

**LEWISTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**1997-98**

***ANNUAL REPORT***



## ANNUAL REPORT

In following Board Policy, staff members will again be required to compile a brief report on their area of responsibility for an annual school report. Reports will include an overall summary along with concerns and areas to be improved. This information will provide the Board with relevant data about the status of major programs in the district. Hopefully, this will again prove to be useful and lend to an enhanced report in the future.

### REPORT/ASSIGNMENT

Garfield School	John Moffatt
Highland Park School	Tim Gillen
Lewis & Clark School	Dave Sharstrom
Lewistown Junior High School	Pat Hould
Fergus High School	Scott Dubbs
Activities	Jerry Feller
Music	Rich Garcia
Staff Development	Sid Wilson
Title I	Pat Hould
Special Education	Charlie Brown
Adult Ed./ABE/EOCM/Traffic Ed.	Diane Oldenburg
Curriculum	John Moffatt
Drug/Alcohol	Tim Gillen
Food Service	Donna Larson
Transportation	Steve Klippenes
Maintenance	Paul Stengel
Business Office	Stacey Vestal

**GARFIELD  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**John Moffatt**



To: Superintendent Robertson; Board of Trustees  
From: John Moffatt  
Re: Garfield Annual Report--1997-98

School goals: ( I always list these first, because they are what drives our classroom instruction.) 1. Teaching from an interdisciplinary approach, 2. Emphasis on "hands-on" experiences, 3. Use of research-based strategies, and 4. Maximizing use of technology. I am impressed with the progress we have made in each of these areas. In fact, it is common to see our teachers integrate all four goal areas into their thematic units.

1997-98 was a great year at Garfield. The year got off to a marvelous start as our "Read for a Capitol Gain" program was presented at the International Reading Association's world-wide summer conference in Reston, Virginia. The program was presented jointly by the Montana Office of Public Instruction and the State Reading Council. In February, Garfield students again participated in the program and raised \$800 for the renovation of the State Capitol Building. This brings to over \$2,600 our contributions to save this piece of Montana's heritage. Once again, Secretary of State Mike Cooney visited Garfield in support of our efforts. In addition, for the second year in a row, the Montana State Reading Council selected "Read for a Capitol Gain" as their statewide program. Students from around the State joined our kids in this worthy cause.

Another definite "biggie" was the \$8,000 we received for the U.S. West grant award. We received 4 laptop computers, two scanners, digital cameras, and other technology equipment. In addition, the Garfield Web Page has been upgraded and expanded. Recently, our grant work was reviewed by a U.S. West official, and he highly commended our efforts as a model for other schools. The grant has been tied directly to the classroom as well, through the Spring Creek projects done at several grade levels. Mrs. Flentie presented the Garfield project at a conference this spring in Santa Fe, and this summer our program will go international when she presents it at a conference in Germany.

Still another early year highlight was the "Make a Difference Day" program. Garfield was named the overall winner in the area contest, and we were presented with a check for \$300 from First National Bank, sponsor of the program. Our Service Council developed the ideas for the project which included a donation to the Children's Library, a food collection for the Community cupboard, and a clean-up of Spring Creek. We had a great turnout of students from all grade levels as well as excellent parent support.

Another great example of the "service to community" theme which I am proud of was the Julia Hurley-Garfield School Service Project at the Central Montana Nursing Home. This was the 10th year for this project, which is named in memory of Mrs. Hurley, a former resident at the nursing home and an inspiration to all of us. Over 30 students took part in the program, and several of them plan to continue during a



summer volunteer program. As always, it was very touching to see the bonds established between young and old through the course of our visits.

As has always been the case, our PTSG was exceptional in their support of school programs. This year they donated several thousand dollars to the library, purchased over twelve hundred dollars worth of microscopes, and matched an Artist in the Schools grant the school received. In addition, the PTSG donated \$50 to each teacher's classroom. Finally, the group sponsored the most successful Carnival in the school's history. Our gross for the evening was approximately \$8,700. Officers included Sandy Armstad, President; Gail Fox, Vice-President; Robin Moline, Treasurer.

Speaking of the Artist in the School's grant---For the second time in three years Garfield has been honored with one of these awards. During the 1998-99 school year we will have poet Melissa Kwasny here to work with our students for one week. The 3rd and 5th grade classes will be featured, but all Garfield students will have contact with the artist during the week. In addition, a parent night will be held and will feature work done by students during the week. We are extremely excited about the creative possibilities this program will bring to our students.

Garfield staff members continue to contribute to education on a state and regional level as well as here in the district. Mrs. Miller has completed her term as a teacher representative to the State Special Education Committee. Mr. Moffatt and Ms. Dobesh remain on the regional CSPD team. (This year CSPD awarded the Lewistown District two grants for \$1200 for personnel training.) Mrs. Flentie was selected as a teacher representative to the NASA education for her work in the area of technology. Ms. Rafter was elected as Montana delegate to the NEA and will be attending the group's conference this summer in New Orleans.

Our MBI (Montana Behavioral Initiative) team was very active again this year. We have completed work on a school-wide behavior plan and have presented a half-day in-service to our entire staff. We will begin implementation of the program next fall. We continued with our social skills program, introducing a school-wide social skill each month. These skills are taught in every classroom and reviewed periodically throughout the year. All staff members receive training on the specific skills. So far, staff reaction has been extremely positive to the MBI program.

Though the future of the DARE program is in doubt, Officer Bob Clark conducted another successful session this fall. Garfield also participated in the district's Red Ribbon Week activities in October.

Parent-Teacher Conferences saw a 100% turnout--just like last year!

Thanks to a crew of dedicated volunteers we were able to complete the bulk of the wiring of the school with a long Saturday session. Many thanks to all who helped.

Next year will mark a transition of sorts at Garfield as long-time 5th grade teacher Julia Stillman has announced her retirement. Kim Miller will move into the 5th grade classroom. Misti Dobesh (soon to be Misti Wahl) will move from pre-school to the first grade classroom where we will have two sections next year. We will be hiring a pre-school teacher this June.

Our "I Love to Read" month activities are always a special source of pride, and this year was no exception. We had the distinct honor of bringing author Hanneke Ippisch to Garfield in February. She entranced our students with her stories of resistance to the Nazis in Holland during World War II. Over 250 adults attended an evening session and were equally impressed. In addition, we had numerous cross-age and school-wide activities celebrating the joy of reading.

**HIGHLAND PARK  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Tim Gillen**





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## Lewistown Public Schools

Highland Park Elementary  
1312 7th Avenue North  
Lewistown, Montana 59457  
(406) 538-2555

Conrad Robertson  
Superintendent

Tim Gillen  
Principal

Cindy Giese  
Secretary

TO: Conrad Robertson  
FROM: Tim Gillen  
RE: Annual Report 1997-98  
DATE: June 17, 1998

1997-98 has been another exciting and successful school year!

### OUR MISSION IS:

To work together to promote and celebrate education by creating a safe, effective environment which encourages a lifelong pursuit of learning.

### GENERAL GOALS:

To provide diverse instructional experiences for the whole child through teaching a logical, sequential, and appropriate curriculum.

To enhance and promote self esteem.

To insure that all staff follows a code of ethics.

To encourage professional development and decision-making among staff.

To prepare students to responsibly participate in the world-wide community.

To promote parental involvement and community support.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR:**

- Our enrollment stayed about the same this year with a current enrollment of 325 students.
- Title I served about 53 students. Mrs. Leslie Hadden and Mr. Dan Melick have been a great team.
- We had two full-time special education assistants working with two special needs students.
- The library adopted the Accelerated Reader Program a year ago and has successfully implemented this pro-reading activity. A few minor changes have increased student participation and broadened the age range of the student population using the program.
- Our PTSG Executive Board met monthly to address its business. A successful fundraiser was held in October and profits of \$7000 were raised through the sale of wrapping paper and gifts. The profits were used to purchase a variety of products used at Highland Park to enhance the education of our students such as playground equipment, SRA kits, classroom libraries and more.
- Parent Teacher Conferences were well attended with 97% of our students being represented.
- Our Service Council was made up of two representatives from each classroom in grades four through six. They met as needed throughout the year. Through fundraisers of lollipop sales money was raised to purchase two National School assemblies for our student body.
- Red Ribbon Week was a success with students participating in many class and group activities.
- The D.A.R.E. Program with Officer Bob Clark was a successful curriculum venture with our fifth graders. All of them graduated from the program on January 12.
- Our computer lab (18 week session) was again a successful curriculum. Students in grades 4 - 6 were served. We have a lab setup of 12 Macintosh computers used for two quarters for one half day per week in the library. Mrs. Beth Kirsch was the teacher.

- Our after school activities programs were well-attended this year. Fifth and sixth grade students participated in basketball, volleyball and track. The coaches at Highland Park did a great job.
- The staff at Highland Park have worked hard to implement the MBI philosophy. The MBI team met on a regular basis to continue to develop discipline procedures to improve Highland Park. Three staff members will attend the MBI Conference in June 1998.
- The medication protocol was again being administered as per Board policy. Medications were administered by Cindy Giese, Linda Brown or me, usually around the noon period. We served 12 students on a daily basis and many more on an occasional need basis.
- Eleven sixth graders received the Presidential Award for Academic Excellence. Nineteen sixth graders were awarded the Presidential Award for Academic Improvement.
- The technology and computer teams were very busy this school year. Wiring of the building took place in the fall in preparation for the interschool computer network. The tech committee with grant monies was able to purchase three IBM compatible computers for Highland Park. The computer curriculum team worked on educating staff and students, software adaptation, and purchased supplies to enhance the process.



**LEWIS & CLARK  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Dave Sharstrom**

**TO:** Conrad Robertson, Superintendent

**FROM:** Dave Sharstrom

**SUBJECT:** Annual Report

**DATE:** June 17, 1998

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

**THE FUNDAMENTAL MISSION OF LEWIS AND CLARK IS TO PROVIDE AN ATMOSPHERE WHERE EVERY PERSON WILL DISPLAY RESPECT FOR SELF, OTHERS, AND PROPERTY. HIGH EXPECTATIONS WILL BE REFLECTED THROUGH HARD WORK AND COOPERATIVE INVOLVEMENT. OUR AIM IS FOR ALL TO BECOME RESPONSIBLE, PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS.**

**GENERAL GOALS:**

- \* To help teachers gain competence and confidence in the use of the six-trait model for writing assessment.**
- \* To promote parental involvement and community support.**
- \* Enhance a positive school climate with cooperation amongst staff and students having clear disciplinary procedures and improved attendance.**

**MOTTO: EVERY CHILD IS A WINNER!**

Under the direction of Angela Garcia, Lewis & Clark Sixth Grade Non-band students composed the Lewis & Clark School Song.



**Lewis and Clark School Song**  
Written in 1998

*Chorus*

We love our school. Yes we do. We  
Go little Eagles. Reach the heights.

*Verse*

love it here 'cuz it's really cool. We  
Keep your wings — fla-ppin' right We

*Bridge*

have great tea-chers, par-ents too. The  
have a lot of free-dom, room to grow.

*Chorus*

thing that real-ly makes it great is stu-dents who

*Chorus*

work to-ge-ther Lewis and Clark play to-ge-ther Lewis & Clark We

*Chorus*

try our best and everyone's havin' fun.



