

Chalk on the Blackboard

By Liane Rakow Stout

Spring greetings to everyone from the Historic 1916 Buffalo High School located at 303 Pearl Street, Buffalo, North Dakota; just three miles north of I-94 at exit 314. The school became the property of the Buffalo Historical Society, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization in 2001 when it was listed on the National Register of Historic Properties.

After a long winter season we are ready to welcome spring, and that means we have been very busy at the school. In February we began working on a project to sort and organize boxes and totes of historic documents, school memorabilia, newspapers, photographs, and so much more. We are making excellent progress thanks to the professional assistance of Allison Veselka who is a curator at the Barnes County Museum. We are creating displays which will be part of a special Salute to Veterans on Memorial Day.

We are happy to announce the Olde School Gift Shoppe is ready for spring. On Sunday, April 10, we will officially open the doors of the school for the first time this year. Stop and shop and enjoy a cup of coffee with us from 10 am to 2 pm. The Shoppe has had significant changes during the past month including the addition of several display shelves which have been cleaned, painted and repurposed. This allowed us to change merchandise and add the pastel colors of spring. We also found lots and lots of bunny rabbits in all shapes and sizes; soft and cuddly, ceramic and wood, porcelain and glass; and of course, they all need new homes.

We are asking you to please excuse the mess during our current construction project in the basement of the school. After being postponed due to weather and contractor schedules, we started work last week. Old tiles and layers of concrete have been removed from the large west room; and drain tile, pea rock and new concrete will be installed. We are grateful to have this project partially funded by the State Historical Society through the Certified Local Government grant program.

The school is also making plans to be open Sunday, May 1, when we will celebrate May Day and offer an assortment of succulent plants in vintage teacups and old school coffee cups for sale. These hardy plants are beautiful, easy to care for and make excellent gifts. Your support will help us fund our ongoing projects.

We are looking forward to seeing you again at the Historic 1916 Buffalo High School. For more information about our activities, events and projects, please contact me at 701-412-4485, like us on Facebook or visit our website at www.buffalond.com.

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