

# Preschoolers set for round-up

Students in the Dragonfly Class of the Community School Preschool, run by Sisters Park & Recreation District (SPRD), are looking forward to the kindergarten round-up at Sisters Elementary School (SES) on Friday, April 24.

The preschool has been located in two classrooms at SES for the last two years. The preschool is divided into two groups: the grasshoppers (students aged 3 to 4) and the dragonflies (aged 4 to 5). Many of the 2014-15 dragonflies will be the first group of students to spend their first two years of preschool at SES.

The certified preschool program is directed by Valerie Selig and assisted by Carissa Gascon along with two additional teaching assistants (a combined 32 years teaching experience).

"Having the program based at the elementary school has been incredible for the preschool because we get to work side by side with the kindergarten teachers," says Gascon. "We are able to align our curriculum to ensure our students and parents are as prepared as possible as they enter their first year as an official Sisters Elementary School 'Outlaw.'"

"This has been a great learning opportunity for my son, Frankie, as well as a chance to expose him to the elementary school," says Erin Borla, whose son has participated in the preschool for the past two years. "He is excited every day to go to 'school' and is VERY excited for kindergarten. He has learned and grown so much during his two years at the Community School Preschool. It's been a gift to have him already exposed to the elementary school — he is comfortable with simple things like where the bathrooms are located and how to behave in the



PHOTO PROVIDED

Preschool students enjoying some imagination play.

hallways; there is virtually no fear of becoming a kindergartner. I am more comfortable as a parent because I feel like I have had the opportunity to meet office staff, learn school policies, meet other parents and generally feel like a part of the Sisters Elementary School community."

Along with daily structured activities including Macarena math, creative science programs, art projects, and number and letter recognition, preschool is a perfect time for play. The students work on social skills, behavior with their peer group and general fun activities. The Community School Preschool also partners with SMART (Start Making A Reader Today), has a weekly music program, and additional enrichment activities including learning German, Hawaiian, and hula dancing.

"Involving parents early in the school experience is something we are very proud of here," says Selig. "Our preschool students and their

parents have access to school activities like citizenship awards for students, assemblies, even the free lunch program. These are all great ways to introduce families to the Sisters School District. We believe involved parents allow for a better opportunity for student success, and we are glad to open the door to such involvement."

Parents can register their son or daughter for the Community School Preschool for the 2015/2016 school year at the SPRD office located at 1750 McKinney Butte Rd. Class sizes are held to 20; and it is a first-come/first-served enrollment. Enrollment will continue until both classes are full. For more information please visit [www.SistersRecreation.com](http://www.SistersRecreation.com) or call 541-549-2091.

Families with kindergarten-aged students should call Mel Petterson at the Sisters School District office, 541-549-8521, to register for the kindergarten round-up on Friday, April 24.

## Driving the ball...



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Anja Gnos had two hits against Sutherlin last week. The Lady Outlaws softball program is rebuilding this year.

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