State, local and national agencies/organizations that helped our school by providing activities or educational programs for our students are as follows:

- \* Staff developed a comprehensive school management plan
- \* Tia Miller and Kami Hill, a FHS students, participated in an OJT internship placement at Lewis and Clark sponsored by Deb Slagel's Career Awareness class
- \* Lewistown Fire Department conducted tours at their facility and provided a puppet show for K-4 students during Fire Prevention Week
- \* Bridgett Johnson, Public Library employee, told the following stories during "I Love to Read" month: "Hank and the Tooth Fairy" and "Rattlesnake, Mouse and Coyote"
- \* Artwork for Lewistown Art Center
- \* Small Wonder and Magic Forest Day Care students visited Lewis & Clark
- \* Head Start students visited Lewis & Clark
- \* Lewistown Jaycees sponsored "Project Kids' Coats, Gloves and Boots"
- \* Masons sponsored "Shoes for Kids"
- \* Extension Service sponsored "AG Day" for third graders
- \* Involved in computer lab activities facilitated by Mrs. Rutherford
- \* Linda Brodock, Montana Power Company employee, provided presentations to all students about safety

#### STUDENT ACTIVITIES

- \* Lewis & Clark students, with the assistance of Mrs. Garcia, wrote our school song
- \* Jim Borgreen's Art II students painted a mural on the wall of our Multi-purpose room
- \* 96% of our students took part in the Accelerated Reading Program
- \* Participated in the public library "Chapter by Chapter" reading program
- \* Participated in bike safety education which included a neighborhood bicycle ride
- \* Involved in Red Ribbon Week activities
- \* Wrote articles for News Argus
- \* Organized student groups for "Odyssey of the Mind" competition (one Lewis & Clark team placed 2nd at State and 6th grade student, Daniel Boyce, was selected as best performer )
- \* Planned activities for Homecoming Week and Spirit Week
- \* Conducted monthly bake sales
- \* Participated in building and county spelling bee (Lewis & Clark 5th grader Mallory Nelson won the Fergus County Spelling Bee)

- \* Student Council decided to have a "spirit day" once a month rather than a week at the end of the year
- \* Involved in "Let's Make a Difference Day" where student council members carved pumpkins for residents at the State Home. Also, raised money and donated it to our city library
- \* Included in activities such as field trips, Book-It program, and extra-curriculars
- \* Involved in Awards Assemblies (Academic and Athletic)
- \* Participated in Product Fairs (L&C students in the Extended Studies program)
- \* Involved in elementary track meets
- \* Participated in an Easter Egg Hunt (sponsored by 5th grade for kindergarten)
- \* Continued with a Student Council Program
- \* Intermediate 6th grade students made their own newspaper
- \* Intermediate students in grades 4-6 made decorations for local businesses during Red Ribbon Week
- \* Participated in bike and walk-a-thons

#### PTSG ACTIVITIES

- \* Conducted projects such as the pasta sale, the Halloween carnival, the raffle and t-shirt logo contest
- \* Assisted with monthly cookie sales
- \* Supplied the teachers' lounge with monthly treats for the staff
- \* Held membership drive at the Lewis & Clark Open House
- \* Conducted a Book Fair during Parent/Teacher Conferences
- \* Organized the Saturday Movie Matinee Project
- \* Provided volunteers for Speech and Hearing Screening
- \* Volunteered helpers for Kindergarten Screening
- \* Planned a Teachers' Luncheon for Teachers' Appreciation Week
- \* Provided funds for two student assemblies: "Laser Science" and a music duo
- \* Provided funds for library materials
- \* Provided \$4000 worth of software and computer equipment to our school
- \* Provided end-of-year ice cream treats to all students

In summary, I feel that the students and teachers at Lewis and Clark had a successful year. I consider myself fortunate to have the privilege of serving as principal at Lewis and Clark. Lewistown School District is truly a quality education system.

**LEWISTOWN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

**Pat Hould**



# **Lewistown Junior High School**

## **The Year in Review**

### **1997 - '98**

Many were the highlights from this school year at the Lewistown Junior High School. Once again faculty, students, parents and community members joined together to celebrate an exceptional school year. Let the following documentation serve as an advertisement to the world that excellence and enthusiasm most definitely collide at LJHS!

**AFTER SCHOOL LEARNING CENTER:** In the fall of 1997 the faculty of LJHS held discussions regarding how students could be served in a tutorial fashion after school hours. Our experiences have shown that some students simply do not receive the academic support they need once they leave our campus. As a result of this discussion, the after school learning center (ASLC) was born for a trial run. The ASLC was well received by most faculty, by parents and, quite honestly, by students as well. From Tuesday, November 18 through Thursday, June 4 there were 98 students served. This positive program will remain in place for the 1998 - '99 school year, utilizing staff volunteers to support the students who are assigned or who attend of their own choosing.

**NEW STAFF MEMBERS ARE EXTRAORDINARY:** The fall of 1997 brought many new faces to the classrooms of LJHS, and outstanding they each were to our overall program. The new staff members who graced our school included 8<sup>th</sup> grade English instructor Brenda Heller, art teacher Clint Loomis, and our computer lab, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade title I math program, which was commandeered by Michelle Trafton. Our physical science classes at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level were taught by Jolyn Pyrah, and Denise Nelson took over the helm of our French program with one additional semester offering. Carol Brown joined us to provide needed support for students in the area of reading, and from the special education cooperative came the services of Chris Rice. These staff members have been an extremely positive addition to our school and we look forward to more outstanding contributions in the coming year!

**BREWERY FLATS TAKES CENTER STAGE:** With the pending restoration of Big Spring Creek and the notion of an outdoor classroom continuously on the horizon, our 7<sup>th</sup> grade life science students once again enjoyed an adventure to Brewery Flats. A cross curricular approach was utilized on October 8, in order to bring together the talents of all 7<sup>th</sup> grade staff members in an intriguing interdisciplinary affair. Each student participated in water quality studies, fish painting, writing, and plant/soil identification. With the assistance of several community volunteers, our staff created a magical day for our students in spite of the frigid temperature!



**Brewery Flats cont.,**

In addition, the Brewery Flats project enjoyed some positive and well deserved attention from the National Science Foundation, Montana Public Broadcasting System, as well as the Montana Education Association. This project was awarded a significant grant which provided for the acquisition of wireless equipment, enabling our students to monitor the activity of the creek while still physically within our science classroom. Video crews from MPBS and MEA produced documentaries of this exciting project. In addition, an interactive discussion was held with our students and several high ranking officials while they were in attendance at a national conference being held in our nations capital. The project is destined for greatness, with 1998 simply being the start of something very special for our students and our community.

**MORE NUTS & BOLTS IN BOULDER, COLORADO:** With funding from several staff development grants and partial funding from our beloved school district, seventeen LJHS staff members made the marvelous trek to the Nuts and Bolts conference in Boulder, Colorado. The summer of 1997 marked the third consecutive year that members of the LJHS staff participated in this outstanding conference. Dubbed as a workshop, "Focusing on the practical", our staff have discovered, and since put to use in their classrooms, many worthwhile and "best" practices which are currently being employed at middle level schools across our country.

**LJHS PRINCIPAL RECEIVES THE MILKEN FOUNDATION AWARD:** A planned and pre-arranged visit to LJHS was conducted in October by State Superintendent of Schools, Nancy Keenan. What was not anticipated by the unsuspecting crowd that had gathered was that principal Pat Hould would receive the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award. This award, which includes a free trip to Los Angeles, California to attend a national technology conference, brings to the recipient a \$25,000.00 prize. Truly this recognition is but another reminder of the spectacular and ongoing work being done at the Lewistown Junior High School and should be considered a quality reflection of the LJHS staff, and her students.

**8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS EXPLORE AVIATION IN LAUREL:** Three busses arrived at LJHS on May 15 at 5:45 a.m., in order to board the entire batch of current 8<sup>th</sup> graders and an energetic crew of staff. This was an exploratory bound for the annual Aviation Day in Laurel, Montana. With many displays by military and private aviation businesses, as well as an impressive "fly over" at the Laurel airport, this adventure was a highlight of this school year for many students and staff. It should be noted that student behavior was truly exemplary and was cause for smiles and many accolades from the LJHS staff.



**8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE COURSE OFFERINGS EXPANDED:** To the applause of our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, the course selections were enhanced this school year with the addition of staff and the opportunity for additional semesters of some classes. Two classes which realized one semester expansion were French and acting. Beginning this school year, all of our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students were automatically enrolled in one semester of computer, with the hope that this course will in fact better prepare our students for what lies ahead at the high school level. The final addition to the half year courses offered to our 8<sup>th</sup> graders can be found in our video production class. With the enhanced equipment provided via a Kid Witness News "grant", our students began producing intriguing news and informational videos, during both semesters, to the delight of our entire student body.

**COLLABORATIVE TEACHING MODEL KEEPS GROWING, AND GROWING, AND.....** Teachers working side by side in order to provide students with additional structure, academic support and individual attention continues to gain momentum at the Lewistown Junior High School. Truly we have become a model sight for this powerful teaching method, and in fact we will have even more examples of this image during the 1998 - '99 school year. The examples of this teaching method currently in place at LJHS include the following staff members and the respective classes.

**8<sup>th</sup> grade**

physical science = Frank Ross & Jolyn Pyrah (1 period)  
 English/title I reading = Val Snapp & Brenda Heller (2 periods)  
 consumer technology = Bruce Marsden & JoAnne Ward (1 period)

**7<sup>th</sup> grade**

life science = Chris Rice & Steve Paulson (1 period)  
 social studies/title I reading = Harry Fradley & Greg Lucotch ( 4 periods)  
 general music = Gordon Klasna & Chuck Garnaas ( 1 period)  
 title I math / basic math = Chris Rice & Katherine Spraggins (1 period)

Six of these seven offerings are driven by the need to enhance our special education or our title I programs. Students who qualify for either of these assistance type programs have become more successful as a direct result of the additional attention provided them in a collaborative teaching setting. However, the real advantages of this type of teaching prototype include the fact that when observing the collaborative classroom one can not tell which students have qualified for the additional support, and that all students within the classroom have access to the increased assistance.

Additional collaborative settings are planned for next year with the combining of one section of 8<sup>th</sup> grade basic math and title I math , and with the joining of our 8<sup>th</sup> grade basic English and one section of our regular English classes.



**AWESOME PARENT TEACHER SUPPORT GROUP!** The staff and student body of LJHS were extremely fortunate to have another tremendous year of support from our PTSG volunteers. Our student lockers were frequently decorated with "warm fuzzies" in the form of treats and miniature eagles, pumpkins and shamrocks just to name a few. Students were also provided ice cream on the last day of school, which has now become a tradition at LJHS. Staff were "treated" on several occasions throughout the school year, with food always bringing a smile to the face and stomach of weary staff members! The three biggest endeavors for this version of the PTSG involved a huge fund raiser, which netted over \$4000.00, support of the 1940's exploratory and hosting of the traditional 8<sup>th</sup> grade dance.

**EXPLORING THE 1940's WAS A REAL SHINDIG!** In February, each and every staff member joined forces to host an exploration of the 1940's. With a time line hoisted to the 2<sup>nd</sup> story walls, historic planes swinging from the ceiling in science class, memorable music filling the air and ration cards in use, our students were exposed to this exciting and intriguing era in our nations past. Many interesting and exciting activities enhanced the interdisciplinary festivities, capped off with a big band dance at weeks end.

#### **AT A GLANCE**

The following items are also noteworthy, but are presented now, "at a glance".

The **yearbook signing party** during the last week of school once again provided our students with a fun, tasty and entertaining way to remember the year.

Our **acting class** hosted three different **plays**, marking the first time in many years that junior high thespians have performed on the LJHS stage.

The addition of **Pat Weichel**, as the district technology coordinator, was a welcome addition toward addressing many of our needs. The **LJHS facility is now wired** for technology thanks to the helping hands of volunteers, including community members, staff and alumni. The needs of our building will also be enhanced with the creation of the **technology liaison** positions, which will involve Michelle Trafton and Frank Ross for the 1998 - '99 school year.

Our students and staff were provided exceptional support once again this year from a small, but dedicated workforce of **guest teachers**. Those most notable were Ted Hair, Michelle Hartman, Cheryl Bannes, Anne Leininger, Gary Munson, Ken Roberts, Ann Rapkoch, Gloria Wahl, Carol Wamhoff, and Stacy Wood. This group provided a very important and a quality service to our school and their efforts are truly commendable.

