

Board Members:

Monica Rattling Hawk-President
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Crazy Horse School
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Dear Families,

We've completed the first quarter of the 2023-24 school year and are looking forward to the next few months of good things happening at Crazy Horse School! November is Native American Heritage Month and we have a variety of activities and events being held throughout the entire month. Please check out the flyers on our Facebook page, the Crazy Horse School website, and posters around town that list all of the upcoming events for November. The annual Buffalo Hunt and Harvest will be held **Wednesday, November 8**, beginning at noon at the school and you are all certainly invited to participate in that event.

Mark your calendars for the upcoming events:

- Ms. Amelia Black Bear and the K-5 elementary staff will be hosting the first quarter awards day on Thursday, **November 9**, at 2:00;
- Mr. James Bagwell and the 6-12 middle/high school staff will be having their first quarter awards day on Monday, **November 13**, at 2:00;
- **November 13-17** is American Education Week. Our student council will be hosting a variety of activities and events to recognize this national week;
- Our school powwow will be Friday, **November 17**. School will be dismissed early that day with all buses running right after lunch;
- Thanksgiving Break is Wednesday, **November 22-26**;
- Parent Night is Thursday, **November 30**. Wade McGhee from Native Wellness Institute will be presenting to high school students that afternoon and to the parents that evening. We're looking forward to seeing you there!
- The student wellness room is about finished. The facilities staff completely refurbished the room with new paint and flooring. Additionally, all new equipment has been purchased by the Project AWARE program to provide students and staff with quality equipment to improve their physical health;

What's happening at CHS?

- We're continuing with our Wolakota Wednesday events and working to incorporate more Lakota Lifeways activities. So far, we've offered arts & crafts, hand-games, various sports, movies, sewing, and tipi making to name a few. We want to add storytelling, shawl making, indigenous games and All K-12 students participate in Wolakota Wednesday activities;
- We had a great time at our first (hopefully annual) Halloween Carnival. The costumes were amazing and the kids had a great time. It was terrific seeing so many family members here having fun! Check the website for pictures;
- In preparation for the art show at LNI, the construction students are building cradle boards and art students will be designing them for the competition. We'll try to post pictures of them as they get completed;
- The winter sports conditioning has started and practices will begin on Nov. 20 for girls and 27 for boys;
- Tutoring is being offered afterschool on Monday and Wednesday for elementary students and Tuesday and Thursday for middle/high school students;
- Our new inipi has been built and is ready for ceremonies with our students;
- Keep in mind that Regular board meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month and Financial board meetings are held the last Wednesday of each month. The meetings are scheduled to begin at 5:30 and the public is always invited to attend;

We need your help:

Good attendance at school is an important factor for academic success. Research shows that missing 10% of school negatively affects a child's academic performance. At Crazy Horse School, ten percent is equivalent to 2 days per month or 16 days per year. Missing more than 10%, either excused or unexcused, is considered chronic absenteeism and is cause for alarm. For our first quarter, we averaged 87 students absent each day. Based on the average number of students in each classroom, that is the same as four full classrooms of students being absent per day. If a child misses 10 days of school per year for every year from K-12, he/she has missed the equivalent 1½ years of school. Unfortunately, many students miss more than 10 days per year, so the total number of time missed could be much higher. *We need your help.* It's important your children come to school. If there are issues affecting your child's attendance, please contact Ms. Black Bear, Mr. Bagwell, or Project AWARE or Wanblee Futures grant staff for assistance. We have access to a number of resources to provide support for your child to be successful at school.

Final Notes:

Per the increase in Covid 19 cases, the flu and other illnesses during this time of year, we have reinstated the mask mandate for the students, staff, and visitors at the school. Please be sure to adhere to this requirement during this time. Keeping all of us safe is a top priority.

Lakota Nations Invitational (LNI) is fast approaching and this year's dates are December 12 -16. We are excited to have Crazy Horse School students representing our school in the athletics, academic, fine arts and traditional Lakota lifeways competitions. It will be important for all students to maintain their eligibility to participate in any of the activities. Staff are available to assist with tutoring, attendance, social/emotional wellness and behavioral support. Please contact us if you need anything. Helping and supporting the children we serve is of utmost importance.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding your student, school policies, or issues affecting the school. My door is always open and I look forward to visiting with you. Take care and stay safe.

— Margo