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka JR., a world-famous reclusive candy man named Willy Wonka announces that he will offer the tour of the lifetime through his se-

cret chocolate factory to five children who find a golden ticket in one of his world-famous candy bars. One ticket-holder will also win a lifetime supply of chocolate. Against all odds, an impoverished but sweet-natured boy named Charlie Bucket wins a golden ticket. He and his fellow tour members – the spoiled- rotten Veruca Salt, gluttonous Augustus Gloop, gum-chewing Violet Beauregarde and television junkie Mike Teavee – spend a day traveling with the mysterious and marvelous Willy Wonka and his crew of Oompa Loompas through the fantastical factory. The delicious adventures of Willy Wonka's chocolate factory light up the stage in this captivating adaptation of Roald Dahl's fantastical tale. Featuring the enchanting songs from the 1971 film, in addition to a host of fun new



songs, Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka JR. is a scrumdilyumptious musical guaranteed to delight everyone's sweet tooth. Don't miss the singing and dancing Oompa Loompas, and the talented ensemble including participants from the elementary Honor Choir, Junior High and High School Choirs. Be on the lookout for more information. See you all there!!

Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka JR. is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized materials are supplied by Music Theatre International 421 West 54th Street, New York, NY, (212) 541-4684, mtishows.com.



2025 YEARBOOK ORDERING IS LIVE!



Hey there, high schoolers! Time to put down your emoji-laden smartphones and listen up because we've got a yearbook situation on our hands. You see, ordering a yearbook ASAP is like securing a ticket to a nostalgia rollercoaster, and trust me, you won't want to miss that ride. Sure, you might think you'll remember every awkward cafeteria encounter and epic football game moment, but alas, memory tends to fade faster than last season's fashion trends.

So, here's the deal: get your paws on that yearbook before you're haunted by the ghost of teenage hairstyles past. And don't even

think about relying on Instagram to capture all those precious memories. The yearbook is the real OG when it comes to preserving the moments that'll make you smile, cringe, and wonder what on earth possessed you to wear that outfit on picture day. So, fellow teens, don't procrastinate, lest you be doomed to a future filled with hazy recollections and regret-filled sighs. Order that yearbook pronto, and let the memories live on in gloriously printed, ink-on-paper perfection! #MEMORIESMATTER

The Big Sandy yearbook captures today's memories to enjoy for a lifetime.

Don't miss out — reserve your copy today!

WAYS TO ORDER:



ONLINE
JOSTENYEARBOOKS.COM



SCAN



CALL
1.877.767.5217
8AM-5PM CST
MONDAY-FRIDAY

ORDER ONLINE OR PICK UP AN ORDER FORM FROM THE JOURNALISM STAFF TODAY!





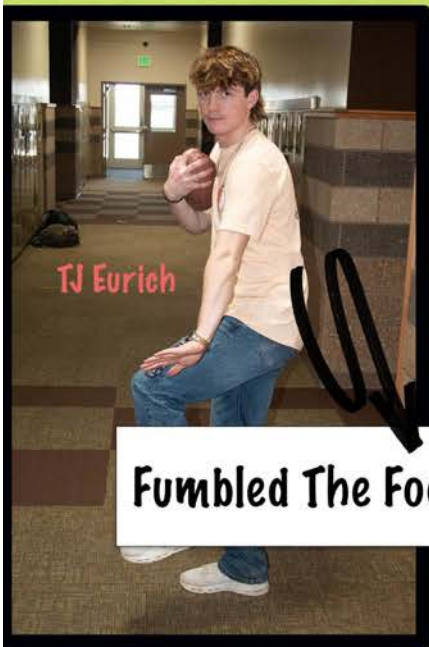
FRIENDLY COMPETITION?

TJ, Caston, and Wyatt fighting to win the Spirit Point Competition

students!



Never Have I Ever...

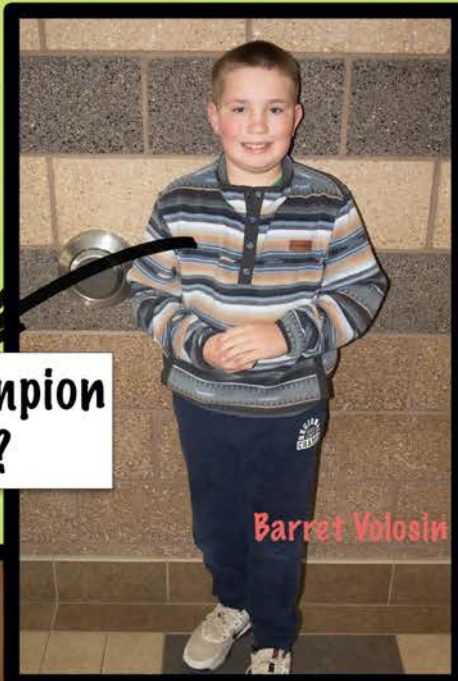


Fumbled The Football?

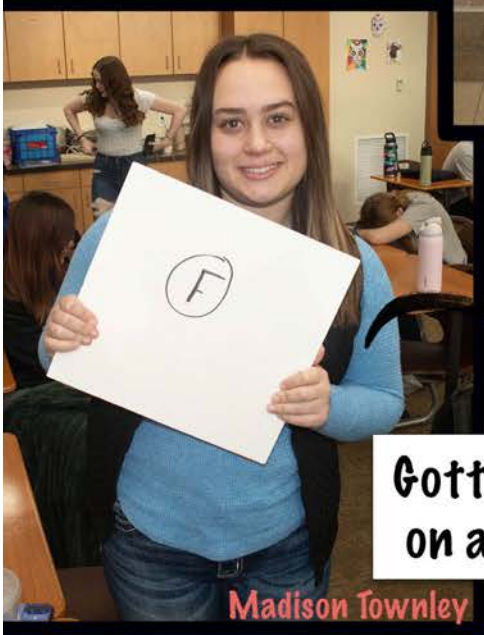
Stayed Up All Night?



