



# “Connections”

## Superintendent’s Corner

### School Remodel or New Construction Update!

Greetings and salutations to Laurel and all our Locomotives. I would like to update you all on our discussions regarding our school facilities. The Building Renovation and Construction Subcommittee of the Board of Trustees has met multiple times to discuss the state of our district and the direction to take to address our facility issues.

Recently, Laurel Public Schools had a demographics study completed and school growth is on the horizon. Laurel schools have maxed out many of our school spaces, especially those of our elementary, and we have some tired facilities that are definitely showing their age. Mechanical systems are struggling and foundational and roofing problems have been discovered. It is time to consider elementary and high school facilities improvements, and we have come to the point in the process of bringing in outside professionals, architects and engineers, to help us evaluate the current states of our buildings. We need to make a decision whether to remodel our existing buildings or take on new construction. Are our existing elementary buildings in good enough condition to remodel?

The Laurel Board of Trustees has hired A&E Architects to assist us in evaluating our buildings, especially those of our elementary, and to help us through the pre-bonding process. A&E’s engineers will look at the mechanical systems, roof systems, and foundations to determine if our tax dollars are better spent remodeling or if our money is more wisely spent on new construction. We are also looking at developing and updating our Career and Technical Education (CTE) facilities at the High School.

Our current CTE facilities do not meet the needs of our current students. We need to better prepare students for the trades industries to combat the huge number of well-paying, yet hard to fill, jobs in our community and our country. Additionally, we have a need for new classrooms at the high school and possibly a wrestling and auxiliary gym for PE and activities. We want to avoid our “wants” and focus on our “needs”. Student safety, education, and professional preparation is our focus. I can promise our community that LPS will spend our tax dollars as efficiently and responsibly as possible while serving our students and giving them the facilities to prepare them for their future.

LPS has put together a team of school and community members that will meet with A&E and over the next few months we will be asking for the community's input as we evaluate our district facilities and decide on our future direction. Students, parents, staff, and community members will be invited to community meetings and will help guide the district through this process. We must provide our students with the best education possible in the best facilities we can support. The Laurel school community will be done paying off our last bond for the construction of Laurel Middle School in 2025 and it is time to invest in our remaining buildings as we move forward. This process needs to be a transparent process with opportunities for all who have questions to ask them.

The Laurel School Board and staff at LPS wants everyone to know how much we value the citizens of Laurel. Please help us in making the decisions that are best for the students of Laurel Public Schools. GO LOCOS!





# Celebrating Veterans Day



Graff has the tradition of starting every morning with an interesting fact such as:

How many states have a greater number of mammal species than the 109 found in Montana?

Jami Broyle's 4th grade class at helped celebrate Veterans Day on Friday, November 11th. The entire class sang *The Star Spangled Banner* over the intercom to Graff School and followed it with *I'm Proud to Be an American*. The songs were met with applause from every class and it was a shared moment to honor our veterans.

## Great Things Happening at Laurel Middle School

It is important to teach students how great our country is. We took the opportunity to celebrate Red White and Blue day in the middle school on Veterans Day. We had two of our 8th graders play taps and they did a fantastic job. Jaxon Keyser and Mitchell Clavadetscher did an amazing job playing taps for the student body. Our guest speaker was Tom Smith who is a retired Marine, who now works with Warrior Wishes. Tom spoke about the veterans and how the veterans serve everyone, and they make the ultimate sacrifice. Veterans have to sacrifice their family, friends, and sometimes their lives. Tom then acknowledged students whose parents served in the military. In the end it was a great day to celebrate our great nation and show pride in our country and give thanks to our veterans

Graff Fun Fact  
Answer:


NONE-

Then they follow-  
up with the Pledge  
of Allegiance.





## Elementary Holiday Program Schedule



The PTA have generously purchased new Tubano Drums, Frog Guiros (wee - rohs), Tambourines, Wood Blocks, and other supplies for the k-4 music students. Some of these new instruments will even be a part of the winter programs this year. In class the students have been working on their winter program performances and here are the dates and times of those performances:

### **Monday Dec 12, 2022- Graff Gym**

8:30 am Hogue 3rd Grade  
9:00 am Hari 3rd Grade  
9:30 am Uhler 3rd Grade  
10:00 am Swanson 3rd Grade  
10:30 am Hurd 3rd Grade  
1:50 pm Bauwens Kindergarten- **South School**

