

Shadow Butte Elementary School Board Update



Shared by Jodie Farnsworth



January 2026



Most Wanted Staff: We are excited to recognize Abby Buck as this month's Most Wanted Staff Member, a well-deserved honor nominated by her peers. In her role as our Community Schools Coordinator, Abby is a constant source of support for students, staff, and families alike. Whether she's helping a student find a warm coat on a cold day, coordinating meaningful after-school programming, or stepping in wherever help is needed, Abby can always be counted on. She approaches every task with kindness, dignity, and a genuine heart for others. We are so grateful for the many ways Abby helps our school community thrive.

- **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 Reset Room Para and so much more, Teresa Zufelt . These spotlights will help share the "who and what" behind the meaningful work happening every day to support our Huskies and their success.

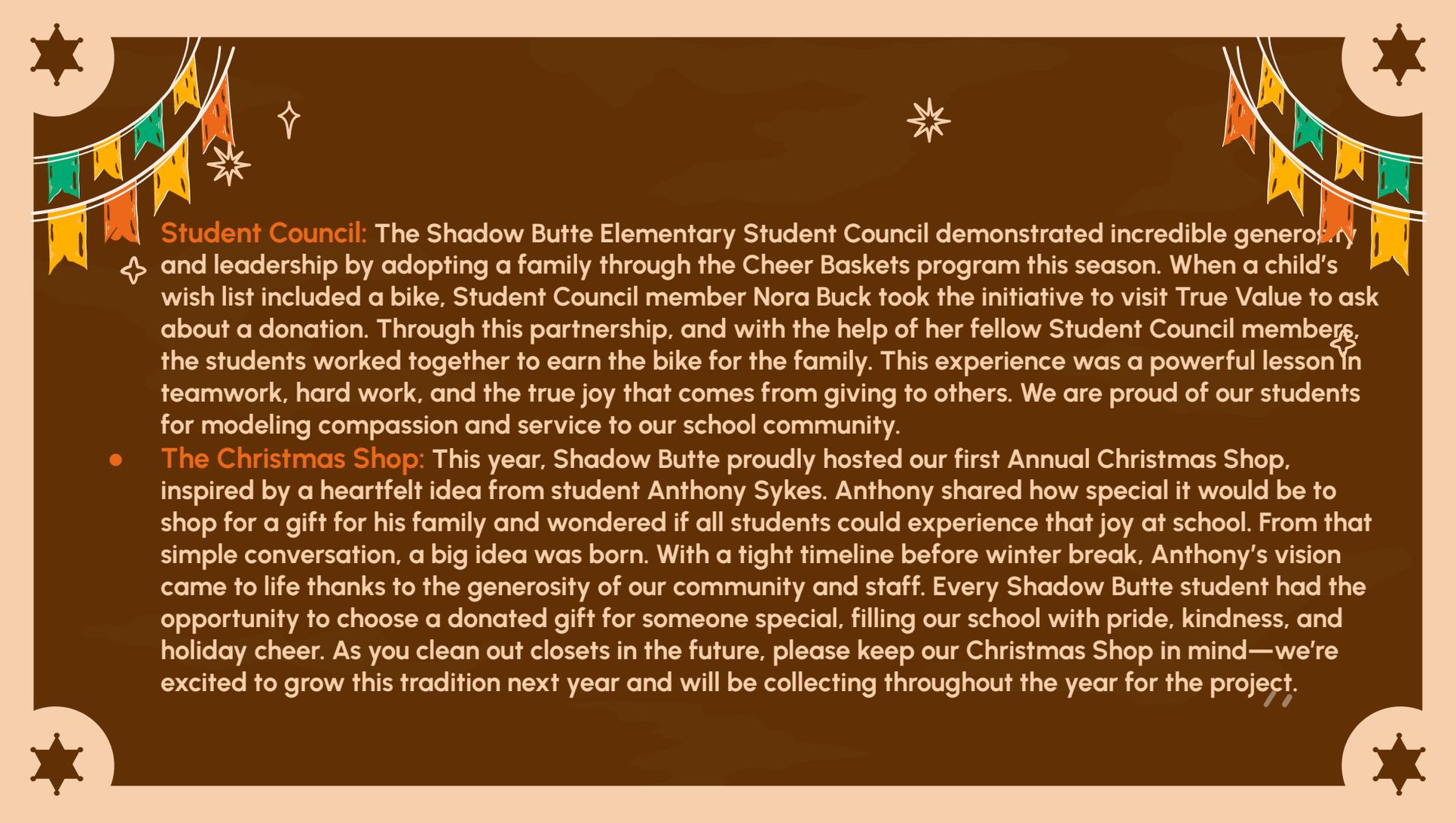




Winter Dance: Our annual Winter Dance was a joyful celebration of togetherness and fun for our school community. Each year, we host two family and community dances, and this event once again brought students, cousins, siblings, parents, and other important adults together for an evening of connection and laughter. The Winter Dance is designed simply for enjoyment and community building, and it was wonderful to interact with our students and families in such a relaxed, positive, and festive setting. Events like this continue to strengthen relationships and remind us how special our school community truly is.

