

SCHOOL: Kids get to meet teachers in low-pressure situation

Continued from page 1

Selah Sanford, a 6-year-old first-grader, couldn't contain her excitement. Standing beside her father, James Sanford, Selah jumped up and down in her new classroom.

"I'm so excited about school," she exclaimed. "I'm looking forward to seeing all my friends, and doing math."

Dad just smiled at the display of enthusiasm, happy for his daughter's attitude about school.

Teegan Welsh, 8, was less demonstrative but also pumped up about the coming

year. She'll be in third grade this year, and it will be her first time in a public school after recently moving from Beaverton.

Part of the attraction of entering Sisters Elementary School is the number of children who will be in her class. Twenty-eight students are slated to study under Kirk Albertson — 19 more classmates than Teegan has ever had before.

It also will be the first time Teegan and her mother, Shawn Steele — a teacher — will be separated for the school year. Before, they were in the same private school, but Shawn has found a job at Black Butte School this fall so the two will split up.

That didn't worry Teegan

on Thursday as she buckled down to the task of filling her cubby with supplies.

Finding her name on the wooden space was a victory in itself.

"Yay!" Teegan cried. "Someone finally spelled my name right."

As the socializing continued throughout the building, Principal Stoughton tried to meet as many parents and students as possible. She said the Stop and Drop afternoon helps teachers as well as students because it gives them a chance to get organized before the first real day of class.

"We allow them to bring supplies so they don't have to bring a big backpack the first day," Stoughton said.

Sisters Elementary ended the last academic year with about 332 students, she said. Stoughton and office staff will spend the first week or two of school adjusting enrollment figures, finding out who's new and who didn't come back after attending last year.

Stoughton doesn't monitor the enrollment figures simply because the state allocates funding based on head counts. Instead, she wants to know what happened to those whose children won't be coming back this year.

"We're about family here," she said.



PHOTO BY STEVE KADEL

Abigail Duda, 7, was ready for business last week after finding her desk at Sisters Elementary School.

Sprucing up...



PHOTO COURTESY BILL ANTILA

Sisters VFW Post 8138 Commander Bill Anttila and Trustee Wendell Halterman stained the Sisters School District No. 6 sign on August 25. The VFW stained the sign as it honors a member of the Aylor family. Becky Aylor has supported the Sisters VFW activities at the Middle School continuously since being employed at the District.



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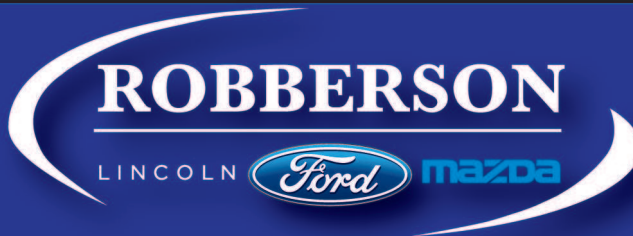
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