

The background is a light blue pattern of various school-related icons such as a pencil, ruler, clock, and apple. In the center, there is a white notebook page with a blue grid pattern and a spiral binding at the top. The text is centered on this page.

*Shadow Butte
Elementary*

School Board Update

For March 2024

PRINCIPAL'S BRIGHT SPOTS



- **A huge round of applause to our incredible Events Committee for orchestrating yet another successful Title Night. Our Literacy Night and Masked Reader event was a great time for all. Their dedication to creating engaging and enriching experiences for our students and families is truly commendable. I would like to thank them for their hard work, creativity, and unwavering commitment to promoting literacy in our school community. Their efforts have undoubtedly made a positive impact on our students' love for reading. Kudos to each and every member of the Events Committee for a job well done!**
- **A big shout-out to our dedicated staff for hosting another round of supportive and informative parent-teacher conferences! I appreciate their dedication to fostering positive relationships with our students' families and providing valuable insights into their academic progress. I thank them for their hard work, dedication, and professionalism throughout the process. It is nice to see that their efforts have undoubtedly strengthened the partnership between home and school, contributing to the overall success of our students.**
- **A huge shout-out to our amazing Title team under the direction of April Russell and all grade-level teams for their collaborative efforts in providing our developing learners with extra learning opportunities through small group sessions! Their dedication to planning and delivering targeted instruction tailored to the needs of each student is shining star in our school. By working together and leveraging their expertise, they are making a significant impact on the academic growth and success of our students. Keep up the fantastic work!**

INSTRUCTIONAL COACH BRIGHT SPOTS



- **Support for our Teachers** : This month I have encouraged our newest teachers to use data to inform instruction. We have met to review data together, align instruction with grade level standards, and set individual student achievement improvement goals to be reached by the end of the school year.
- **Spring ISAT Preparation**: 3rd - 5th grade classes will be taking the State ISAT tests soon. We are focussing on areas of Strength and areas for Growth. Brianna Lynch from the State Department of Education will meet with our teachers to guide data analysis of our SICA tests and model effective Goal Setting for Spring ISAT tests.
- **Active Learning**: Visiting classrooms to observe active student involvement in discussions, problem solving, and learning is one of the BEST parts of my job! Seeing students interact with peers to make connections and learn new skills is exciting!! I try to give feedback and support to teachers each time I visit a classroom to focus on providing high quality instruction with high levels of student engagement.
- **After School Math Club**: I am super excited to share that we have over 70 students participating in this afterschool program. The goal of our Math Club is to provide engaging, hands-on learning experiences along with practice of important math skills to help each student strengthen mastery of math skills.

REFLECTIONS FOR FEBRUARY



Bright Spots- Shared by some wonderful Shadow Butte staff members

- The after school math program is going to be amazing! The kids love it and are very engaged with the math games and fun! Thanks Mrs. Renfro for putting this together. We love spring and all the fun things that come with it. The kids have planted flowers, are hatching eggs, and are learning all kinds of fun lifecycles! -Andrea Poser (2nd Grade Teacher)
- I had some nice visits with parents for conferences and some time to catch up on work during our work day. Literacy night was a very joyful event! -April Russell (Title Teacher)
- So fun to see how well the kindergarten students are reading words. -Kristina Oliver (Kinder Teacher)
- I have been working on controlled options in my classroom and it has seemed to really work. -Tina Collinsworth (Keyboarding Para)
- We had enough subs to cover absences. -Teresa Zufelt (Behavior Support)
- I thought that Shadow Butte did a great job with spring Parent/Teacher Conferences. I feel that our set up with information was helpful and that parents were able to schedule their conferences easily. All the feedback that I received was positive. -Clarissa Weideman (Counselor)
- Students requesting time with me to sit and help them with assignments . I have some students who search me out. -Stephanie Pirc (Special Education Teacher)
- Students who have struggled academically for a significant portion of the year are starting to see the fruits of their labor as they put in extra effort. This has motivated them to push even harder to finish the year strong! -Heather Medley (4th Grade Teacher)

REFLECTIONS FOR FEBRUARY



Bright Spots Cont...