Many people, working together, made this school year a most excellent adventure!

**FERGUS HIGH SCHOOL**

**Scott Dubbs**





# **FERGUS HIGH SCHOOL**

Scott A. Dubbs, Principal  
Jerry L. Feller, Asst. Principal/Activities

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## **1997-98 FERGUS HIGH ANNUAL REPORT**

The 1997-98 school year was another very successful year at Fergus High School. As a school, we strive towards meeting the needs of our students as we continue to aim for outstanding individual and group achievement through high academic, behavioral, and social expectations. Providing for and improving on a quality educational experience for the students of Lewistown is a goal we always look to achieve here at Fergus High School. Much of the information provided in this annual report is a brief synopsis of many highlights, happenings, and statistics that were compiled during the course of the year.

### **HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE 1997-98 SCHOOL YEAR:**

- ◆ **FERGUS HIGH SCIENCE BOWL TEAM** - As was the case last year Fergus High won the Big Sky Regional Science Bowl Our Science Bowl Team, under the direction of Frank Hallett, blew away the competition to win the Big Sky Region of the U. S. Department of Energy's Science Bowl Competition and again qualified for the National Competition in the spring. At Nationals the team was very competitive and very close to qualifying for the championship round. This is the third time in four years we have won the Big Sky Region. Last year our team shocked the National Competition in Washington to capture 5<sup>th</sup> Place, a first for any Montana School. Team members were Mike Schelle, Matt Mayernik, Seth Timpano, Keith Blood and Captain Brian Blood. Our successes at Nationals are truly remarkable considering that very few small public schools compete at that level, as large magnet or private schools tend to dominate the competition.
- ◆ **MHSA ACADEMIC SUCCESS** - Before the school year started we also learned that our student participants earned the second highest Class "A" grade point average (GPA) for the Montana High School Association's Academic Excellence Award. This is obviously not news for us as it was (unofficially) the seventh such honor in the last eight years. However, the 3.391 GPA was one of our top scores on record. We are hoping this year's average of 3.379 will enable us to maintain this position of excellence.
- ◆ **NEW STAFF** - We were fortunate to have a very stable staff at Fergus High. The only teaching change at the start of this year was the re-addition of Melanie Smith who took a year of sabbatical the '96-97 school year. Her replacement for that year was Brenda Heller who then transferred to Lewistown Junior High School this year. Following Jim Hunter's death in mid-September, Chris Cox filled the computer/business position until the start of



the second quarter when Melissa Descheemaeker was hired to complete the school year. Other new staff members include Bev Mayernik, a Resource Assistant; Sandy Thompson, our attendance secretary; Gary Layman and George Carlyle new custodians.

- ◆ **EAGLE RENAISSANCE** - The theme for the '97-98 Eagle Renaissance program was "Reaching for Excellence," and we can honestly say it was a very useful and positive message. In addition to the excellent work of Renaissance Advisor Sharon Farrar (who will be difficult to replace) and the usual outstanding support and incentive the program gives our students, it has become a top notch model within the state and the northwest region. Several times Sharon shared the successes we see in our students as a result of the program. Additionally, schools continue to send individuals here or ask for our assistance in helping develop similar programs elsewhere. Additionally, the management team recommended several minor changes to enhance or promote the program -- a small result of which was the "Graduation Did You Know" pamphlet that was handed out at graduation. Our on-going goals for the program include:
  - ❖ Setting an expectation for achievement while stressing good attitudes.
  - ❖ Providing incentives and rewards that build self esteem and satisfaction with self and school.
  - ❖ Spotlighting scholastic merit and improvement while emphasizing appropriate student behavior and responsibility.
  - ❖ Recognizing and rewarding students, teachers and community members for positive performance.
  - ❖ Incorporating Renaissance in the development of a high quality, positive student handbook, designed to promote students and staff while developing school pride.
- ◆ **ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES** - During the past few years Fergus High has developed a much improved Advanced Placement program. Under the direction of our Staff Development Director (along with quality staff members) we can boast of the development of many new courses. They now include:
  - ❖ A.P. English 12 - The first advanced placement course offered at FHS is filled annually from a priority list of students developed as they progress through our English courses.
  - ❖ A.P. Physics (B & C) and A. P. Chemistry - Offered on an alternating year basis these courses meet the needs of our math and science oriented students. A. P. Physics - B is taught as a regular trigonometry based class while A. P. Physics - C is calculus based. When needed, all three courses are offered on an independent basis.
  - ❖ A.P. Biology - Another science A. P. class offered on an alternating year basis unless student enrollment dictates one each year (which may be the case shortly).
  - ❖ A.P. Calculus - Next school year we are offering two levels of calculus. H. S. Calculus and Advanced Placement Calculus. The original H. S. Calculus was a logical addition initiated a year after the A. P. Sciences started when our first group of eighth grade Algebra I students became seniors. With the high numbers in this class next year we felt it was more appropriate to provide a non A. P. class of



calculus for non A. P. oriented kids.

- ❖ Studio Art - An advanced placement class initiated for the second year based on the needs of students intending to submit work for college credit.
- ◆ **BLUE - GOLD LEADERSHIP BREAKFAST** - This spring's Tenth Annual Blue - Gold Leadership Breakfast was again a showcase event with Judy Martz, Montana's Lieutenant-Governor giving an outstanding speech on the value of leadership to the audience. Student Counsel Advisor Mr. McMillan, Student Body President Dan Howells, Vice-President Eric Harrison, and the rest of the Student Council did an excellent job continuing this tremendous tradition.
- ◆ **LIVINGSTON-FERGUS STUDENT EXCHANGE** - This spring we participated in a very successful student exchange program with Park High School. Students from Livingston came to Fergus on March 26<sup>th</sup> and we sent students to Livingston on April 23<sup>rd</sup> who participated in school tours and classroom visitations. In addition, several large and small group discussions occurred in both schools. One of the goals during the visitation process was to share many of the of small things that make both of our schools special. At Fergus, one of the big hits was the successes of our Eagle Renaissance Program and at Livingston many policy related discussions occurred. Originally, the exchange was initiated by the Central A Division schools to bring our students' closer together. The goal was to develop friendships between schools and promote and sportsmanship within the conference
- ◆ **FHS HOSTED MONTANA'S ONLY HORATIO ALGER SEMINAR FOR 1997-98** - On its first opportunity since earning this privilege 6 years ago, FHS was selected as the only school in the state to host a Horatio Alger Seminar this school year. The goal of the seminar was to instill students with confidence in their abilities and future while promoting the value of the personal and economic benefits of America's free enterprise system. Additionally, David Smith, a senior student who has displayed perseverance in overcoming adversity and who has demonstrated academic promise, earned a \$5,000 scholarship, as well as earning an all expense paid trip to the National Horatio Alger Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. this past spring. Mr. Robert Rutledge chaired the committee that designed the very successful event while Mrs. Debra Slagel organized the Career Fair that was held in conjunction with it.
- ◆ **GRADUATION '98** - This year our senior successes were once again celebrated with an banner Graduation Ceremony. Mr. Pat Hould provided an excellent Commencement Address to compliment our ceremony with the class again successfully using a new format which included a "showcasing" of graduates by the faculty members and the wearing of gowns by the graduates, teachers, administration and school board. Valedictorian for the Class of 1998 was Kevin Brown, with Co-Salutatorians being Letha Dubbs and Eric Harrison.
- ◆ **MATH & SCIENCE COMPETITIONS** - Our students had another banner year in Math and Science area. In addition to the previously mentioned Science Bowl successes, we finished a very respectable fifth in the State Science Olympiad team competition in November. Our physics students took second in the regional part of the National Physics Exam (we have placed first or second four times in five years). FHS students also had the top five individual scores in the state for the State's Chemistry Exam. In Math, our students again competed very well, winning the regional Montana Council of Teachers of Math (MCTM)



competition and scoring very well on the NCTM and Trig-Star (sponsored by the Society of Professional Surveyors) exams.

- ◆ **COMMITMENT TO TECH PREP** - For the past several years, Fergus High has participated in the Central Montana Tech Prep Consortium through MSU-College of Technology, Great Falls. Many of our efforts have led to articulation agreements with the College of Technology for many of our vocational courses and with initial meetings with the business community to initiate public support. Additionally, there has been much work with teachers and counselors in promoting and supporting Tech Prep and its goals. We learned the University System has worked on an agreement among each of our post-secondary schools to finally enable horizontal articulation of our Tech Prep courses with all of it's units.
- ◆ **SCHOOL-TO-WORK** - Fergus High continues working toward involving several aspects of the School-to-Work initiatives in our educational process. Coordination with local agencies and businesses downtown is essential to the success of our School-to-Work projects. Mrs. Debra Slagel, our Director, worked very hard with the local Job Service's JASAP committee to successfully launch our first Career Night, which was held a year ago February. This year the Career Fair was held during the school day in conjunction with our Horatio Alger Seminar. Other successes in the School-to-Work area include our many outstanding Internship programs as participating employers and our students thoroughly enjoyed the educational opportunities it provides.
- ◆ **ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS** - We were very fortunate to have had many outstanding seasons during this school year with the football can cross country teams leading the way in the fall. Football finished second in the conference and participated in the state playoffs for the second time ever. The cross country team won the divisional competition and finished third at state. During the winter sports season the boy's basketball team completed an exceptional year finishing second in the conference and participating in the state tournament for the second time in the 1990's. This spring our boy golfers were second in the divisional tournament and 5<sup>th</sup> in the state tournament while the girls track team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the division.
- ◆ **POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT** - Fergus High continues to remain committed to the development and maintenance of a positive school climate. With emphasis on shared discipline, high academic and attendance expectations, time-on-task, as well as a strong community bond, FHS works hard to improve in this area.
- ◆ **TECHNOLOGY** - Fergus High has worked hard to improve the available technology for our students and our staff. At the end of the year we had updated our computer inventory to include more than 67 Pentium and 39 486 computers available for use. Additionally, we have use of 14 networked CD-ROM's available from our networked computers. Overall, networking news was slower than we had hoped for. We also purchased a router this fall and frame relay service that enabled access to the Internet through our network. With the help of Eagle's On-Line and the District's Technology Committee we hope all computer workstations in the building will connected to the school's local area network. Next year looks promising many of the machines in the school will have a more secure operating system (NT), the keyboarding lab will be made up of Pentium and 486 computers (with current software needs supplied), and the computer lab downstairs will have 21 new Pentium II computers. In addition the school will have Internet E-mail available to just



about everyone who wants it and new laser printers will be accessible to students and staff from the school's network.

- ◆ **THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN** - As many are aware, not everything ends up rosy. On the downside, this year provided a hard case of reality for many of our students and staff as close friends or relatives were injured or lost. Particularly difficult was the loss of Mr. Jim Hunter, a long time friend and staff member at Fergus High. His heart attack in September was a big shock to the staff and most of our older students. His leadership in the business and technology areas is greatly missed.