- **Food Drive/Cheer Baskets:** Our school recently participated in a Food Drive that highlighted the generosity and leadership of our students and community. Each grade level was challenged to contribute food items that were collected and organized into Cheer Baskets, which are distributed to families across the district who were nominated by staff members. This year, our Student Council and Leadership Teams, alongside the EHS Student Council, played an important role in sorting and organizing the donations. This meaningful collaboration gave students a hands-on opportunity to lead, serve others, and contribute to something greater than themselves. We are proud of the compassion and community spirit shown throughout this effort.





Student Council: The Shadow Butte Elementary Student Council demonstrated incredible generosity and leadership by adopting a family through the Cheer Baskets program this season. When a child's wish list included a bike, Student Council member Nora Buck took the initiative to visit True Value to ask about a donation. Through this partnership, and with the help of her fellow Student Council members, the students worked together to earn the bike for the family. This experience was a powerful lesson in teamwork, hard work, and the true joy that comes from giving to others. We are proud of our students for modeling compassion and service to our school community.

- **The Christmas Shop:** This year, Shadow Butte proudly hosted our first Annual Christmas Shop, inspired by a heartfelt idea from student Anthony Sykes. Anthony shared how special it would be to shop for a gift for his family and wondered if all students could experience that joy at school. From that simple conversation, a big idea was born. With a tight timeline before winter break, Anthony's vision came to life thanks to the generosity of our community and staff. Every Shadow Butte student had the opportunity to choose a donated gift for someone special, filling our school with pride, kindness, and holiday cheer. As you clean out closets in the future, please keep our Christmas Shop in mind—we're excited to grow this tradition next year and will be collecting throughout the year for the project.

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- ✧ **2nd Grade Music Program:** Our 2nd grade students delighted families and staff with a wonderful Christmas music concert that captured the spirit of the season. The students sang, recited speaking parts, had solos and performed with confidence, joy, and enthusiasm, showcasing the hard work they have put into learning their music. We are proud of our 2nd graders and their music teacher, Mrs. DeWitt, for sharing their talents and spreading so much holiday cheer.
 - **Singalong:** Our school-wide singalong was a joyful and festive way to celebrate the season together. Students and staff gathered to sing favorite holiday songs, filling the building with music, laughter, and school spirit. Adding to the excitement, we were able to bring a bit of magic to our school by welcoming a special visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus, which brought big smiles and extra cheer to students of all ages. You can really get drawn into the merriment of the holiday by surrounding yourself with Shadow Butte students. We are all so lucky to be part of this school.



MOST WANTED STAFF



MRS. BUCK

WANTED FOR:

WE ARE EXCITED TO RECOGNIZE ABBY BUCK AS THIS MONTH'S MOST WANTED STAFF MEMBER, A WELL-DESERVED HONOR NOMINATED BY HER PEERS. IN HER ROLE AS OUR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS COORDINATOR, ABBY IS A CONSTANT SOURCE OF SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS, STAFF, AND FAMILIES ALIKE. WHETHER SHE'S HELPING A STUDENT FIND A WARM COAT ON A COLD DAY, COORDINATING MEANINGFUL AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMMING, OR STEPPING IN WHEREVER HELP IS NEEDED, ABBY CAN ALWAYS BE COUNTED ON. SHE APPROACHES EVERY TASK WITH KINDNESS, DIGNITY, AND A GENUINE HEART FOR OTHERS. WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR THE MANY WAYS ABBY HELPS OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY THRIVE.

Teresa Zufelt- Reset Room Para & Student Council Advisor

Mrs. Z's room is a place where students can go to regulate their emotions. She has exercise bikes, an elliptical, and a mini trampoline for students to use physical activity to regulate. There is a small teepee where students can go for a quiet personal space when they are feeling overwhelmed and need a quiet place to regulate. There are also games and activities that students can use to practice their interpersonal skills in my room.

When a student needs help with their school work and the classroom is overwhelming they can come into her room and do their work in a quieter environment. She is patient, kind and loving and helps to build students' confidence.

The reset room is a valuable part of our school as it allows students to learn they can do hard things and still be at school. The opportunity to reset and regulate in a safe and caring environment helps them feel loved and welcome when life is a challenge. Teachers appreciate having a place for students to reset so that learning and instruction can continue in classrooms throughout our school.

She has also been the Student Council Advisor for the past 6 years. She helps students with leadership skills, such as speaking at events, getting involved in our community, they help plan events at our schools such as Huskie Hustle, can food drive, dances, STEAM and Literacy night. They are a part of our school community that is there for students that just need a friend.



Candyland Winter Dance

SHADOW BUTTE



Shadow Butte Food Drive

STUDENT COUNCIL
LEADERSHIP



SBE Student Council had a wonderful opportunity this Christmas season. They adopted a family to give gifts to. Nora B. wanted to get a bike that was on the list, so she went to True Value to see if they would donate one. The owner asked if she would be willing to do some work for it.



So she gathered up more students and tools and they got to work.



They raked and cleaned...



and earned the bike!



Most importantly, they learned the value of hard work and the magic of giving at Christmastime.



Shadow Butte

THE CHRISTMAS SHOP 2025





Shadow Butte Christmas Sing a long



Mark Your Calendar:

January 1 - New Year's Day

January 9 - Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

**January 19- Martin Luther King Jr Day-SCHOOL
IS IN SESSION**

January 20 - PTO Meeting 4:15, Library

January 29 - Class Birthday Celebration, 3:00



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.

