

Boundary County School District #101

7188 Oak Street
Bonners Ferry, Idaho 83805
Telephone (208) 267-3146

Home of the Badgers

Gary Pflueger, Superintendent

Date: February 16, 2016

BCSD Supt. Scoop

Friends of Boundary County,

With the second semester in full swing, thoughts move to spring and graduation. But, not too fast. We have plenty of work to do; as my dad taught me, work does not go away until you do it! To start with let me talk about our successes. First semester honor roll was posted: 148 straight A and 377 A/B students were celebrated. These students and their families demonstrate a high level of dedication to the educational system and their future endeavors. Congratulations and thank you! On the extracurricular side, participation in the MS and HS is at an all-time high. At the High School alone 243 boys and 203 girls participated in winter activities. And, by the way, preseason and random drug testing identified zero students testing positive! Strong community support was evident through successful food drives and fund raising efforts in all schools: VVES Dessert Auction and Chili Feed raising \$2000 for the PTO; Mount Hall's Auction was another success. The PTO was able to put money towards the playground remodel, donate to each classroom, and buy a Mount Hall t-shirt for every student and staff member. The Naples PTO has been just as busy. They had their Harvest Night and Chili Contest in November. A fun time was had by all who attended. Some of the money raised is going towards a reader board for Naples Elementary. Currently, both PTOs are busy planning for their Spring Carnival; the MS clothes drive brought in over \$1300 while helping the needy; our schools helped to provide free meals for the hungry and filled local food banks. All schools focused on Human Rights, offering messages of tolerance and hope. We have much to be thankful for!

Have we made mistakes? Yes, we're human! Girls' basketball taught me a strong lesson on effective communication, leadership and trust. I would personally like to thank Mike Cowley and Tomi Bateman for stepping up to a tough situation. And, of course, to the team for never giving up! This is the most important; good job ladies! Next year we will implement a community-wide program focusing on "Winning from Within". Sportsmanship is the theme, not only from the athletes and coaches but also from the parents and fans. Not to worry, varsity athletic programs will play to win; winning is always more fun! What we cannot have is people openly challenging a coach in anger or yelling at the referee. These things work against the students every time. I had a referee tell me Bonners Ferry is his least favorite town to work in; this needs to change. It hurts our kids!

In closing, let me get something off my chest and share how we, as the educational system, help children. When students confront an issue, conflict or concern we ask them to research it and ask questions before stating their opinion on the matter. Unfortunately, FACEBOOK does not work this way. A standard practice for teachers is (or should be) 4 to 1;

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four positive comments to every negative or redirection to a student. I do not FACEBOOK but I sure hear about every post. The "Rant and Rave" page seems to be top heavy on the rant side. I am the first to say, if you have a concern it should be questioned. If we make a mistake, it will be corrected. Please contact us if you have a concern; make sure you have all the facts before you tell the world. This will eliminate ill-will and rumors and it will make you a more credible person. I look forward to hearing your raves!

Finally, student safety is our number one concern. Please make sure our emergency information is correct. If you move or change your phone, let us know ASAP. If we can't reach you, please make sure we have other emergency numbers! We are in this together. Thanks for entrusting your child to BCSD!

Sincerely submitted by,

Gary Pflueger, Supt.