### **OTHER VALUABLE FERGUS HIGH STATS:**

- ◆ **STRONG EDUCATIONAL COMMITMENT** - 22 of 38 Certified Staff have attained an advanced educational degree (a Master's Degree or higher), with several other staff members working toward attaining their Master's Degrees in the near future. The average tenure of the FHS teaching staff was 17.6 years with 11.8 years commitment to the Lewistown Schools.
- ◆ **ATTENDANCE & ENROLLMENT** - Student attendance is excellent with figures showing an overall attendance rate of 94.83% (second highest total since the start of the 9 day policy). Our October 6 enrollment was 551 while the February 2 enrollment was 532. Last year those numbers were 548 and 544 respectively. October 6, 1997, enrollment by class included 151 freshmen, 144 sophomores, 139 juniors, and 115 seniors. Next year's currently enrolled population is 532, with the classes expected to include 130 freshmen, 141 sophomores, 132 juniors, and 129 seniors. As is usually the case an additional 10-20 students will enter in the fall.
- ◆ **AVERAGE '97-98 GPA FOR FHS STUDENTS** - The average GPA earned for an FHS student this past year was 2.944 for the first semester and 2.968 for the second. Last year those numbers were 2.878 first semester and 2.847 for the second. By class, the '97-98 average GPA's were: 3.125 and 3.238 for the seniors, 2.942 and 3.029 for the juniors, 2.678 and 2.747 for the sophomores, along with 3.060 and 2.919 for the freshman.
- ◆ **CUMULATIVE GPA FOR FHS STUDENTS** - The average cumulative GPA at the end of the year for a ranked FHS student was 2.999, with the average last year being 2.912. By class, those average cumulative GPA's were: 3.068 for the seniors, 3.085 for the juniors, 2.840 for the sophomores, 3.003 for the freshmen. The Class of 1998 (this year's seniors) has the highest senior class final cumulative GPA (3.068) since we have started recording grades on the computer and the Class of 1996 ended up with the second highest final cumulative GPA of 3.008.
- ◆ **ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION** - Overall numbers of participants increased during the year, however, on a percentage basis the numbers did not change significantly as 49% of the students participated in athletics, 51% participated in music, while 53% participated in clubs and other activities. Last years percentages were 50%, 46% and 51% respectively. Of concern is the creation of a larger gap in participation of males and females as only 42.2% of the opportunities for participation were used by our females (who account for



48.3% of the population). Another concern comes with the 17% of the students who do not participate in any school activities (down from 21% last year).

- ◆ **ACT SCORES** - ACT scores this year again appear to be significantly above state and national averages, unlike last year's totals. Final figures will come later this summer; however, the Class of 1997's overall average was 21.7, compared to the state and national averages of 21.9 and 21.0. The seven-year average scores are: FHS - 22.1; State - 21.7; National 20.7.
- ◆ **CLASS SIZE** - Class size this school year were up but definitely respectable. During this year average class sizes were: English - 21.1; Math - 21.3; Science - 20.3; Social Studies - 22.4; Foreign Language/Art/Drama - 15.6; Music - 69.5; Vocational - 15.3; and Title/Resource - 6.7. Some numbers are a bit deceiving as some classes have very small class limits along with several fluctuations due to population variations in each grade.
- ◆ **TRANSFER AND DROPOUT INFORMATION** - Fergus High School had 64 students transfer in or re-enroll during the school year. Of those 64 new students; 10 transferred out later while 11 dropped out-of-school and 2 enrolled in home schools. We also had 14 FHS students transfer to another school during the year and 2 that were expelled or long-term suspended. In terms of dropout totals; we had 3 freshman, 11 sophomores, 5 juniors, and 6 seniors who chose to leave school without enrolling in another school (including the 11 listed above that transferred to Fergus during the school year).

### **PROFILE OF THE CLASS OF 1998:**

The Class of 1998 and its original 125 members entered Fergus High in August, 1994, with many high expectations and goals. By the time their tenure was completed, class size was smaller with 109 members eligible for graduation.

Of the original 125 class members:

- ❖ 97 members graduated this spring. 93 of the 102 spent all four years at Fergus and the other 3 were original class members who spent part of their high school years at another school before transferring back to FHS and 1 member spent her senior year as an AFS exchange student.
- ❖ Of the 12 other graduates, 9 started and transferred in from other schools, 2 started with another class and were fifth-year students, and the 1 remaining student was a foreign exchange student.
- ❖ 28 members of the original 125 did not graduate locally. 9 dropped out of school locally and 13 transferred elsewhere. Of the 13 that transferred, 7 were known to have graduated at other schools, and 6 transfer members are have lost contact with the school. The Class of 1998 had 1 student suspended long-term and had no students left to attend home school, while 5 others may be returning as fifth year students.
- ❖ 60 members of the Class of 1998 graduated as honor roll students with 35 members of the Class of 1998 belonging to the "Claws" Chapter of the National Honor Society.
- ❖ 20 members of the Class of 1998 completed the newly instituted FHS Honors Curriculum that requires students to successfully complete our college prep curriculum and 4 years

of math, science, and English, along with 2 years of foreign language, and 2 advanced placement classes.

- ❖ 2 members of the Class of 1998 were on the 1997 National 5<sup>th</sup> Place Science Bowl Team.
- ❖ The mean GPA for the Class of 1998 is 2.980.
- ❖ In order to be considered a student in the "Top 30," a member of the Class of 1998 needed to have earned an overall GPA of 3.582, while a "Top 10" student required a 3.977 GPA.
- ❖ Of the 72 students currently planning on attending a four-year school next fall, 49 will attend in-state institutions, with 21 going to Montana State University in Bozeman and 15 attending the University of Montana in Missoula. There are also 23 seniors planning on attending 4-year out-of-state colleges and universities.
- ❖ 14 members of the Class of 1998 plan on attending 2-year colleges or trade schools, with 9 attending a school in-state and 5 attending an out-of-state school. 4 students plan on joining the military, 10 plan on working, and 5 are undecided at this time about their immediate future.
- ❖ 40 of our 109 members of the Class of 1998 received scholarships (37% of our graduating seniors).
- ❖ As of May 26<sup>th</sup>, the Class of 1998 (as a whole) earned over \$150,500 in scholarships for their first year of college.
- ❖ Also on May 26<sup>th</sup>, the Class of 1998 had already earned an additional \$267,300 for their sophomore, junior, and senior years in college. That brings the grand total over \$417,900 in potential scholarship moneys.

### **FERGUS HIGH SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY:**

Fergus High School is committed to providing each student a safe environment conducive to optimal intellectual, psychological, and moral development. Fergus High is also committed to providing essential opportunities that will allow each student mastery of the academic, vocational, and social skills necessary to lead a happy, productive life while becoming lifelong learners. Fergus High believes that it is our responsibility to ensure that each student, regardless of ability, background, or any other factor which might affect the educational process, receive the opportunities to reach their maximum potential in all areas of his/her academic, vocational, and social development. Therefore, academic courses, as well as extracurricular and co-curricular activities, will enable students to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to take their place as productive and responsible citizens in a democracy.

### **FERGUS HIGH SCHOOL GOALS**

- ❖ To promote and improve academic opportunities and excellence among our students.
- ❖ To promote student activity opportunities and involvement and excellence therein.
- ❖ To inspire students by heightening motivation, encouraging positive behavior and good



citizenship.

- ❖ To promote effective study skills, systematic methods of critical thinking, and meaningful communication skills.
- ❖ To foster a sense of personal growth, self-esteem and personal responsibility.
- ❖ To expand and promote student utilization of technological advances.
- ❖ To provide the skills necessary to adapt to rapidly changing social and vocational expectations.
- ❖ To promote an interest in and a capacity for continued learning in all aspects of life and culture.
- ❖ To provide the opportunity for parent, community, staff and student input, open communications and involvement.

## **ACTIVITIES**

**Jerry Feller**

**FERGUS HIGH SCHOOL  
ACTIVITIES  
201 CASINO CREEK DRIVE  
LEWISTOWN, MT 59457  
(406) - 538-2321**

**1997-98**

**YEAR END REPORT**

This past year of "**GOLDEN EAGLE ACTIVITIES**" was again a very successful and exciting one with many exceptional individual and team performances and accomplishments. As we have mentioned before, we feel our activities are providing the educational experiences needed to develop strong individual citizens through this the "other half of education." Again, as in the past few years, the many outstanding efforts within the activity program brought our student body together and generally enhanced the overall attitude and educational atmosphere of the school and its' community.

A special thanks go out to everybody involved, especially Harvey Feller and Ila Pyrah. From pre-season to post season, we had the support, the guidance and the organization from our Athletic Director and his office secretary. From our schedules, travel time, home events, divisional and state trips on through our awards night. Thank you for your time in supporting the students of Fergus High.

Some of the many HIGHLIGHTS for the 97-98 school year include:

Fergus High continued to have tremendous academic success from our activities participants. In August we received information that we (for the sixth straight year) earned second place in the Montana High School Association's (MHSA) Class "A" Academic Excellence Award. As with each previous time, we were just "inched out" by Colstrip. These academic accomplishments over the years (along with our 90-91 first place award) is a tremendous feather in our cap. The Academic Excellence Award is the top academic award given by the MHSA and its' member schools. It is a reflection of the grade point averages of all letter-winning student participants in athletics, speech, drama and music. From our perspective, the award has become a yearly indicator of our success as we support the philosophy that academics must come before activities.

A very comparable indicator is reflected in the total number of Academic All-State selections our Golden Eagles earned for the 1996-97 school year. The awards are sponsored by the Montana Coaches Association (MCA) and again reinforce the importance of academics to our student-athletes. To qualify for an award, an individual must earn a varsity letter in athletics and maintain a 3.5 grade point average during the respective quarter of participation. For the 1997-98 school year we had a grand total of 106 individual Academic All-State Awards. Listing the awards by each individual sport are as follows: Girls Basketball - 9; Football - 21; Cross Country - 12; Wrestling - 5; Volleyball - 9; Boys Basketball - 4; Cheerleading - 4; Track and Field - 20; Tennis - 15; and Golf - 7.

The Spirit of Montana, The **Fergus High School Screaming Eagle Band** under the direction of Mr. Richard Garcia. This instrumental program has a strong and powerful heritage at Fergus High School. Making up this program is the Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Jazz Band I and Jazz Band II, Pep Band and Marching Band. Graduating 30 seniors this year, a total of 45 students sent to the state solo and ensemble festival. All-State members this year were Mike Schelle (Tuba), Noelle Harrison (Horn) and Desiree Rauch (Violin). Scott Wilber was the winner of the prestigious John Phillip Sousa Award and Mike Schelle was awarded the Louis Armstrong Jazz Award.

1996-97 Activities



Under second years guidance, Fergus High's **CHOIR** department was again headed by Gordon Klasna. The Fergus High School Choir Department once again completed a successful year. The Choralaires had a superior year, performing very well at the State Music Festival. The Symphonic Choir earned all Superior ratings for their job at the District Music Festival and the Concert Choir received two superiors and one excellent rating. Rachel Garcia, Erica Moring and Steven Rowe were members of the All-Northwest Honors Choir held in Portland, Oregon. Erical Moring and Desiree Rauch received the National School Choral Award and Josh Wise received the Director's Award for Chorus. The Choirs have all continued to grow and the quality of music they are performing shows this.

Coaches Julie Allen and Kelly Elder led the **SPEECH AND DRAMA** team which enjoyed several successes during the season (bringing home a trophy for each meet they attended). Highlights included a Northern Division Championship for Drama for the fourth year in a row. Chrissy Pratt and Nathan Timpano walked away with the first place finish in Classical Theater. Ten participants qualified for the state meet this year, the largest amount of qualifiers in 6 years. Looking ahead to 1998-99, a strong contingent of returning team members should anchor a growing Fergus High School team for an even stronger season.

Under the leadership of head advisors Susan Spurgeon and Leslie Colver the **CHEERLEADERS AND EAGLETTES** had a good year. The Eaglettes continued to hold to 16 positions with one alternate. The Eaglettes presented our Country's colors at all varsity Football, Girls Basketball and Boys Basketball home games. The Eaglettes performed at eight home school activities and the Girls and Boys Divisional Basketball Tournament. The cheerleading squad grew in strength throughout the school year and had many successes throughout the school year. The Varsity Squad of 7 attended Cheer Camp on MSU Bozeman's Campus in July. Also in July, the Cheerleaders were hired by the Fergus County Fair Board to help during Fair Week adding funds to the Cheer account. The Eagle Booster Club allowed the proceeds of their Fall Dance to be split between the Cheerleaders and Eaglettes. This really helped in the ordering of new uniforms for the Varsity Squad. The Eaglettes and Cheerleaders continued to work together and seemed to have a high level of cooperation between the two programs. Once again the performed a half-time routine together for both the Girls and Boys Basketball games. Thanks for your time and dedication to our advisors, Susie Spurgeon, Leslie Colver and Kelly Sather.

