

BUTTERFLY: Students will continue monarch study

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released two monarchs — Hope and Journey. Each of the monarchs had been tagged with small stickers. 55 days later Werts received a phone call — Journey had been found in Carpinteria, California — an astounding 800-mile journey from his home in Sisters, Oregon. In fact, his migration was the longest on record for a western monarch.

Journey's journey was a remarkable one; Sisters Middle School is now included in scientific studies and included on several blogs across the country and the world, as far away as New Zealand.

With all the attention Journey was receiving, a book was developed — and it's the first book published on the western monarch.

"This truly was a community effort," Werts told middle school students in an all-school assembly last Friday. "It takes a village."

Each book includes chapters written by Sisters Middle School students, art from local students and scientific information from community partners.

"Forty-two classmates told Journey's story; they were writers and illustrators," said Werts. "It's a story of Journey's flight — where he may have gone; near Mt. Shasta, avoiding a car accident, predators and even a friend in a hummingbird."

"It was incredible working with the students," said Jean Russell Nave, a local author who contributed to the book and helped the students draft their chapters. "This thing (story) turns into something that lives and breathes. Without the kids the story wouldn't have the magic."

In addition to simply learning about the monarchs, this hands-on project helped teach students about writing, illustrating and publishing.

"It was fun learning something interesting about an animal," said Teegan Haas, an eighth-grader. "It's amazing that something so small, like an insect, can go a long way."

Others enjoyed the opportunity to work with other students on this project.

"I liked getting to hang out in class with my friends and getting to do something that means something to other people," said sixth-grader Chloe Frazee. "I didn't realize how big of a deal this was. I mean, we're in a blog in New Zealand!"



PHOTO BY SUE ANDERSON

Students at Sisters Middle School have turned the study of monarch butterflies into an interdisciplinary endeavor.

Journey's Flight — One Western Monarch's Record-Setting Migration is available locally at Paulina Springs Books. Proceeds will help maintain the

monarch program at the school. For more information about the monarch waystation and the overall project, visit www.sms.ssd6.org/butterflyproject.

BOOK: Proceeds will benefit SMS butterfly program

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Friends of the Sisters Library; artist Dan Rickards; Ray's Food Place; Western Title and Escrow; and The Roundhouse Foundation. Many of these supporters attended the celebration, some driving great distances.

As a crowning event to the party, Werts tagged one last female monarch, supplied by Southern Oregon Monarch Advocates, and with all watching, released it into the warm sunshine outside the Chamber building. Cheers followed its flight, and Bend TV station KTVZ recorded the lift-off.

That's not the end of the

story. Werts and her students will continue this exciting and fulfilling conservation education program. In Werts' words, "We have expanded our understanding and spawned a realization born of Journey's flight that together, collaboratively, we can make a difference. In keeping with Journey's triumphant legacy, we are elevated — and we are soaring in our commitment to preserve and protect other species for the greater good of our precious planet."

The book is available at Paulina Springs Books for \$16.95, which will keep Journey alive for many, many years to come. It is also available on Amazon. The project website is: <http://sms.ssd6.org/butterflyproject/> All profits from the sales go to Sisters Middle School's butterfly project.

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