



PHOTO BY KATHRYN GODSIFF

Fifth-grader Audrie Niemann of Sisters working on her new hand-written letter, along with other students at Black Butte School.

Hand-written letters connect students

By Kathryn Godsiff
Correspondent

The delight of crafting and receiving hand-written letters is alive and well at the Black Butte School in Camp Sherman. Fourth- through eighth-graders in Delaney Sharp's class are involved in "Yo Ghana!," a letter-writing program linking Pacific Northwest students with their peers in Ghana.

Three times a year the students use class time to write letters from one to several pages long. The finished letters need to present nicely, which means several edits and re-writes are required. Art in the margin is encouraged, and each student's voice comes through in the way they choose to form their letter.

Recently, an excerpt from fifth-grader Audrie Niemann's letter to her last-year's pen pal was included in Yo Ghana!'s first-ever anthology, titled "Transformations." She read her letter to a gathering in Portland on September 23 to celebrate the publication of the book. Audrie was in fourth grade when she penned the letter that included the lines "...I'm so sorry you lost your dad. My heart would be shattered."

Empathy such as this is what Sharp is hoping to develop through participation in the program.

"A lot of these kids haven't been exposed to other cultures," he said. "It's important to get students to connect with the bigger world, to connect as humans and realize how much they have in common."

Makiha Vance had a pen pal named Ronnie for three years. When asked what he liked most about writing to Ronnie, Makiha said discovering how similar they were. They liked similar foods, did the same chores and found that their schools weren't all

that different.

This year the students will all gain new pen pals. So each letter begins with "Dear Future Friend" or "Dear New Friend." The letters go on to share snippets of the students' lives and interests and ask questions about the things their new friends do.

Sharp met the co-founder of the program, David Peterson, before coming to Camp Sherman. He was inspired by the philosophy of Yo Ghana! and also found it an ideal project to adapt to the wide range of ages of Black Butte School students. There are currently 34 students enrolled in the two-classroom school.

Audrie said, "I really like to write letters," and found that reading her letter aloud at the launch of the book was much more intimidating than sharing her thoughts with a stranger. A stranger who will soon become a new friend.

Volleyball team sweeps opponents

By Rongi Yost
Correspondent

The Lady Outlaws dominated league foes on the hardwood last week. Strong serves and multiple aces were the key to both victories.

Sisters started the week with a sweep over the Falcons at Elmira on Tuesday, September 26, and at home two days later they recorded a sweep against Junction City (JC).

Hawley Harrer played big in the Outlaws' 25-7, 25-11, 25-16, win over the Falcons on Tuesday. Harrer led the squad with 12 kills, 10 assists, and six aces. Ashlynn Cantwell contributed seven kills, and had three serving aces. The Outlaws tallied 10 aces.

Coach Rory Rush said, "We played well as a team, and had a great serving night. We had an opportunity to change up some of our rotations, and it was nice to see consistency on the floor at all times."

Two days later, Sisters posted scores of 25-4, 25-14, and 25-21, in their quick victory over the Tigers.

Harrer sparked the team in the first set with a 14-point serving run. When Hawley stepped up to the service line, the Outlaws held a 5-2 advantage, and when she finished the Outlaws were up 19-3. Sam Silva served the next four points to make it game point. Sisters took the first set, 25-4, on a JC service error.

The second set was much the same, with serving runs from Kendra Sitz (five points), Jessie Brigham



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Hawley Harrer makes a dig in Sisters volleyball action.

(four points), and Harrer (five points).

In the final set, the Outlaws were able to give Harrer a rest, and Cassidy Ling-Scott and Ellie Rush shared the setting duties. The Outlaws did a great job, and held off a late serving run from the Tigers' libero, as they brought the game to within three points.

Erynn Ricker and Sydney Head commented on the Lady Outlaws' play and what's ahead for the stellar squad.

"Tonight, we started strong, and played well as a team," said Ricker. "Every game we continue to grow on and off the court. I'm excited for what's to come in our next few games ahead."

Head said, "The start to league has gone really well, and we are looking forward to a strong finish. Our chemistry is growing, and we're excited for what's to come."

Harrer led the squad with 11 kills, 12 assists, and seven aces. Cantwell had nine kills, and Sam Silva added five.

Erynn Ricker contributed five kills, and also had three blocks in the contest. Ling-Scott recorded six kills and six assists. The team tallied a total of 13 aces.

“ We controlled the entire match, and were able to get everyone involved in the action. — Coach Rory Rush ”

Rush said, "Tonight we stepped on the floor wanting to play our game from start to finish. We wanted to execute and attack the ball on offense, while maintaining our intensity throughout the match. We controlled the entire match, and were able to get everyone involved in the action."

The Outlaws were to play at Cottage Grove on Tuesday, October 3. Sisters will play at home against Sutherlin on Thursday.



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Mark your calendar for... Author Presentations

Friday • 10/6 • 6:30 PM


Sisters Crossing: Tall Tales from a Small Town Local author Bob Collins has written a fun murder mystery novel set in Sisters. In a small town everyone knows everyone else and there are no secrets... or are there? In Sisters Crossing: Tall Tales from a Small Town there is forbidden love, madness, and a murder. The mystery of a serial killer is revealed as the small-town characters tell their own stories in lyrical prose. Small-town secrets are disclosed. Come join us to learn of the secrets!

Bob Collins

Saturday • 10/21 • 6:30 PM

Wendy Crisp Lestina

A Bit of Earth After 40 years of living away in various towns and cities around the US, Wendy Crisp Lestina inherits her family's farm and finds herself living on the northern California coast. For the last 15 years she has written a weekly newspaper column for the *Ferndale Enterprise*. A Bit of Earth, her memoir, includes many of these humorous and personal essays. Wendy shares her journey of paths and choices made with a remarkable openness and bravery. There's never a predictable moment as Wendy explores, returning to her ancestral home having lived a full life.



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