**Student Council** had a very successful year under the direction of teacher advisor Lynn McMillan and Fergus High School Student Body President Dan Howells. Dan was a master in finding workers and his organizational skills were second to none as he time and again came through with ideas, projects, and workers to make the 1997-98 school term run smoothly and efficiently. Some of the year's highlights were the successful Homecoming Coronation, parade, half-time show and dance, the Annual Blue Gold Leadership Breakfast featuring Lt. Governor Judy Martz under the direction of Eric Harrison. Some of the other activities were the bumper sticker program for parents of honor roll students first semester, the AAA (athletics, academic, and arts) awards, the student of the month awards, the teacher of the year award, the eagle clock program, class olympics, class elections, and sportsmanship awards given away at home athletic contests, and good apples awards. Funding for these activities were paid from pop receipts from the machines in the lobby. Student council has some year ending projects that will enhance the beauty of the Fergus High campus that will be reported to you next year.

The Fergus varsity **FOOTBALL** team, under the direction of Head Coach Gary Gebert, First Assistant Vic Feller and Defensive Coordinator Rick Wright, finished the 1997 season with a 6-3 record. They made the play-offs for the second time under Coach Gary Gebert's tenure. They beat Havre at Havre for the first time in thirty years. Coach Gebert believed that the emphasis on weights helped achieve these goals and is stressing weights again this year. Fergus looks forward for good things to come as the J.V. team under the direction of Troy Hudson and Rick Wright finished the season at 6-1. The freshman team under the direction of Ron Hrubes and Steve Olson finished the season undefeated at 9-0.

The 1997-98 Golden Eagle **GIRLS BASKETBALL** season was a very good one. Despite returning no starters and only two girls with varsity experience, the girls finished 10 - 11 competing in the always tough Central A Division and playing against Malta, who was the Class B State Champion and against Billings Senior who finished 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Class AA State Tournament. The Central A had four teams ranked in the top 5 in Class A at different times during the year. The State A Champion and State A Runner-up came from the Central A Division (Havre and Dillon). This marked the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year in which this has happened showing the power of the Central A. The Fergus girls competed very well against the very best teams in the state with wins over Browning, and Billings Senior. Also was a loss to eventual state champion Havre by only two points in an emotional home game.

The Divisional tournament found the team seeded number 4. Livingston won the opening game over the Fergus girls which sent the team into the loser's bracket. The girls bounced back with a convincing win over Butte Central, then lost a tough 3 point game to Browning Saturday morning, ending the season. Lindsey Buehler had an outstanding year and earned All-Conference and All-State accolades.

The subvarsity teams had great years again this season. The Junior Varsity under coach Sue Habbe finished the year 14 - 4. The "B" team, a combination of freshmen and sophomores, under the direction of Melanie Smith finished the year at 6 - 11, and the Freshmen team under coach Jim Daniels finished at 16 - 2.

The **CROSS COUNTRY** team had another very successful season under the direction of Head Coach Eadie Schultz. Twenty-one 3 milers completed the 1997 season and did so by winning the Central A Divisional meet in the snow at East Glacier and then our top 7 went on to the State Meet in Helena and captured the Third Place State Trophy along with three individual State Medals. Of the eight meets we competed in Fergus brought home 5 first place trophies. Thirteen of our Golden Eagle Cross Country runners earned their XCC letters and the state medalists were Heather Wise, Stevie Gore and Tara Gates.

The 1997 - 98 **BOYS BASKETBALL** season under the direction of Ron Miller proved to be a very exciting season. Despite losing four starters from the previous year, the Fergus boys has a banner year. With a commitment to become better athletes and players, there was reason to hope for good things. The team started the year very strong with a solid win against the eventual State Class B Champion Malta Mustangs. The season continued to be good with wins over Havre, Belgrade, Laurel, Browning, Anaconda, and Livingston. During most of the season the boys were ranked in the power poll. The team treated the fans at Fergus with an unselfish style of play and a tremendous desire to take the program to the next level. At the divisional tournament held in Butte at the Butte Civic Center, the boys opened with a win over Havre which marked the 3<sup>rd</sup> straight win over the Blue Ponies during the year. This put the Fergus team up against Dillon, who was ranked #1 in the state at the Class A level. Dillon prevailed and that sent the boys into a Saturday morning game against Livingston. The boys beat Livingston which sent the team into Saturday nights consolation game against host Butte Central. With both teams leaving it all on the floor, the Golden Eagles fought back from a nine point 4<sup>th</sup> quarter deficit



to tie the game sending it into overtime. In the overtime period, again Butte Central took the early lead only to see Fergus fight back and win at the end. This set up a challenge game against Belgrade who had lost to Dillon in the championship game. The challenge game was a memorable one. After leading for most of the game, Belgrade went on a 13 - 2 run to take the lead late in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. Kory Phillips then hit a 3 point basket to give Fergus the lead and the boys won the game at the foul line down the stretch, winning 61 - 52 and earning a trip to the State Class A Tournament for the first time in five years. At the state tournament, the boys lost to eventual state champions Polson and then lost out Friday afternoon to finish their season at 14 - 11. Earning All-Conference and All-State status was senior Kory Phillips. Also earning All Conference were seniors Scott McMasters, Ryan d'Autremont, and junior Ty Solberg.

The Junior Varsity under coach Dick Brosseau finished their year at 11 - 7. The "B" team under coach Sue Habbe finished the year at 5 - 11, and the Freshmen team under coach Jim Daniels finished the year at 14 - 4.

The **VOLLEYBALL** under the direction of Head Coach Sterling Sundheim faced a definite challenge this year at the Divisional Tournament and again showed the strength of a well developed program. Except for one week in February, our volleyball season went well. We faced an unexpected challenge when five varsity and two JV players made some poor decisions and were suspended due to violations of the school's chemical policies. The tourney roster was filled with athletes from our freshmen and JV teams. These young athletes took advantage of the opportunity, worked very hard and represented Fergus High School very well. What began as an unexpected ordeal, ended as a great experience for some young athletes as well as the coaching staff. Assistant coaches Tara Taylor and Brenda Heller have done an excellent job. They have great rapport with the girls and are an important factor in our success. The Varsity team finished with a 14 - 14 record, the JV team finished with a 12 - 9 record and the Freshmen girls finished with an undefeated season of 20 - 0. Our 1997 varsity team was recognized by the American volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) for their academic achievement. This award went to 81 high schools nation-wide and four schools in Montana. Of the high school teams receiving awards, Fergus High School had the 22<sup>nd</sup> highest team GPA at 3.66. The award is not made until late summer, and this year's team will also receive the award. This will be the fourth year in a row that we will receive the award. Twenty-eight of the thirty athletes (freshmen through seniors) made the honor roll this year. Earning All-Conference and All-State status was Kami Hill.

The 1997-98 Golden Eagle **WRESTLING** under the direction of Victor Feller had a successful year. We finished the season with a winning dual record and 12<sup>th</sup> at the State Tournament. We had great leadership from our seniors on the varsity. Luke Fry finished second at divisional, Darrell Woolsey finished third at divisional and fifth at state, Clay Taylor finished 5<sup>th</sup> at divisional, Cameron Wright finished fourth at divisional. The highlight of the season was Corey Rath who was a divisional and state champion. He finished the season with a 27 - 4 record. We will miss these seniors but look to have a lot of good young wrestlers coming up. Assistant coaches were Gary Gebert and Brad Yeager.



The 1997-98 **TENNIS** team under the direction of Diane Lewis was lead by 11 seniors on the Divisional team. Sixty-two players finished the tennis season this year. Highlighting the year was the play of Kami Hill (girls singles), Noelle Harrison (girls singles), Santiago Clavijo (boys singles) and Jeremy Bristol - Kory Phillips (boys doubles). All but Noelle Harrison qualified for the State Tournament with Kami Hill placing 2<sup>nd</sup>, Santiago Clavijo placing 5<sup>th</sup> and Jeremy Bristol and Kory Phillips placing 4<sup>th</sup> at the Divisional Tournament. Noelle Harrison placed 6<sup>th</sup> this year which is a year we only take the top five to State. At the State Tournament Kami Hill, Jeremy Bristol and Kory Phillips all tied for 7<sup>th</sup> place. A strong group of junior and sophomores returning appear poised to provide excellent leadership next season. Head Coach Diane Lewis and Assistant Coach Linda Rinaldi look forward to next year with our new facility hosting the new Central Divisionals and large number of participants of participants for the 1999 season.

The **GOLF** program under third year Head Coach Lynn McMillan and Assistant Coach Bob Oldenburg had another very good year both in terms of participants and Divisional and State recognition. We had a total of 36 golfers that completed the program (30 boys and 6 girls). Every golfer in the program was able to participate in at least one golf tournament which is a first in Fergus High golf history. Fergus High School hosted two JV tournaments and one varsity tournament. The addition of the new golf course at Judith Shadows certainly has helped our program as a practice facility and as a cite for JV and later, varsity tournaments. The varsity boys golf team led, by third year lettermen and junior Ty Solberg, again finished in second place in the Central Division behind Dillon and went on to a 5<sup>th</sup> place State finish overtaking Dillon in the process. The girls struggled with numbers all year and were finally able to put together a team of four at the Central Divisional Golf Tournament in Anaconda but failed to finish in the top four to compete at State. We did however qualify one girl, Elissa Bjelland was able to qualify and compete for the Fergus Golden Eagles at State. We return four of the five members of the boys team and feel very good about the 1999 golf program as we return seven lettermen in the boys program and two lettermen in the girls program. The boys should challenge for the top spot next year and be in position to compete for a State Trophy in 1999.

The **TRACK AND FIELD** program under the direction of Head Coach Eadie Schultz and Assistant Coaches Dick Brosseau, Steve Olson and Melissa Descheemaeker had a total of sixty-one athletes out for the 1998 track season. Our girls team captured third place at Divisionals in Lewistown, earned 29 points at the State meet in Butte and have a State Champion. Tara Elings set a new Fergus High School record and captured the Gold Medal at State with a toss of 39'9.5". Our girls brought home seven state medals and have set three new Fergus High Records. Jamie Slagel has the triple jump in 35'4.5". Shauna Smith has the pole vault in 8'6" and Tara Elings has the new shot put record.

Our boys most valuable trackster was Josh Jones with both his medal in the hurdles and Josh set a new Fergus High record in the 300 hurdles running them in 39.2 seconds. Jeff Marsden earned a medal in the high jump. Sixteen boys lettered this season and sixteen girls.

Exciting year with our new track complex and our many home meets and our home town support in successfully running each and every meet was outstanding. We are proud of all our tracksters. One divisional trophy and four new Fergus Track and Field records.

The backbone of the **LEWISTOWN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL** athletic program continues to be our outstanding coaching staff. It is because of their dedication, their excellent "teaching" skills and their commitment to our students that we continue to enjoy an incredibly high level of participation. Our dedicated staff consisted of the following personnel for the 1997-98 school year.

**FOOTBALL**

Steve Paulson  
Shaun Loegering  
Jim Wier  
Monty Harrison

**GIRLS BASKEBALL**

Justin Guyer  
Stephanie Simpson  
Annie Davis

**CROSS COUNTRY**

Suzie Flentie

**WRESTLING**

Rich Nearhoof

**TRACK AND FIELD**

Suzie Flentie  
Roger Woltermann  
Stephanie Simpson  
Jim Hamling

**BOYS BASKETBALL**

Justin Guyer  
Lynn McMillan  
Troy Hudson

**VOLLEYBALL**

Craig Beuhler  
Katherine Spraggins  
Joy Cecerle  
Kayleen Patton

We look forward to continued success and positive student participation in all of our programs in the future as a direct result of the outstanding contributions made by this entire crew.