- During March we invited Erin Tighe from HMH to present Model lessons in our 4th and 5th grade classrooms here at Shadow Butte. Grade level representative teachers from SBE and CE were able to see lessons presented live. We were able to have teachers visit at Carberry to watch lessons presented at the primary grade levels too! Our biggest takeaways were to focus on the grade level ELA standards and plan lessons that meet the needs of diverse learners and provide opportunities for high level thinking. During P/T conferences I was able to meet with several first year teachers to focus on students' academic needs. We identified skill areas in math, reviewed data, and set goals for students to improve in specific math skill areas. I have been very intentional with my classroom visits this month. I have visited most classrooms to observe instruction during CORE instruction or WIN groups. With each classroom visit I am sure to leave a positive note that provides specific feedback related to the instruction that was observed and shares suggestions in a positive manner. -Vickie Renfro (Instructional Coach)
- Parent Teacher conference was a success. It was nice to have a week of break. -Gina Dunkin (Kinder Teacher)
- I loved being able to chat with parents during conferences and celebrate St. Patrick's day with my class! We did a "read for gold leprechaun coins" activity and they were so excited and engaged! -Christiana Adams (1st Grade Teacher)
- March always brings me joy as we enter into informational units about planting, fairytales from the past, and active math learning like measurement and shape attributes. It helps me feel motivated to bring fun into the classroom. -Kaitlyn Hill (2nd Grade Teacher)

AREAS TO GROW IN

Some staff were asked what areas they would like to grow in as a school or as an individual.

- I have been trying to be less "I'm right, your wrong" and more "explain why you think this would work better"
- We are still struggling with ensuring all staff is following our RTI/SPED referral process. It might be beneficial for both departments to meet and plan how to combat this going forward in the next school year.
- Still need to work on communication, getting better but not there yet.
- I would like to see Shadow Butte do the good luck wishes for the older grades as they take their ISAT tests, like we did last year. I think it helped the students to have positive messages from the younger students and they were more excited about the tests. (We are doing this by the way.)
- Still love growing our beautiful community of educators . Id like to really work on building beautiful parent relationships with those who have yet to experience it.
- I've been feeling a need to have more "creative activities" in my classroom and look forward to figuring out how to accomplish that during these next two months.



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- This time of year is also the time I start to get less patient. Students are excited for warmer weather and teachers generally have spring fever. So I'm having to take more time to focus on resetting my own emotions before other things... which can be challenging some days. I'm also wanting to create some new activities for the high reading group.
- Intentional use of Learning Outcomes and Success Criteria in each classroom. Goal for next year: I would like for our PLC grade level teams to be intentional with our WIN group planning and implementation and better use weekly meetings for 1) data to review student groups 2) determine instructional skill focus and alignment for each Unit/Topic
- I would like to grow in the area of writing.
- I would like to improve on making more positive phone calls home.
- I would like to learn as much as I can about teaching literacy.



STAFF SHOUT OUTS

When asked who staff couldn't do their job without...

- Courtney Thomas is still working so hard for her students. Lots of teachers kind of start to let things go this time of year, especially when they know they aren't coming back next year. Courtney spends huge amounts of time to have really good lesson plans and is always tweaking her routines to be better. She is awesome! Serenity McCormick has put so much effort into our lows for her walk-to groups. They are reading so well and the understanding is growing so much! I appreciate you! -Andrea Poser (2nd Grade Teacher)
- Our awesome lunchroom crew does a great job getting our students fed everyday and our specials team is such a great help monitoring the cafeteria. -April Russell (Title Teacher)
- Jennifer Clark does so much for her team and this school. She has been working SOOO hard to better herself as an educator to help open bigger doors for herself. Definitely loves her job and the students here ar SBE. -Tina Collinsworth (Keyboarding Para)
- Suzi Grossklaus (Mrs. G) is an amazing asset to Shadow Butte. She is willing to translate information to send home to parents, she translates for our new students who do not know any English, and she does an amazing job helping them learn how to communicate with those of us who do not speak Spanish. I have seen the students she works with grow, not only in their language skills but also in their confidence and sense of belonging to our school community. -Clarissa Weideman (Counselor)
- Kaitlyn Bailey. There are not enough words. She is so easy to pair up with each day so we can do the best for the students we share. -Stephanie Pirc (Special Education Teacher)



