

# Shadow Butte Elementary School Board Update



Shared by Jodie Farnsworth



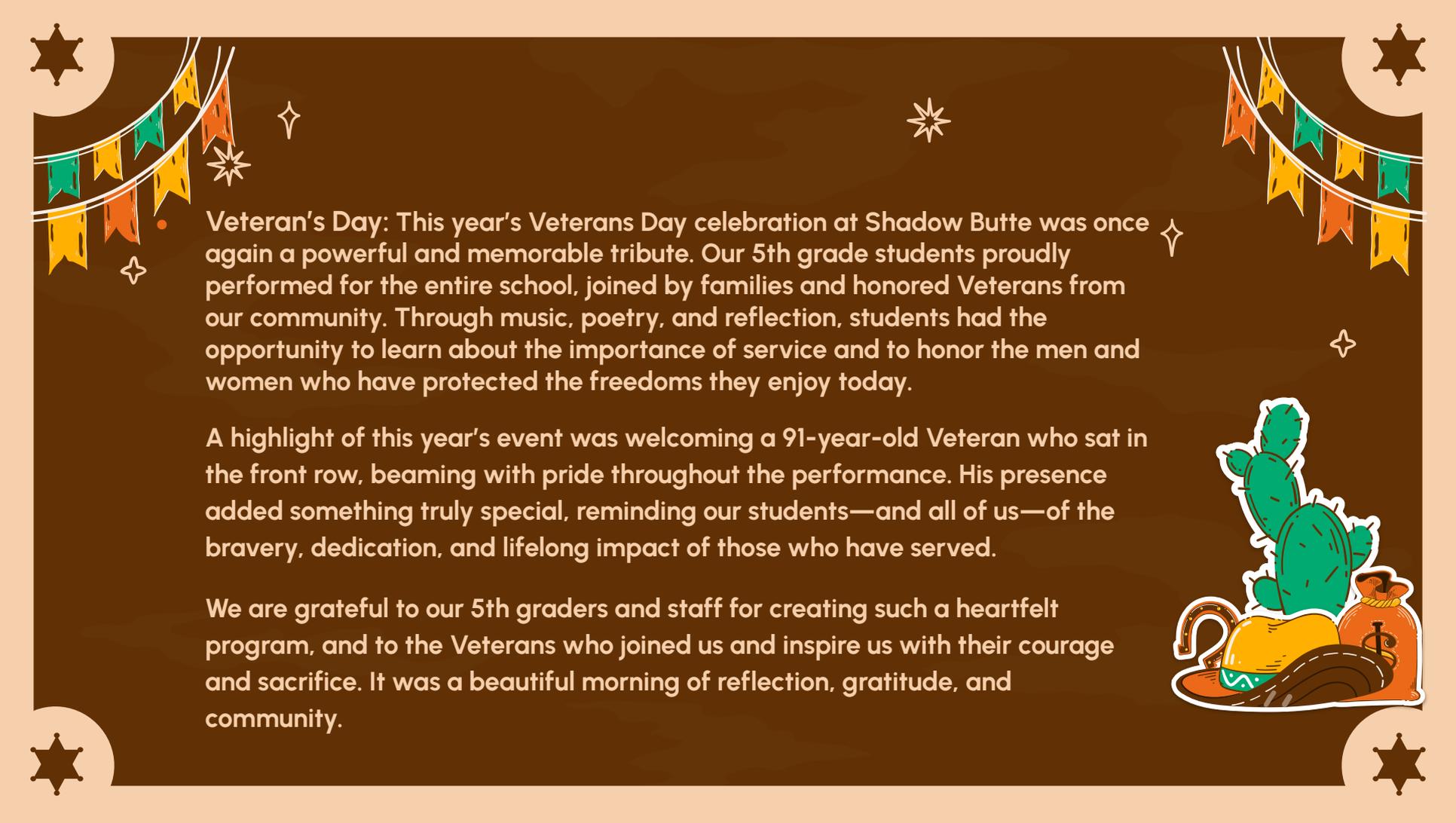
December 2025



**Most Wanted Staff:** This month, we're excited to recognize Sondra Koontz a Special Education teacher and Misty Reynolds our Special Education Para, as our Most Wanted Staff Members! Sondra and Misty are true problem-solvers who jump in wherever needed and help fill the gaps with calm, confidence, and heart. They are wonderful partners in brainstorming student-centered solutions and consistently bring steadiness to even our busiest days. Their flexibility, willingness to help at a moment's notice, and positive attitudes make a meaningful difference for our entire school community. We're so grateful for all they contribute—thank you, Sondra and Misty!