The athletic programs were once again guided utilizing a "tag team" approach, as Greg Lucotch, Lauri Tognetti and Pat Hould kept track of schedules, supplies, coaches, referees, and of course our student athletes. This trio proved that cooperation and communication are the keys to success and that three heads are always better than one!

The method by which we recognized our students was also a significant happening for the overall athletic program this year. Guided by our cheerleaders and their sponsor Peggy Sharstrom, our athletes were given a hero's welcome during two awards type ceremonies. These assemblies were conducted before our student body and were held at the conclusion of our fall and winter seasons. Parents and community members were abundantly in attendance and students were encouraged onto further participation. These two ceremonies brought a tremendous response from parents, students and staff. A new tradition has begun!

At the **ELEMENTARY** level, in grades five and six, Jim Daniels coordinated good programs in volleyball, basketball, wrestling and track. There were very few changes in what appears to be a strong after-school program. Again varsity coaches continued to provide good clinics and other inservice activities for elementary programs and we hope they can spend even more time working with young athletes of the future. Current elementary season lengths were: volleyball and basketball - 8 weeks; wrestling and track - 6 weeks. Elementary participant numbers were: volleyball - 101, girls basketball - 74, boys basketball - 78, wrestling - 15, girls track - 54 and boys track - 41.

I feel the activities programs at Fergus have a lot to offer all the young students attending School District #1. Activity programs that provide valuable lessons on many practical situations such as, teamwork, sportsmanship, winning and losing, and hard work. Through participation in activities programs we provide the opportunity for students to learn self-discipline, build self-confidence and develop skills to handle competitive situations. We provide activities that support the academic mission of our school.

Programs that are not a diversion but rather an extension of a good educational program. The confidence in almost all Fergus activities programs seem to be strong if not improving. The staff is highly professional, motivated and very enjoyable to work with. We in School District #1 and Fergus High look forward to good things to come.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Feller, FHS Assistant Principal/Activities



**MUSIC**

**Rich Garcia**

# LEWISTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Music Department

1997-98

### YEAR END REPORT

The Lewistown Public Schools in 1997-98 experienced another exciting year of individual and group accomplishments. The music staff feels our music is providing the educational experiences needed to develop strong individual citizens.

Below is a summary of the activities, accomplishments of the Music Department for the past year.

- Hosted the Eastern "A" Band Festival held on February 1-3, 1998. Participating were 6 school bands. More than 300 students were housed and fed, by the Lewistown community. The Fergus Band performed Brilliantly and received superior ratings for their performance as well as their warm hospitality.
- Hosted the District 8 Music Festival held on April 16-18 1998. Participating were 13 Central Montana schools
- Sent Mike Schelle (Tuba), Noelle Harrison (Horn), Desiree Rauch (Violin), Steven Rowe (Vocal), Heidi Kalina (Vocal) to the 1997-98 All-State Music Festival.
- Sent Steven Rowe, Rachel Garcia and Erica Moring to the All-Northwest Vocal Festival in Portland Oregon.
- Lewistown High and Junior High School Jazz Bands and Jazz Choirs were exceptional in their public performances.
- Lewistown Elementary music programs were superior in performance and entertainment. Students, Teachers and Music Directors are to be commended for their hard work and dedication.
- 11 major concerts were completed
- The Fergus High School Bands continues to support the Fergus athletic teams. Performing at 18 equally divided boys and girls athletic events and 2 basketball tournaments.
- The recipient of the prestigious John Phillip Sousa award was Scott Wilber. The Louis Armstrong jazz award was Mike Schelle. The National School Choral award was given to Erica Moring and Desiree Rauch. The Directors award for Chorus was Josh Wise.



Improvements for the 1998-99 School year

- The Junior High will be changing the choirs from a 7<sup>th</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> grade choir to a boys and girls choir.
- Fergus High School is in the process of offering a Music Theory class.
- Continue the "split" concert format from an all band concert to having a separate Junior High and High School band concert.

Submitted,



Richard Garcia  
Music Coordinator

## **STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

**Sid Wilson**



# STAFF DEVELOPMENT

## Lewistown Public Schools

Lewistown, MT 49457

201 Casino Creek

(406) 538-2321

June 1, 1998

TO: Conrad Robertson  
Superintendent of Schools

REF: 1997-1998 Accomplishments  
Staff Development

The following outline is a breakdown of major activities and projects that were undertaken by both the Title II, Title VI and District Staff Development Programs during the 1997-1998 school term. They represent the services and opportunities for training that have been offered to district personnel.

### I. In-service training/workshops presented within the district:

A total of seven individual workshops were offered during the school term. The topics arranged from providing science/math teachers new skills in content and technology. 57 teachers were each provided with approximately 399 hours of training. Additionally, 6 new staff members received a total of 30 hours of Basic ITIP training.

### II. General in-service training for all staff members:

In October and February all teachers were provided in-service training related to the Montana Behavioral Initiative. During the two periods, 120 staff members and administrators each received approximately 9 hours of training.

### III. Out of state travel of in-service activities:

Staff members were provided opportunities to travel to national and regional conferences in science, math, and middle school structure. A total of 21 teachers each received an average of 20 hours of training.

### IV. In state travel for in-service activities:

Staff members were provided opportunities to travel in Montana to attend conferences on math curriculum and instruction activities. 8 teachers each received approximately 7 hours of training.

page 2

The Staff Development Program provided 120 staff members and administrators with a total of 1975 contact hours of in-service training. All teachers, K-12, were affected by the program. Consequently, district staff averaged approximately 16.4 hours of in-service training. These figures do not reflect the in-service training provided by grant funds from the Technology committee. In the latter program, all staff were provided approximately six hours of release time to work with current software.

Sid Wilson  
Staff Development Coordinator



**TITLE I**

**Pat Hould**

The Lewistown Public Schools  
1997 - '98 Title I Program  
The Year in Review

I must begin by echoing the comments made at the beginning of this report one year ago - the students who receive title I services in the Lewistown Public Schools are in very good hands. The fact remains that the entire staff is positively committed to serving the students of this great district in a caring, nurturing and productive fashion. It is their dedication, their willingness to serve and their attitude that make this such a beneficial and rewarding program and is cause for the title I staff to be applauded.

These outstanding staff members graced our schools and served our students during the 1997 - '98 school year.

Lewis and Clark Elementary

Jackie Rickl

Highland Park Elementary

Leslie Hadden

Dan Melick

Garfield Elementary

Nancy Barber

BPU Manager/District administrator - Pat Hould

Authorized Representative - Stacey Vestal

Junior High School

Harry Fradley

Katherine Spraggins

Michelle Traffon

Jim Hamling

Fergus High School

Mary Jo Hamling

LaRae Acker

Vic Feller

Troy Hudson

1997 - '98 program highlights

The following is a mere sampling of the Title I highlights from the 1997 - '98 school year.

- \* the addition of an in-class model at the Junior high for 8<sup>th</sup> grade language arts - cooperatively taught by Val Snapp and Brenda Heller for two class periods
- \* Nancy Barber was a welcome full time addition to the Garfield staff
- \* Michelle Traffon and Jim Hamling have been a welcome addition to the JHS title I staff
- \* the addition of a cooperatively taught section of 7th grade title I math and basic math, combining the talents of Katherine Spraggins and Chris Rice
- \* reading in the content area class at FHS - cooperatively taught by LaRae Acker & Mike Rae
- \* the parent-student compact continued to be utilized in the fall of 1997
- \* high participation in parent-teacher conferences at the elementary schools
- \* creation of a title I classroom at Lewis and Clark elementary, combining with the special education dept.

The major focus for our program this school year was once again assessment. With the district administering the Stanford Achievement Test at grades 4, 8 & 11, the title I staff continued to face the challenge of qualifying students for service without the use of the SAT scores. While this was indeed a formidable task, it continued to be a very rewarding process for the entire staff.

With the reduction of state funding for title I, each school was left to seek out their building administrator for financial assistance. The school principals of this district are to be acknowledged for their financial and moral support during this tough financial time.

A reflection of less funding was also realized during the winter of 1998 when the annual parent gathering had to be abandoned. The title I staff has generated a plan for re-implementation of this positive endeavor for the 1998 - '99 school term and will acquire funding from each of their building principals in order to cover the necessary expenses.



**SPECIAL EDUCATION**

**Charlie Brown**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM  
JUNE, 1998**

It is important to remember that **individuals with disabilities add richness to our lives** and that through our commitment to serving a diverse population in our schools we create an environment where children not only grow academically but also are more tolerant, compassionate and willing to be inconvenienced for the sake of others. We just finished another outstanding and very challenging year in Special Education. The support we have received from the administrators and the Board has been fantastic. Special education remains a team effort and in all of the Lewistown schools, the primary focus in the Special Education Program of both teachers and administrators is meeting the individual needs of the children.

This past year we served 176 students in all our programs. This number is the same as last year. We are working to meet the needs of children with disabilities falling in 11 of the 13 disability categories.

The following is a list disabilities and the numbers of children served in each of those categories:

<u>Disability Category</u>	96/97	97/98
Autism	1	1
Child with Disabilities (age 0-6)	17	22
Cognitive Delay	7	9
Emotionally Disturbed	11	7
Hearing Impaired	5	6
Learning Disabled	87	93
Multiple Disabilities	1	2
Orthopedic Impaired		6
Other Health Impaired	4	7
Speech/Language Impaired	41	69
Traumatic Brain Injury	1	0
Visually Impaired	1	2

These numbers can be a bit deceiving because some of the Children with disabilities are identified as Speech/Language Impaired and are not actually in our pre-school program. Also there are some children with dual diagnoses such as Speech/Language and Learning Disabled that will show up twice on our count.

**YELLOWSTONE TREATMENT CENTER COMMUNITY HOME:** The greatest challenge for the 97/98 school year was trying to contend with the impact of the Yellowstone Treatment Center Community Home and the development of the Intensive Outpatient Treatment Program. There were some rocky times but I believe we learned from our mistakes and will be stronger next year. The Central Montana Learning Resource Center (CMLRCC) will take over the program which will be housed in a classroom developed out of current CMLRCC office space at Lincoln School. The Cooperative hired Kimberly Butenhoff as a full-time teacher for the



classroom and behavioral consultant to the district. Kimberly has her Masters Degree in Special Education with an emphasis on emotional disturbance and four years experience teaching in a residential treatment center. The costs of the program will be covered by the CMLRCC, State Day Treatment Grants and School District Number One contributions. Our hope is that we can keep the costs to the District at or below the current dollar amounts being spent to educate these children. We will continue to make every effort to effectively include these students in their regular classrooms but now have an alternative for the most severe students when inclusion is impossible. Our hope is to have a continuum of services available that provides alternatives that offer appropriate educational opportunities to all students while effectively supporting the regular classroom teachers.

**MONTANA BEHAVIORAL INITIATIVE:** With support from CMLRCC and the Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD), teams of District #1 teachers and administrators will be able to participate in the MBI Summer Institute in Bozeman. The Institute is designed to encourage a community approach to the behaviorally challenging child. This institute will challenge schools and communities to improve student behavior and responsibility. It is designed to motivate and equip individuals, schools and communities to unite in nurturing competent, caring, and responsible children and adolescents. This will be our third year attending the MBI Summer Institute and remains an exciting opportunity for the staff of School District #1.

Each school has an active MBI team that is working on a school-wide approach to teaching responsibility and managing behavior. Each school continues to look at individual needs and their school-wide plan to address those needs.

**LEWISTOWN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL:** Last year we were monitored by the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) and their greatest concerns were regarding transition services at the high school and our service delivery model at the middle school. To address these issues, the District purchased teacher services from the Coop and used the Mainstream Coordinator one period per day, thereby creating a situation where class sizes were reduced significantly, opportunities for co-teaching were increased, supported inclusion was possible and programs for the students were more individualized. With the addition of a half time staff person transition to and from the middle school was also improved. It is my belief that the changes made were highly successful and provide a foundation to create a great program. There are plans for more co-teaching next year and there is more flexibility than ever to address changing needs as a new seventh grade class comes in.

