



Tiger Tales 2001 Newsletter

Alumni Assoc. President - Barry Jensen
 Vice President - Katie Jensen
 Treasurer - Bob and Carol Hutchinson

Recording Secretary - Andrea Wade
 Corresponding Secretary - Devota Hutchinson
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Dear Fellow Alumni,

On behalf of the Alumni Association I bid you greetings, a great 2001 and a happy spring. The new year is off to a fast start. The school year is into it's final quarter and track season is off and running, usually a sure sign of spring. Before commenting on this year I must really make some remarks concerning Reunion 2000. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, for making Reunion 2000 a huge success. We continue to get great comments about the amazing attendance and what a great time everyone had. Because all of you took the time and made the effort to come home to your alma mater we had nearly 700 in attendance. What a hot time we had! WOW!! According to the "scientific poll" we took that night, it would indicate that every five years may be the favored time for having the all-class reunions. With that as a guide, you long range planners mark your calendar for 2005. A quick news flash - bids have been let for air conditioning the Community Events Center this summer. Hooray! Accompanying this newsletter is the condensed history of WR School as requested by several alumni. The picture presented to the school from Reunion 2000 looks very nice in its permanent location in the front lobby of the high school.

Each year the Alumni Assc. and the WR School recognize the 50-year graduates at Commencement Exercises. This year we will recognize the class of 1951. I would remind members of the class of '51 to return their RSVP's. This recognition of former class members has met with great favor among the alumni and the community of White River. The alumni Association hosts a reception following graduation exercises in the Janklow room for the 50-year honorees and all are welcome to join in the fellowship.

I want to inform you of two projects that your Alumni Association has undertaken this year. First to establish an archive of yearbooks to be kept in the high school

The very first school in White River was called to order October 14th, by Edith Hight. This was the same year that the community of White River was established here in Mellette Co. Sadie Shives, the County Superintendent of Schools, appointed the first school board from local residents. They were C.P. Anders, Hube Kaiser, and John Hight. Elementary classes were held in small one room buildings around the county. A special election was held during the summer of 1912 and the first White River High School and elementary building was built for \$3265.00. The number of students continued to grow and also the need for upper grade levels. In 1922 the first 3 year accredited class of Georgia Atkinson, Rose Tomisk, and George Keller graduated. WRHS was certified for four year accreditation for the 1924 graduates. After that time the community and the school grew rapidly and in 1936 a brand new WPA project school for K-12 was constructed for \$60,000.00 and still stands today. This school met the needs of the community for more than fifty years with many alterations and additions over the years. The year 1992 provided the school board opportunity to update it's facilities with the help of the US government and today we have a state of the art building complete with the latest in technology.

The Class of 1951 will be honored at Commencement Exercises on Sunday, May 27th, 2001

Clellan "Buzzy" Bechtold
 Edward Chamberlain
 Theresa Chamberlain
 Clara Deiss
 Iona Hix
 Roger Hutchinson
 Francis Krogman
 Margie Pearsall

library. Katie reports that there are several years missing, and we may employ your help in locating past issues. This will be a lasting record and source of information for years to come. The second project will show support for the ongoing education of the young people of this community and the effort of the White River School District by establishing a WR Alumni Assoc. Scholarship. I hope these two projects are favorable with the membership and are worthy of your support. I will keep you informed of our progress.

The Alumni Assoc. continues to ask for your help in keeping the data bank of addresses current.

Best Wishes,

Barry Jensen, Pres. Alumni Assoc.

Joe Rajewich
Donald Strain
Dola Tucker
Dorothy Waack

More funds are sought for White River High School Scholarships:

Laura Patnoe Kirsch Scholarship
Lenore Matthews Scholarship
Nina Ozanne Scholarship
Fred Littau Scholarship
Alumni Association Scholarship

Dear Alumni,

As I sit here contemplating the past school year and the near future of the White River School District, a million thoughts go through my head. Let's first get an understanding that when I refer to "school year," I'm talking about July 1st thru June 30th of each year.

The year started out with the approval of a Master Facility Plan. This plan consisted of an upgrade to all of the district's facilities to ensure a safe learning and teaching environment. This first phase of the plan included fixing the roof problems on the new high school, air conditioning the Community Events Center gym; a major renovation of the Norris elementary school, addressing all handicap and fire-code issues and adding a new kitchen, bathrooms, and lunchroom. This phase will also upgrade the HAVC system with a new heating and air-conditioning system in all rooms, plus three additional classrooms. all aspects of Phase One are on target and should be completed by Oct. of 2001. The board will be in the process of continuous evaluation of the Master Facility Plan, our facilities should not need major attention for the next twenty to twenty-five years. There are a few school districts in our state that will be as fortunate.

Academics are always the number one concern of the White River School System. With the start of this year we made a commitment to raising our standardized test scores, and set realistic goals for the year. Our first goal was to bring the grades five and nine writing scores (which are tested in the fall) up and move up from the bottom 25% of schools tested in South Dakota. The students rose to the occasion by meeting that goal. The ninth grade students far outdistanced the score targeted by school administrators by moving to the 67th percentile statewide. The big measure will be the SAT 9 test, which is taken in the spring. The SAT 9 test is taken by students in the second, fourth, eighth and eleventh grades.

Another exciting development in the academic area is the beginning of the White River Alternative School. The main goal for this program is to allow students who have not been successful in the traditional school setting to be afforded an opportunity to gain credit and secure a high school diploma. There is an additional piece in the Alternative School program, which is the career component. The students in the Alternative School must explore all aspects of career choice, and they must be employed while attending school.

Also new this year is the Cisco Academy. White River was chosen as one of sixteen pilot sites in the state to participate in this program. the academy consists of a two year online course, which teaches students the world of computer networking. The district has three instructors trained in the Cisco Academy who administer the course. Once the students successfully complete the course work and the required exams, they will have the opportunity to enter into the world of work at starting salaries far exceeding a traditional four-year college program. If the students choose, they can also further their computer skills in many post secondary programs.

As you know, extra-curricular activities is another vital area in the school's overall picture. I would like to thank Channel 7Teen and their advisor, Katie Jensen, for coverage and endless hours of work broadcasting and reporting the activities to the community. A few of this years highlights include: Cross Country had a very successful season with the boys finishing 3rd in the Region and bringing home 7th place from State "B" meet. The girls team won the Region championship with Janet Strain taking first place and Bobbi Jo Moreno second. The girls finished 13th at State. Homecoming queen was Heidi Krogman and king was Jarrod Dunham. The one-act play went back to state to defend it's championship, but finished second. In the play cast were: Adam Calhoon, Joanna Calhoon, Alex Heinert, Paul Heinert, Janet Strain, Melissa Lyon, Jaime Lyon, John Egleston, Calvin Krogman, Shelsey Hight, Hilary Krogman, Robert Hampton, Ryan Collins, and Heath Hill. Direction was provided by Joan Kerns. The volleyball team had the most success of all activities this year. They were Conference champions. Jodie Hockett, Heidi Krogman, Kylee Krogman, Loni Bierema, and Jacki Stroup made all conference. The girls won the district, the region and took home 7th place from the State Meet. Jodie Hockett was named to the All Tourney Team. Their coaches were Cella Hermsen and Deb Zens. The FCCLA is having a great year. They won the District competition and qualified over 45 boys and girls for state. Their teacher is Tracy Tucker.

Respectfully yours,

Mike Stroup , CEO WR School District 47-1