

Mapleton Schools



NIKE AWARDS MAPLETON HIGH \$25K GRANT

Funds support college prep training

By JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

Mapleton High School Principal Brenda Moyer was recently informed that the Nike School Innovation Fund had approved a \$25,877 grant to allow eight of Mapleton's nine high school teachers to attend the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) training session in Denver, Co., July 23 to 25.

Nike made AVID grants available to up to 50 Oregon schools.

"I don't know how many high schools applied," Moyer said, "but we were thrilled to be selected."

The ninth teacher won't be left behind. Moyer said the district would use federal Title funds made available through the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to cover the costs.

"It is a very intense three-day conference with big sessions and breakout sessions," Moyer said. "Our math teachers will be in different sessions than our language arts instructors. They do curriculum focus. To be able to meet up with other teachers from across the country within the same curriculum is energizing. The networking is unbelievable."

AVID is a one-time training program. When new teachers are hired, if the district can't afford to send them to training, they are trained in house.

"AVID is designed to promote students who are at a higher risk for not going to college — to give those students the support and instruction they need to get to college," Moyer explained.

"It helps to bridge the achievement gap between wealthier schools and those that have a higher poverty level," Moyer continued.

"For example, note-taking. If we can have consistency between all the teachers in note-taking, when the kids get out of high school, they will be able to take proper notes during college lectures," she said.

In addition to college preparedness training, AVID has a post-graduation readiness component for students who do not plan to attend college. The program helps students be workforce ready with instructions in preparing resumes and how to gain skill sets.

Moyer said another component of AVID is parent outreach.

"The whole college application process can be daunting," she said. "We help parents to support their kids. We make the parents a part of the process."

Mapleton Elementary School has been involved in the AVID program for three years. It was funded through Title funds.

"We will be doing the program in grades seven through 12 next year, so next year we are going to be K-12 AVID," Moyer said.

In addition to covering the cost of attending the AVID training, the grant earmarked more than \$10,000 worth of additional AVID expenses, including district director training, data analysis training and the acquisition of an AVID library.

Mapleton School District Business Manager Maria McEldowney worked with Moyer to write the grant.



Mapleton Elementary Students heard presentations from staff about the various college and career choices available to them when they graduate high school. These presentations included two- and four-year colleges, technical schools, job-specific training and a variety of jobs available right after high school. Students then set a goal for what they wanted to do after they graduate high school. Each student created a college pennant indicating what school they want to attend. These pennants were hung in the gym during a March Madness celebration. We then had a Family Game Night, during which students could share their goals and dreams with their families. Families that attended also got to play board games and enjoyed a healthy snack. It was a great family-centered event. —Submitted by Jodi O'Mara

BOOK REVIEW

Snake & Lizard

By KEVIN HOLLOWAY
Mapleton Student

"Snake and Lizard" is an animal story that a third or fourth grader might like.

Snake and Lizard become best friends in this book. At the beginning, they were mean to each other. They argued

about manners, like table manners, and said bad things to each other.

But when they started to get food together, they were a little bit nicer. They started to agree sometimes. They started planning things out together. So eventually they became better friends.

The setting of this story is in a desert in current day times. You know it is in the desert because they talked about the desert floor and seeing cactus. You know it is current times because there are cars.

This book also has pictures. They show birds, snakes,

lizard, rabbits and other desert animals. In the pictures, the animals have faces with emotions like scared, annoyed, tired or happy.

This book was written by Joy Cowley and illustrated by Gavin Bishop. You can get it at the Siuslaw Public Library in the kids' section.

SUBMISSIONS WELCOME

Be a part of School Zone, a newsletter about the Siuslaw and Mapleton school districts.

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of every month.

Call or email Siuslaw News Editor Ryan Cronk at 541-902-3520 or editor@thesiuslawnews.com.

Look for ... KID SCOOP

Kid Scoop runs every Wednesday during the school year in the Siuslaw News and features educational stories and fun activities for families.

The activity page is part of the Siuslaw News' Newspapers In Education program, in which teachers from Siuslaw and Mapleton school districts may request copies of the local paper to use as curriculum in their classroom. Call 541-997-3441 for more info.

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