

# Camp Sherman students spruce up their backyard

By Diane Goble  
Correspondent

The summer influx of visitors has begun, as anyone who waited to drive across Highway 20 at Barclay Drive this past week noticed. The students at Black Butte School (BBS) were doing their part on Friday to tidy up the trails around Camp Sherman to welcome visitors to one of the busiest weekends of the season.

Teachers Stephanie Blakelock and Ethan Barrons assembled the raking brigade of 24 students and four community volunteers, Magda and Pete Schay, Karen and Jon Sheldahl, in front of the schoolhouse to give them their assignments and raking instructions. Their plan of action was to clear the pine needles, cones and branches that have accumulated on the trails over the winter.

Barrons took his upper-graders from the schoolhouse to the community center, while Blakelock took her lower-graders and a couple of upper-graders along the path down to the bridge in front of the Camp Sherman Store & Fly Shop, which was already

bustling with early-arriving visitors.

Residents beeped their horns and waved to the kids as they drove by, thanking them for their community service. Holiday visitors in their RVs, who were already lining up on the road waiting to be able to get into the RV park, cheered them on.

“This is an annual event BBS does before Memorial Day weekend to give back to the community,” Barrons said.

Among the many lively conversations the children had as they diligently raked the path concerned the concept of paying it forward and doing random acts of kindness, which Blakelock has instilled in her students all year.

“It’s like you do something without being asked to do it.” Jaxson Chase said.

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— Jaxson Chase

They realized this community service project wasn’t just about raking pine needles, but about giving back to the community that supports their education.

“I hope they carry this practice forward into the rest of their lives,” Blakelock said.

As Blakelock’s group raked, they also talked about where in the world they wanted to visit (“Paris and Tokyo,” Shelby Gould said), debated whether God controls the weather and whether the earth is alive, and speculated about whether Harry Potter really died in the end. Topics changed rapidly and randomly.

Magda Shay, who said she was “impressed with the children’s good manners and politeness and how well they paid attention to Stephanie,” paid it forward again by stopping in at the Camp Sherman Store and gathering popsicle treats for all the kiddos. When they all got back together at the playground, they were excited to share their experiences and gave a cheer for BBS. The teachers and adult volunteers thanked the students for their acts of kindness.



PHOTO BY DIANE GOBLE

Black Butte School paid it forward with some community service.

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