### **Tuesday Dec 13, 2022-**

9:00 am Garvey 1st Grade  
9:40 am Bare 1st Grade  
10:20 am Lavold 2nd Grade  
11:00 am Polkow 2nd Grade  
1:15 pm Broyles/Meier/Boeck 4th Grade-  
HS Auditorium  
1:50 pm Jares Kindergarten  
2:15 pm Demming/Irwin/Kanta 4th Grade-  
HS Auditorium  
2:30 pm Noble Kindergarten

### **Wednesday Dec 14, 2022**

9:00 am Scott 1st Grade  
9:40 am Buie 1st Grade  
10:20 am Smith 2nd Grade  
11:00 am Musfeldt 2nd Grade

### **Thursday Dec 15, 2022**

9:40 am Kelly 1st Grade  
10:20 am Arneson 2nd Grade  
1:50 pm Schwend Kindergarten  
2:30 pm Wilson Kindergarten

### **Friday Dec 16, 2022**

9:00 am Anderson 1st Grade  
9:40 am Hodges 1st Grade  
10:20 am Salo 2nd Grade  
11:00 am Grutsch 2nd Grade  
1:50 pm Thilmony Kindergarten  
2:30 pm Amestoy Kindergarten

### **Crosswalk safety, remembering those white painted lines**

As winter comes to Montana and snow begins to cover the ground and streets, it is important to remember those crosswalks at intersections. These crosswalks are a simple and important safety device for both drivers and pedestrians. Remembering the laws involving crosswalks, respecting the crossing guards, and teaching students about the benefit of crosswalks can help improve the safety of pedestrians and improve the flow of traffic.

Drivers have an obligation to respect the crosswalks and the pedestrians have an obligation to use these crosswalks to mitigate the potential for an accident. This obligation is reinforced by Montana Code Annotated 61-8-502 which requires an operator of a vehicle to yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk at an intersection. Pedestrians are also subject to all traffic regulations set by MCA 61-8-501 which requires pedestrians to obey the instructions of any traffic control device that is specifically applicable to the pedestrian. Pedestrians need to use the crosswalks and drivers need to yield to those pedestrians. Following these laws helps the flow of traffic and improves the safety of pedestrians. These laws are especially important to remember in school zones. The school district goes to great lengths to provide a safe place for students and other pedestrians to cross the street, however, every parent who has a student who goes to school in Laurel knows how busy the streets can get during the drop off and pick up times. Vehicles driving in and out of parking spots, car doors opening and closing seemingly out of nowhere, students walking off every different direction to meet with their parents. This time of day can be hard for operators of vehicles and pedestrians to get somewhere safely with all the obstacles to navigate. It requires a lot of patience for both drivers and pedestrians. This is why crossing guards are so important around the school zones. Crossing guards help regulate both the flow of traffic and the flow of students crossing the street. They help the students be seen when crossing the street. Every crossing guard wears a bright HiVis yellow or orange vest while holding a big stop sign to aid in being seen. It is important to respect the guards when they are attempting to stop traffic for students to cross. Crossing guards improve the safety of pedestrians greatly, but they cannot be at every intersection. This is why proper usage of crosswalks and education on the usage of crosswalks help keep students safe.

Continued-



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## Current Resident

### **Crosswalk safety, remembering those white painted lines– Cont.**

When it comes to unguarded crosswalks, all drivers should expect and be prepared to stop for students, teachers, or other parents crossing the street. If you have ever driven through the school zones in the morning or afternoon, you probably have seen a child run out in front of your vehicle or another vehicle without looking. It is important that we teach the students how to be safe when crossing the street. As parents of students, promoting the usage of crosswalks will keep them safe. Teaching your student to not just run across the intersection without looking. Teaching the importance of using a crosswalk and listening to the crossing guard. Teaching to not use their electronic devices while walking, instead be looking out for vehicles. These lessons can make a difference in improving the safety of everyone as well as help with the flow of traffic.

Adhering to traffic laws, respecting crossing guards, and educating our students about crosswalks will make a big difference in the safety for everyone involved. Remembering that the most important goal at the end of the day is to make sure everyone gets home safe. Keeping that goal in the back of our minds when we are driving through a school zone or even crossing the street will help the overall safety of everyone who calls Laurel their home.

Officer R. Sedgwick Badge #107  
School Resource Officer for Laurel Public Schools

# Adult Education

Check out the new classes that are coming including another Intro to Floral Design class featuring this 36" Birdhouse. Class is December 8th and includes everything you need to walk out with this beautiful decoration and more knowledge to make your own floral designs. Class is limited to the 1st 10 registered.

**[www.laurel.k12.mt.us/departments/community-education](http://www.laurel.k12.mt.us/departments/community-education)**

**Or call 406-628-7630**