STAFF SHOUT OUTS

When asked who staff couldn't do their job without...

- I couldn't do my job without the help of my team, Mrs. Oliver and Miss Demery. They make coming to work fun. When I had to leave for a few weeks, they helped me by helping my sub and providing materials. I appreciate Mrs. Z with her help when my student needs a break. -Gina Dunkin (Kinder Teacher)
- Mrs. Farnsworth! It is so great to see our principal everywhere at our school!! I had a parent say how much they appreciate her hands on approach. -Kristina Oliver (Kinder Teacher)
- Stephanie, Athena and Maddie from Sped team and Tina, Morgan and Seth from specials team. -Teresa Zufelt (Behavior Para)
- Huge Thank you to Olga Quebrado for helping me apply for a grant to get one of my students color-correcting glasses! He is super excited to be able to see color more easily! -Christiana Adams (1st Grade Teacher)
- Michelle! She has been someone that brings me back down when I'm frustrated with the system or others. She never needs to know specifics and constantly gives me tools to love my job. -Kaitlyn Bailey (2nd Grade Teacher)
- Some amazing staff members who always go above and beyond, who are willing to help and lend a hand: Andrea Poser, Teresa Zufelt, Tiffany and Kami, Jodie Farnsworth and many more! -Vickie Renfro (Instructional Coach)
- Clarissa is always a great sounding board for both students and teachers alike! -Heather Medley (4th Grade Teacher)



LOOKING AHEAD TO FEBRUARY



April 3 - After school program First Day - #6

April 3- Spring pictures

April 4- Dough Night

April 4 – Staff Meeting @3:35pm in Library

April 5- Leadership/Safety Team meeting

2:50-3:35pm

April 6 – Spring Dance 6:00 - 7:30 pm in Gym

April 9 – Kdgn Screening / Registration Library (No School for Kinder only)

April 10- Parent Advisory Meeting

April 10- After school program #6

April 11- Ready

April 11 – Lunch Bunch Specials & Mrs. G

April 11 – Concert for 3 & 4 in Gym 1:00 and 2:15

April 11- Ready for Kinder- District-wide Parent Workshop @ BV Portable #3

April 12- 5th Middle school registration

April 15-18 Delta Dental sealants 1st, 2nd, 5th

April 16 – PTO Meeting in Library @ 5:30 pm

April 17 - After school Program #6

April 19- District PLC's 2:50pm

April 23 - 2nd Grade NNAT Screener

April 24 – Administrative Professionals' Day

April 24 - Afterschool Program #6

April 24- 3rd grade field trip

April 25 – Staff Meeting @3:35pm in Library

April 26 – SBE Committee Meetings @ 2:50 pm

April 26 – Class Birthday Celebrations @1:30

April 26– Breakfast with Buddies @ 7:30-8:00 am

End of Year Testing:

1. **ISAT:** Grades 3-5 will be assessed in English Language Arts, Math, and Science (for 5th grade). Testing will take place from April 22nd to May 8th.
2. **ISIP Reading:** This assessment focuses on early reading skills, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension, and is administered to students in grades K-3. Testing will be May 8th - May 16th.
3. **ISTATION Math:** Covering a range of math concepts from number sense to algebraic thinking, this test is for students in grades K-5. Testing is scheduled from May 8th to May 16th.

Our PTO is Awesome!



Literary Night- The Masked Reader



Hat Day and Crazy Hair Day