- **Getting to Know Staff:** As part of my board report each month, I will be highlighting key individuals and roles within our school so the Board can continue learning more about our team, the work we do, and how each role supports students. This month I am including updates from our Instructional Coach, Vickie Renfro. These spotlights will help share the “who and what” behind the meaningful work happening every day to support our Huskies and their success.



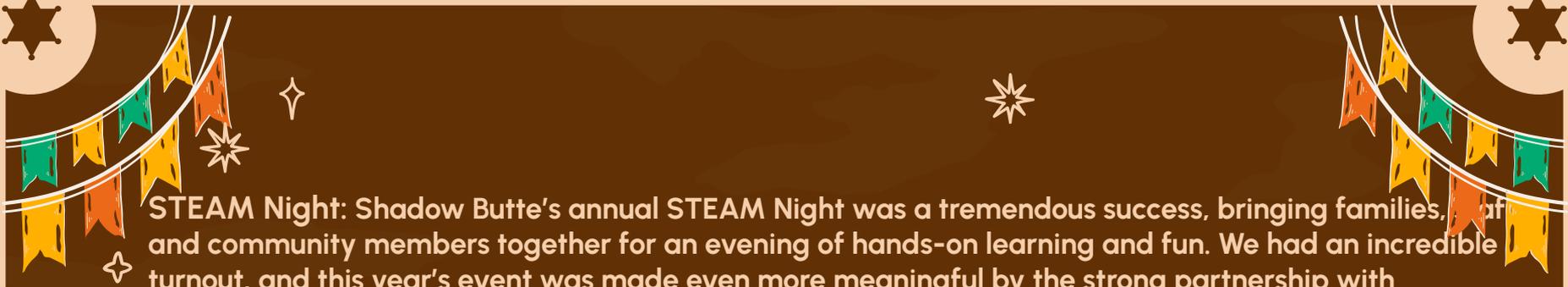
The page features a decorative border with a dark blue background. In the corners, there are white stars. Along the top and bottom edges, there are strings of colorful bunting flags in shades of red, yellow, and blue. Small white stars are scattered throughout the background.

• Veteran's Day: This year's Veterans Day celebration at Shadow Butte was once again a powerful and memorable tribute. Our 5th grade students proudly performed for the entire school, joined by families and honored Veterans from our community. Through music, poetry, and reflection, students had the opportunity to learn about the importance of service and to honor the men and women who have protected the freedoms they enjoy today.

A highlight of this year's event was welcoming a 91-year-old Veteran who sat in the front row, beaming with pride throughout the performance. His presence added something truly special, reminding our students—and all of us—of the bravery, dedication, and lifelong impact of those who have served.

We are grateful to our 5th graders and staff for creating such a heartfelt program, and to the Veterans who joined us and inspire us with their courage and sacrifice. It was a beautiful morning of reflection, gratitude, and community.





STEAM Night: Shadow Butte's annual STEAM Night was a tremendous success, bringing families, staff, and community members together for an evening of hands-on learning and fun. We had an incredible turnout, and this year's event was made even more meaningful by the strong partnership with community members whose careers represent the many fields within STEAM. Their involvement helped bring each activity to life and showed students how their interests in science, technology, engineering, art, and math can translate into real-world opportunities.

Families explored a wide range of engaging stations throughout the evening. In Science, students investigated geology and experienced exciting chemical reactions. Technology came alive through coding activities with interactive bots. The Engineering stations featured a Lego bus challenge and hands-on construction exploration. Math offered family-friendly games—like Yahtzee—that made problem-solving both fun and collaborative. And of course, no Shadow Butte event would be complete without our amazing staff preparing a delicious meal for families to enjoy together.

STEAM Night highlighted the power of community, curiosity, and connection. Events like this strengthen our partnership with families and show students that learning can be exciting, creative, and full of possibilities. We look forward to many more evenings like this.

✦ Instructional Coach- Vickie Renfro: ✦

As an instructional coach I partner and collaborate with teachers to focus on a **school wide culture of learning focused on improving student learning and achievement**. This includes facilitating assessments, providing professional learning, and supporting classroom instruction. Here are a couple highlights:

Student-Centered Coaching - Led by Dr. Uriarte, instructional coaches set up coaching cycles with classroom teachers. Preliminary work involves working closely to analyze student work, co- plan and co-teach standards aligned lessons and focus on student achievement and growth. Student-centered coaching cycles during units of instruction will be scheduled throughout the second semester.

