

A “FUN”DRAISING COMMUNITY

Zip lines, tire swings, a climbing wall and spinner seats have the students at Britton-Hecla anticipating recess each day.

A project that began merely as an idea, evolved into a plan and “we can do this!” was the resounding chorus heard in the hallways. After much investigation, a price tag of about \$200,000 was finalized and with the school board’s support, the B-H Elementary school began fundraising.

A kickoff fundraising event was held at the first football game



with elementary staff baking bars and flipping burgers. The fundraiser didn’t put a dent into the amount they had to raise, but it boosted confidence and more planning ensued.

B-H Elementary Principal Kyla Richter said the recurrent theme in the minds of school staff and community members was “Britton, and the surrounding area, are such generous, prideful communities; you will not have a problem raising these funds in a short amount of time.”

“This turned out to be the case, and after several large donations, our fundraising efforts that were expected to last five years, took two years to complete!” Richter said of the project. “One piece of lasting advice from a prominent member of the community was to ‘passionately believe in your project and the money will follow.’”

That truth was evident in the project, which replaced outdated playground equipment, and the passion of the district and community to make Britton-Hecla Elementary, not only exciting on the playground, but fun and challenging in the classroom, as well.

“The school staff and other volunteers worked very hard to make our playground a safe place for us to play and have adventures!” Britton-Hecla sixth grader Paige Assarsson said excitedly.

STUDENTS CONNECT WITH NEW TECH

Technology is an exciting tool that can enhance classrooms and learning experiences.

One piece of technology Britton-Hecla High School has been lucky to have this year is a 3D printer. Engineering and Design Instructor Jennifer Carlson and CAD Teacher Travis Santistevan were trained on the printer and teach classes that can use the printer.

As part of the learning process, the 3D printer has been used to make various small items, such as a small hammer, a comb and a sign for a door. In both classes students will have the opportunity to use the 3D printer in their second semester classwork.

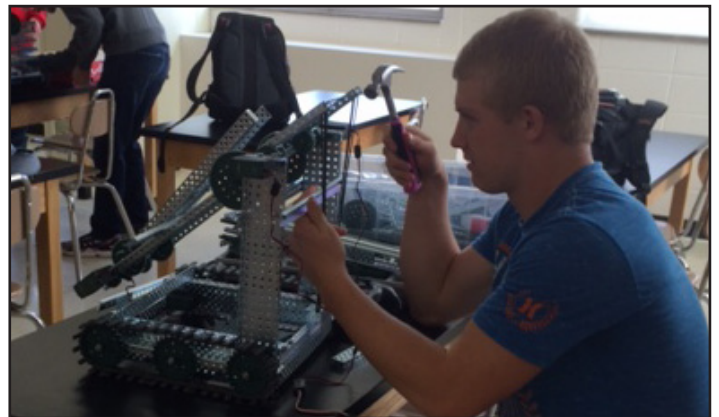
“The 3D printer is an amazing piece of technology that has and will help enhance students understanding of 3D modeling and design,” Santistevan said.

Britton-Hecla High School has also utilized technology in the robotics class.

Students are working in teams of three to build robots, using their own plan, parts provided from a starter kit (they can order more and different parts as they build) and their own building skills to create their own effective design, which they feel will best meet the requirements.

They must connect, program and remotely operate the robot to perform tasks. Student designed robots must be able to pick up an 8 inch cube to a height of 48 inches and be able to stack cups to create a tower. They must also be able to run autonomously and stack cubes on poles of varying heights.

Students will take their completed robots to competition to see how their bots perform in comparison to other students from area



schools. The robots have to meet the size requirement of being able to fit in an 18x18x18 inch box before they are allowed into competition and must perform certain tasks, such as moving remotely, telescoping and being able to lift and carry an item.

Building the robots has provided students a new outlet to think creatively, using their own problem solving skills and using technology to be successful as a team.

“I like the hands-on experience I get building a robot with my team. We can build something one week and then decide there is a better way to build it for a specific function. Then we take the robot apart and improve it,” Senior Aimee Allcock said about her experience with the robots.

“By competition time our robots will look nothing like they did the first month of school.”