**GARFIELD SCHOOL:** This year we had a new Special Needs teacher. Lynn Halter more than met the challenges of the program and has been a wonderful addition to the special education staff. She is enthusiastic and brought a new perspective and energy to a very difficult job.

This next year we face similar challenges with Misti Dobesch moving to the regular classroom. Misti has been an outstanding pre-school



teacher for us and will do very well in the regular classroom. I am confident that her replacement will step into a very well established program and find the job far easier because of Misti's outstanding efforts.

Our "special" students need very "special" people to insure that their needs are met. The children identified as having disabilities impact every facet of education. We are constantly challenged to meet the individual needs at all levels with limited resources, limited training, and limited time. Every year the demands on teachers and our resources seem to grow. Our responsibility continues to be to keep the individual needs of the child as top priority. Board support for our endeavors has been outstanding. I give thanks for their compassion for children that need additional care and their willingness to go that extra distance to insure all children receive the best possible education.

Submitted by:  
Charles R. Brown, Director  
Central Montana Learning Resource Center Cooperative

**ADULT EDUCATION  
ABE/EOCM/TRAFFIC EDUCATION**

**Diane Oldenburg**

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION, 1997-98

Diane Oldenburg, Director

The office of Community Education continues to serve an ever-increasing number of Central Montanans with varied and diverse offerings from each of four departments. Please note the attached report for specific enrollment figures.

### ADULT EDUCATION

A comprehensive program of 118 educational, social, recreational and cultural opportunities for adults was offered during the 1997-98 term. Advertising efforts included distributing 8,000 adult education flyers to area households three times per year, as well as advertising to all area businesses through a combined effort with the Lewistown Area Chamber of Commerce.

Classes were held in conjunction with the Tri-County American Red Cross, Edward Jones Company, Montana Department of State Lands, MSU-Fergus County Extension Service, MSU-College of Technology in Great Falls, Pine Meadows Golf Course, Central Montana Medical Center, Fergus County Council on Aging, Linsco Private Ledger, and the Montana Human Rights Network.

In addition to the course offerings for the general public, we provided prearranged group classes where our instructor taught a workshop for specific employees or residents. This was done for computer training, CPR/First Aid certification, and exercise classes.

We also offered a variety of courses for district staff development and PIR purposes, as well as training for area bus drivers and coaches.

I continue to serve as a committee chair on the state board of the Montana Association of Adult and Community Educators. During this school year, I attended the state MAAACE Conference and the state Adult Education Directors' meeting.

### DRIVER EDUCATION

Our Driver Education program provides high quality instruction and excellent hands-on training while teaching important lifetime skills to our students.

We continued to utilize the Montana Advanced Driver Education Facility; the cost to us was extremely low compared to the benefits our students received. All students were given a vision screening prior to any behind-the-wheel experience. The trip to Great Falls was provided as a valuable learning experience in highway and city driving. We also offered private tutoring in manual shift operation upon payment of an additional fee. A new testing program allowed our instructors to waive the state driver's license test for students who qualified in the classroom and on the road.

Class sessions were held once in the fall, winter, and spring, as well as twice during the summer months. Classes continue to operate at full enrollment capacity with waiting lists, despite the higher fee. We did offer installment plans to parents who were unable to pay the \$150 fee in one payment.



## ADULT BASIC EDUCATION/GED PROGRAM

Free classes were offered three days per week, year around, at the Lewistown Public Library. Recruitment of the general population, as well as a strong referral system between area human service agencies, provided a steady stream of clients.

My office administered literacy instruction, adult basic education, GED preparation, and job skills training in Fergus, Judith Basin, Golden Valley and Musselshell Counties. The classes in the three outlying counties were provided as needed. This program continues to be available through the renewal of three different grant funding sources.

Our program was evaluated by a regional team of examiners in March and received an excellent rating, scoring 67 points out of 72.

I attended the state GED Examiners conference held in Helena.

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR CENTRAL MONTANA

A wide variety of college courses were taught by adjunct faculty at Fergus High School along with offerings delivered from campus via interactive-TV to our classroom site at the Central Montana Medical Center. Course work to complete general education core requirements, an associates or bachelors degree in business, an associates or bachelors degree in nursing, as well as Masters level courses for educators were provided locally by MSU-Northern and other units of the Montana university system. Financial aid has also been made available to assist qualified students.

Inasmuch as 88% of our college students are now enrolled with MSU-Northern, an EOCM committee was formed and met with the administration of the university to develop an interagency agreement to assist us with financing the college program. A three-year agreement was reached and will provide approximately \$10,000 per fiscal year to offset salary and operating expenses for EOCM and the school district.

To compliment our college course offerings, a library of catalogs from most post-secondary institutions in Montana are provided for students to check out and peruse.

In addition to our post-secondary offerings, EOCM provided a nine-class series EMT/First Responder continuing education unit which allowed many area people to re-certify locally. This program was held in cooperation with the Central Montana Medical Center and Deaconess Hospital in Billings.

In my role as EOCM director, I also worked with local financial institutions to maintain time payment plans for our college students, administered the EOCM loan program, worked on the first annual Education Unlimited fund-raising benefit, and met with various representatives of the Montana university system throughout the year. I also attended a conference called "Making Connections with Montana's Higher Education Resources".

## OTHER

Representing the Community Education office, I served on the Human Services Coalition, the WoRC Task Force, the Central Montana Job Network, the PIR Committee, the Adult Basic Education Advisory Board, and the Montana Association of Adult and Community Educators State Board. I also serve as a member of the Montana State University Presidential Advisory Council.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION  
1997-98

FALL		<u>ADULT EDUCATION</u> WINTER		SPRING	
Classes offered	45	Classes offered	40	Classes offered	33
Classes held	<u>37</u>	Classes held	<u>38</u>	Classes held	<u>31</u>
Enrollment	<u>530</u>	Enrollment	<u>502</u>	Enrollment	<u>361</u>

TOTAL ADULT EDUCATION PARTICIPANTS: 1,393

		<u>DRIVER EDUCATION</u>		
School Year		Summer 1998		Adult Learner
<u>3</u> sessions	<u>69</u>	<u>2</u> sessions	<u>54</u>	<u>0</u>

TOTAL DRIVER EDUCATION PARTICIPANTS: 123

<u>ADULT BASIC EDUCATION/GED</u>	
ABE/GED Class Enrollment	<u>171</u>
Total GED exams given	<u>44</u>

TOTAL ABE/GED PARTICIPANTS: 215

<u>EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR CENTRAL MONTANA</u>			
FALL SEMESTER		SPRING SEMESTER	
College classes	<u>27</u>	College classes	<u>27</u>
Enrollment	<u>191</u>	Enrollment	<u>203</u>
Number of classes offered:	54	Total enrollment, college:	<u>394</u>
Types/number of classes held:	52	EOCM Loans given:	6 for \$1200.00
COMP.....	4	CHEM/BIOL.....	5
EDUC.....	12	ENGL.....	3
NURS.....	9	HIST.....	5
BUS.....	10	PSYC.....	3
		LEAP.....	1
		GUID.....	2
Adult Student Counseling	<u>23</u>	EMT Continuing Education	<u>236</u>
TOTAL EOCM PARTICIPANTS: <u>653</u>			

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS SERVED BY COMMUNITY EDUCATION, 1997-98: 2,384

## **CURRICULUM**

**John Moffatt**



To: Superintendent Robertson; Board of Trustees  
From: John Moffatt, Curriculum Director  
Re: Annual Curriculum Report

After a most hectic curriculum year in 1996-97, this year saw us concentrate our efforts in one area--technology. Aside from some minor revision of assessment in the art, music, library, and health enhancement areas, almost all of our work this year dealt with the computer curriculum team. Because the district has dedicated its curriculum resources for this year and next to upgrading our technology programs, we did not follow the normal cycle of completing review and revision in a single school term. Rather, working closely with the district's Technology Committee, our goal is to complete the writing of the computer curriculum next year, making sure it is a good fit with the work done by the Technology Committee. One of our challenges is to mesh the curriculum with the materials the district has received (and will continue to receive) through the technology grant. In the past it did little good to write curriculum which could not be taught in the classroom for lack of resources. The grant goes a long way toward changing that. The materials and teacher training the grant provides make it feasible to believe that we will make significant progress in the area of technology over the next few years.

The computer curriculum team has also worked closely with the District Technology Coordinator, Pat Weichel. In fact, Mr. Weichel has been invaluable in explaining the grant, overseeing the wiring of the buildings, and handling the logistics of installing the new computers in the various sites. This has allowed the computer curriculum team to expand the possibilities as they develop grade-level expectations. Currently, we have examined several model documents and have found at least two formats which seem to be acceptable.

Curriculum monies were spent this year in support of the district technology grant. The same will be true next year, and then we will pick up again with our regular curriculum adoption schedule.

I would like to thank the members of the Computer Curriculum Team for their dedication to this project. Especially noteworthy are those members who worked both on the curriculum team and the technology team, as they put in countless hours of service to the district this year. I look forward to working with this group again next year. I believe the Lewistown School District is poised to take a major leap forward with regard to technology, thanks in large measure to the dedication of the technology and computer teams.

**DRUG/ALCOHOL**

**Tim Gillen**



## Lewistown Public Schools

School District Number One  
215 7th Avenue South  
Lewistown, Montana 59457  
(406) 538-8777

TO: Conrad Robertson

FROM: Tim Gillen

RE: Drug/Alcohol Report

DATE: June 17, 1998

The drug/alcohol committee, which is made up of staff from each school, began the year with a focus on Red Ribbon Week. The committee worked hard to plan and develop activities for each school. A real important part of Red Ribbon Week activities is the interaction between high school students and junior high and elementary students. It is hoped that we can continue to expand and develop the "no use" theme in the future.

The drug/alcohol program again received a grant for the 1997-98 school year. As in the past, the majority of the grant money was used to provide a home school coordinator. Maggie Moffatt continued to provide this service. Maggie is a professional counselor who is a resource for students and parents in the Lewistown school system. The home school coordinator focuses on at risk students in grades 6-9.

During the 1997-98 school year the district received an additional grant of \$1100. These monies were used to defray the cost of the canine search. These monies were also used to purchase supplies for the October 1998 Red Ribbon Week activities.

The D.A.R.E. program which stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education was provided to all fifth grade students in our district. This program is sponsored by the Fergus County Sheriff's Office and private donations. D.A.R.E. Officer Bob Clark did an excellent job of developing and instructing the D.A.R.E. classes for 17 weeks during the first semester.

The Health Enhancement Life Performance Skills curriculum committee made a special effort to include in the curriculum additional substance abuse instruction. During Red Ribbon Week classroom teachers used portions of "The Body Shop" material for drug/alcohol information presented to students.



**FOOD SERVICE**

**Donna Larson**

LEWISTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL FOOD SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT  
JUNE 17, 1998

School Food Services served 128,578 lunches during the 1997-98 school year, averaging 714 lunches daily with a 3 % increase over last year. We served 122,252 students and 6,326 adults. Our student lunch counts were up at Highland Park, Garfield, Junior High and Fergus High Schools with F.H.S. showing the largest increase in student lunches of 2,350 over last years count.. I was really pleased with the increase at the high school and felt it was partially due to the increased serving days of pizza hut pizza. If we could count all of our ala carte sandwiches and salads, we would have served over 900 lunches daily.