Grade level PLC teams - Support all things related to achievement and growth. This includes providing teacher resources, developing knowledge related to reading and math standards & assessments, and the use of data to develop goals to measure impact of instruction and student growth. Two assessment tools we are focused on are 1) AMIRA Idaho Reading Indicator assessment \*new assessment platform this year, 2) Focused formative assessments aligned to the ISAT and Idaho state standards used in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students.





# MOST WANTED STAFF



MS. KOONTZ



MRS. REYNOLDS

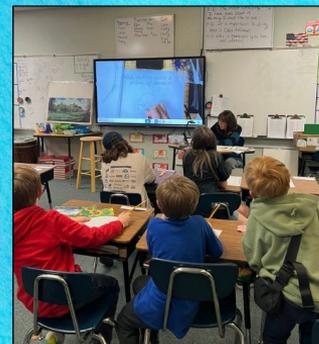
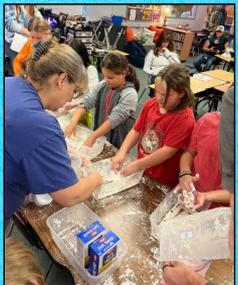
## WANTED FOR:

THIS MONTH, WE'RE EXCITED TO RECOGNIZE SONDR  
KOONTZ AND MISTY REYNOLDS AS OUR MOST WANTED  
STAFF MEMBERS! SONDR AND MISTY ARE TRUE  
PROBLEM-SOLVERS WHO JUMP IN WHEREVER NEEDED  
AND HELP FILL THE GAPS WITH CALM, CONFIDENCE,  
AND HEART. THEY ARE WONDERFUL PARTNERS IN  
BRAINSTORMING STUDENT-CENTERED SOLUTIONS AND  
CONSISTENTLY BRING STEADINESS TO EVEN OUR  
BUSIEST DAYS. THEIR FLEXIBILITY, WILLINGNESS  
TO HELP AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE, AND POSITIVE  
ATTITUDES MAKE A MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE FOR OUR  
ENTIRE SCHOOL COMMUNITY. WE'RE SO GRATEFUL FOR  
ALL THEY CONTRIBUTE—THANK YOU, SONDR AND  
MISTY!

# SHADOW BUTTE 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE VETERANS CONCERT

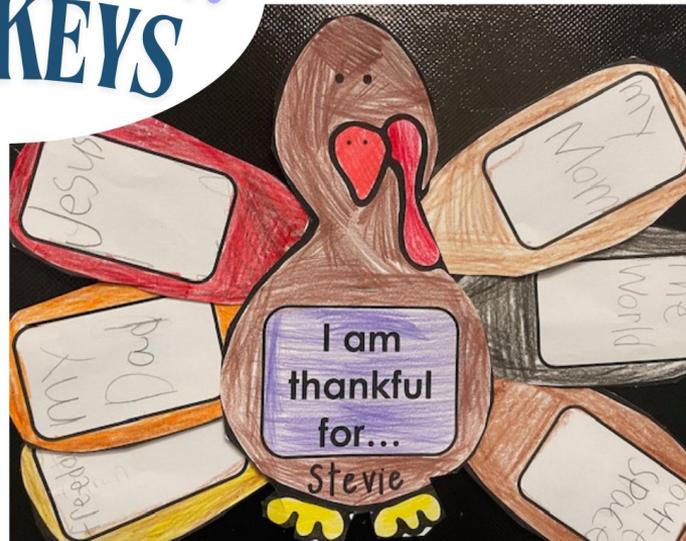


# SHADOW BUTTE





Thankful for our  
**TURKEYS**



**Mark Your Calendar:**

**December 2 - National Special Education Day**

**December 8 - Music Concert - Christmas (2nd)**

**December 12 - Winter Dance 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Gym**

**December 16 - PTO Meeting 4:15, Library**

**December 16 - Core Value Awards Assembly K&2 9:00 - 9:30, 1&3 9:40 - 10:10, 4&5 10:30 - 11:00**

**December 18 - Staff Party 4:10 (Secret Santa)**

**December 18 - Singalong 10:30 - 11:15**

**December 18 - Rec Day 1:00 - 1:45, 3-5, 2nd 2:00 - 2:45 (K&1 times TBD)**

**December 18 - Class Birthday Celebration, 3:00**

**December 22 - Jan 5 - NO SCHOOL - Christmas Break**



# Thanks!



Thank you for your significant commitment of time and energy to our schools and district. I recognize that you are busy people with many opportunities to volunteer. Your decision to partner with our schools is truly valued and makes a direct impact on our students.