Went to Disney World?



Showed Champion Steer at Fair?



Gotten over a 90% on a math test?





MARCH 2025

Big Sandy 100J

This Institution is an
Equal opportunity provider
Menu Subject to change

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>3 Chicken and noodles Whipped potatoes Green beans, Dinner roll Salad Bar, Fruit Milk</p>	<p>4 Hot Dogs Tater tots Carrots, Cucumbers Salad bar, Fruit Milk</p>	<p>5 Super Nachos Lettuce, Salad bar Fruit, Brownie Milk</p>	<p>6 BBQ Chicken Sandwich Oven Fries, Salad bar Apple slices Milk</p>	<p>7 NO SCHOOL</p>
<p>10 Chicken Strips Mac-n-cheese Broccoli, Salad Bar Fruit, Milk</p>	<p>11 Spaghetti Bread sticks Lettuce, Salad bar Fruit, Milk</p>	<p>12 Grilled Cheese sandwich Chicken/Tomato soup Carrots, Celery Salad bar, Fruit Milk</p>	<p>13 Sloppy Joe Chips, Baked Beans Salad bar, Fruit Milk</p>	<p>14 NO SCHOOL</p>
<p>17</p>	<p>18 Pizza Lettuce, Salad Bar Fruit, Pudding Milk</p>	<p>19 Hamburger w/cheese Lettuce, Tomato Oven Fries Salad Bar, Fruit Milk</p>	<p>20 Orange Chicken Rice, Mixed Vegetables Salad Bar, Fruit Milk</p>	<p>21 PBJ sandwich Chips, Fruit Carrots Oreo cookies Milk</p>
<p>24 Spring Break</p>	<p>25 Spring Break</p>	<p>26 Spring Break</p>	<p>27 Spring Break</p>	<p>28 Spring Break</p>
<p>31 Spring Break</p>				

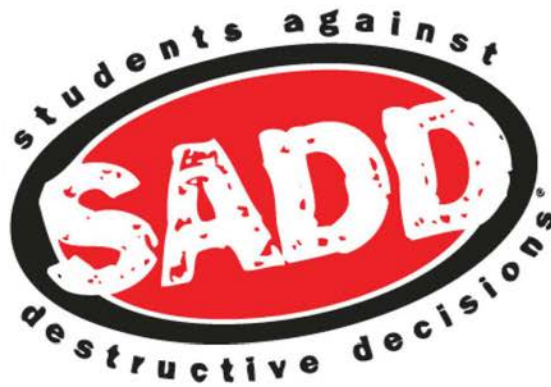




♥ JH Valentines ♥

By Anna Kerst





Keep striving to make those good decisions, Bearcubs!

IF YOU KNOW ME

YOU'D KNOW THAT...

"I show steers in 4H!"
-Lauren Rector



"I dip my thumb in my coffee!"
-Mr. Tucker



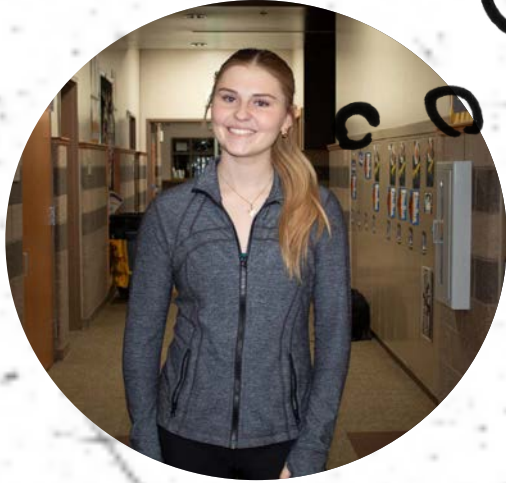
"I'm always watching
Dance Moms!"
-Tanya Nipple



"My kids are very
important to me!"
-Mrs. Sevast



By: Aubrey Layton and
Reese Baker

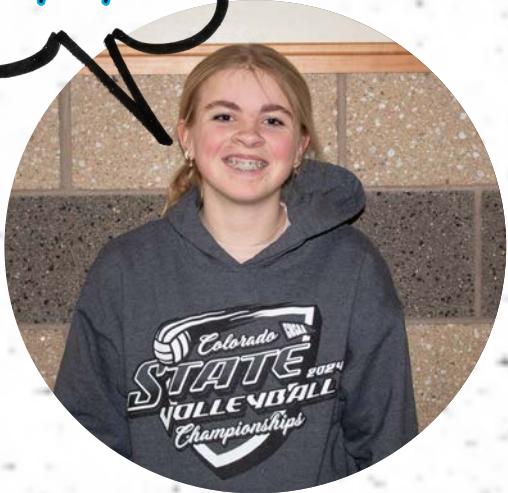


"I'm always down for a night out with friends!"
-Morgan Swennes

"I roam in the hallways 24/7!"
-Ayden Lally



"I am ambidextrous!"
-Brynley Layton



"I play the electric guitar!"
-Keygon Frihauf