\*Our ALA CARTE PROGRAM continues to be very successful and definitely helps our lunch program financially to remain within our "tight" budget. Students in the Junior and Senior High Schools enjoy being able to make their own selections of foods they choose to eat. This year our "Pizza Hut" complete lunch (pizza, fresh fruit, vegetables and milk) or an individual serving of pizza was offered as a choice three times weekly and this was very successful. A new a la carte item this year was a large, no-fat pretzel of which we sold about 55 daily. The hot lunch and Salad and Sandwich Combos are offered daily as a choice in these schools. Hamburgers, Hot Ham & Cheese, Hot Dogs and Polish Sausage Combos along with the hot lunch are also served on the days that pizza is not offered. Many other A La Carte items (sandwiches, cookies, chips, crackers, rolls, various nutrigrain bars, nachos, jerky, fruits, ice creams, juices and milk) are also available. As a teaching tool, we again posted a nutritional value chart of the a la carte items. It notes the nutritional value and indicates some of the hidden sugars, fats and salt found in the foods. At the present time, we are not selling a la carte items in the elementary schools. All costs and profits for the a la carte program are reviewed semi-annually and prices are adjusted when necessary.

\*The CATERING PROGRAM served 68 events this past year. up a little from last year. This program also assists us financially and all costs and profits are reviewed continually.

\*ACCU-SCAN continues to be our main meal ticket and a la carte accounting system within the district. All of our machines were sent in to be serviced and cleaned this summer. We continue to review new prices for meals, tickets and ala carte items with the secretaries and cashier-servers and assist them with the implementation of new and existing accounting policies required by state and federal authorities.

\*The BREAKFAST PROGRAM at Garfield Elementary School continues to work out very well with very little assistance from our central kitchen staff and is handled entirely by our Garfield servers. They prepare, serve the meal, watch the children for any possible disciplinary problems (which are very few) and clean up the area when finished. They also keep all participant records and food account records required by USDA for the program. The breakfast menus continue to be planned, printed and analyzed by the Director. It is a very easy program to administer and I continue to encourage all of our other schools to begin a breakfast program. We all know that a hungry child can't learn - there still is a definite need for a breakfast program in Lewistown.

\*Our ELEMENTARY LUNCH PROGRAMS used two "promotional themes" each month and followed several choices of main entre and vegetables each week. One promotional theme emphasized good nutrition through a free promotional item each month. The other promotion was A "Tour Around the United States" emphasizing a different state. A menu was planned using foods from that state and information about foods, recipes and facts were explained on the backs of menus. Our daily menus were again planned following the USDA's "New Menu" which follows the dietary guidelines.



\*Our FOOD SERVICE BUDGET again "barely" remains in the black. We are in desperate need of more money to continue running this program properly. I did purchase a few necessary items for the program this year: a typewriter, calculator and computer inventory program for the Central Kitchen, a calculator for Junior High School and all of the annual purchases of flatware, etc. necessary to run the program. We still need new hot carriers for all of the schools, which are very expensive. Lewis and Clark school needs a new refrigerator and our kitchen equipment is now 20 years old and many items should be replaced. I definitely recommend a 15 cent increase in lunch prices. If you increase the lunch prices 25 cents, this could be too much of an increase and it may cause us to have a drop in lunches, which could hurt us financially. The more lunches you serve, the cheaper the meal becomes.

I feel that the Lewistown Public Schools must again reimburse the school lunch program for adult free earned lunches, which they have not done for about 10 years. If they cannot reimburse them for all of the free lunches, then I feel they should at least reimburse them for part of the free lunches. SCHOOL LUNCH HAS GROWN AND NOW IS PART OF THE SCHOOL DAY. IT IS PART OF THE ENTIRE SCHOOL PROGRAM AND I FEEL THAT THE DISTRICT MUST BE RESPONSIBLE FOR A PORTION OF IT JUST AS IT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ATHLETICS AND OTHER PROGRAMS WITHIN THE DISTRICT. As you look at whose responsibility it is for the cost of the free adult lunches, the school food service is responsible for the care of those children eating a food service lunch. The school district should be responsible for those children bringing lunches from home. The same is true after lunch. The aides and teachers are responsible for the children on the playground or in the school until school begins. The school food service should help reimburse the lunch for teachers caring for the students who ate a food service lunch. However, the school district should be responsible for the after lunch care of students bringing lunches from home and for those returning from home back to school. At Jr. and Sr. High many students who do not eat lunch at school return back to school early for meetings, etc. The care for those students in the school halls is the district's responsibility not School Food Service. Also, the Junior and Senior High Schools now have two lunch hours rather than one because of discipline problems. This has increased the hours for my servers considerably and I feel that we need some financial support here from the district. Therefore, I feel that a portion of the free adult earned lunches is the districts responsibility. This reimbursement along with the increase in lunch prices would definitely help the food service budget.

I recommend that a committee be established to study this situation. The committee could possibly consist of two school board members, superintendent, a principal from an elementary, junior high and high school, one server from Jr. and Sr. High School (as this is where we have an excessive number of adult free earned lunches) along with the school food service director.

The a la carte and catering programs in school lunch are a great help to the budget but much more money is needed. I am also happy to report that my OPI fall bid is about \$1,000 less than last years and hopefully the spring bid will remain at the same level.

\*Our FOOD SERVICE STAFF continues to improve and update their professional growth through classes and seminars and several employees are certified with the American School Food Service Assn. Our staff is very dedicated and they continually strive to provide students and staff with a reasonably priced meal that is nutritious and delicious. I would like to thank all of you for allowing me to be your Food Service Director. It has been "my life" for 20 years and I have enjoyed it immensely. I know I will greatly miss working at the school as well as my contacts with all of you.



## **TRANSPORTATION**

**Steve Klippenes**

ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT  
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT 1997-98

JUNE 16, 1998

During the 1997-98 school year our yellow buses traveled 160,416 miles with out any injuries. The four MCI activity buses travel a total of 58,311 miles also with out any injuries.

The Transportation Department is responsible for the maintenance on 13 yellow buses, 4 MCI activity buses, 5 Drivers Education vehicles, 4 Maintenance Department vehicles, 1 Hot Lunch Van and the Transportation Department pickup and snow - plow.

This year we have a number of new faces in the Transportation Department. First we have Gary Distad who was hired as our mechanic and has done a wonderful job. We also hired Fred Wood as a regular driver on route #8 and Fred did a fine job. We also have a new delivery person and he is Keith Reams and he has done a fine job for us we also trained three new relief drivers.

This year we had two overhead doors installed on the cold storage side of the building to help eliminate the possibility of having someone getting injured trying to open the sliding doors when they are froze down and this year we will have one more installed.

This summer the MAPT State Workshops are in Lewistown and we will be sending our drivers to attend the workshops.

This summer we have several buses to do brake jobs on and several Cummins engines to replace front gear housing gaskets and have a transmission in a yellow bus to reseal, and a lot of work to shop truck.

We are currently writing specifications for two new buses to be purchased later this year.

We had a very good year and I am looking forward to another good year

Steve





BUS #	YEAR	MODEL	START MILAGE	FINISH MILAGE	MILES FOR YEAR
1	1995	BLUEBIRD TC-2000	44440	65536	21096
2	1997	CHEV—BLUEBIRD	8874	23806	14932
3	1992	BLUEBIRD TC-2000	97310	116404	19094
4	1990	BLUEBIRD TC-2000	131201	137643	6442
5	1988	BLUEBIRD TC-2000	132066	132255	249
NEW 5	1998	BLUEBIRD TC-2000	1374	196648	18848
6	1990	BLUEBIRD TC-2000	61866	63974	2082
7	1995	CHEV—BLUEBIRD	40651	55630	14979
8	1997	AMTRAN-GENESIS	9754	28257	18503
9	1986	CHEV—BLUEBIRD	145304	146382	1078
10	1992	BLUEBIRD ALL-AM	97322	115143	17821
11	1990	BLUEBIRD TC-2000	137699	145980	8281
12	1989	BLUEBIRD-ALL-AM	76909	87423	10514
13	1998	BLUEBIRD TC-2000	1374	8468	7071
EAGLE 1	1974	MCI MC-8	190818	209666	18848
EAGLE 2	1981	MCI MC-9	6677	23436	16759
EAGLE 3	1977	MCI MC-8	47299	54051	6752
EAGLE 4	1981	MCI MC-9	4450	20402	15952
Shop truck	1978	CHEV ¾ PICKUP	216983	223177	6194



## **MAINTENANCE**

**Paul Stengel**



## ◇ Maintenance Program Summary

1997-1998

The School District No. 1 Maintenance Department has had another productive year. We have continued our preventive maintenance program. Several minor improvement projects were completed by the maintenance staff. These included window reduction @ Lincoln, handicapped access renovations @ the High School, installation of a new fire alarm system @ JR High, and assisting w/ installation of category 5 computer wiring @ Highland Park, Garfield, Jr High and Lewis & Clark. We also continue to be involved with the Track & Tennis project.

Custodial operations have continued without any changes in scope or procedures. We have experienced three long term absences this year (two of which are continuing) which has caused considerable substituting and juggling of staff. With great cooperation, this has caused little upset of operations. We have also lost 1 half time employee who will be replaced later this summer.

Contracted services continue to be used for numerous repair and maintenance activities, and for major improvement projects. Highlights this year have included:

◇ Sidewalk installation @ Fergus.	- \$5,985
◇ Flooring @ Fergus, JHS & Highland Park.	- \$7,900
◇ New electric service @ HP.	- \$7,800
◇ Facility Review.	- \$22,720
◇ New fire alarm system @ JHS.	- \$8,175
◇ Window reduction @ Lincoln.	- \$8,000
◇ Painting @ elementary buildings.	- \$3,230
◇ Seal coat asphalt @ Fergus & L&C.	- \$5,400
◇ Roofing @ Lincoln.	- \$30,375

Goals for the remainder of the year include:

◇ Seal asphalt @ Fergus.	- \$3,975
◇ Paint Gym @ Fergus.	- \$???
◇ Pave tennis parking lot.	- \$???
◇ Install Cat 5 network @ Fergus.	- EOL
◇ Doorway & Sidewalk installation @ Fergus.	- \$5,985
◇ Re-roof Garfield.	- \$30,000?
◇ Replace flooring @ HP.	- \$???
◇ Replace phone systems @ HP & Jr High.	- \$13,760
◇ Point brick @ Jr High.	- \$13,787
◇ AHERA 3 year re-inspection.	- \$3,860
◇ Install Wireless WAN.	- \$10,845

Future goals include:

- ◇ Maintain budget for maintenance and operations.
- ◇ Continue planning process for District.
- ◇ Complete building and grounds improvements at Fergus.
- ◇ Continue yearly improvements at all elementary sites.
- ◇ Complete installation of playground equipment.

**BUSINESS OFFICE**

**Stacey Vestal**



ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT  
Business Office 1997-98

June 17, 1998

The Lewistown Public Schools Business Office had another busy and productive year.

Areas of achievement and/or improvement include:

- Networked with the Central Montana Learning Resource Center Cooperative.
- Lincoln Building window reduction.
- Established a plan for record retention and fireproof files for the Record Room.
- Increased automation:
  - 1) District copier
  - 2) Upgrading computer system
  - 3) Computer replacement
  - 4) A Risograph TR1510 was obtained through an ASBO grant
- Staff:
  - 1) Weekly staff meetings
  - 2) Participation in pertinent workshops in the area
  - 3) Cross training
  - 4) Departmentalized for greater efficiency

The staff is also involved in correspondence and maintenance of information for:

- Collective Gaining
- Insurance Committee
- Transportation Committee
- EOCM
- Classified Council
- County Superintendent meetings
- All federal projects
- PIR days and workshops
- Developing Board policies
- All school elections
- Sale of surplus property
- All fixed assets and locations

Stacey Vestal, Business Manager, is currently serving as Past President of the Montana Association of School Business Officials.

Stacey Vestal wrote and received a grant from MSBA to establish a Labor Management Team. Lewistown was one of only four sites selected and will hopefully serve as a model for other districts.

The Central Office has established and catalogued a library of audio cassettes and books covering the following areas:

- Dealing with difficult people
- Working together
- Self-esteem
- Career and family
- Managing priorities
- Self-help and self-talk
- Many more on job areas

These are available to any interested staff member and can be checked out.