

OPEN HOUSE: Mentoring program has a new headquarters in Sisters

Continued from page 3

stop in to eat, play, learn and most importantly belong,” said Executive Director Nicky Merritt. “We are so fortunate to have both the opportunity to lease this building as well as the opportunity to work toward purchasing it and make it our permanent home in Sisters.”

Since August Kellie Scholl, program coordinator, has introduced several new programs to the mentored kids.

The large yard outside the clubhouse allowed a volunteer to come and teach wilderness survival to very eager outdoors kids. Another volunteer, Jennifer Horrocks, is teaching yoga once a week in the activity room.

Merritt said, “The kitchen is often filled with kids learning to cook, and our art room overflows with kids giggling

over slime making and growing germs in our STEM workshops.”

Slime is the jazzier version or cousin of Play-Doh or Silly Putty.

The organization has begun providing special programming and space for their growing group of teenagers.

Merritt noted, “We offer homework club every Wednesday 3:30 to 5 p.m. We have professional tutors and retired teachers volunteering their talents to help our youth and any youth in Sisters that need academic support. In addition to Homework Club we offer teen-only movie nights and game nights.”

The programming is intentional and focused on helping children build tools for resilience. Mentors and staff are trained to emphasize core assets (rather than focusing on problems), including: belonging, finding your spark, growth mindset, hope, perseverance/grit, positive relationship building, problem-solving, self-determination &

self-management.

Sisters resident Annette Ehrenstrom, a mentor since September who volunteered the slime-making class in December, was on hand at the open house.

“We love the new clubhouse,” Ehrenstrom said. “My 9-year-old mentee and I come here on Mondays after school for activities.”

Carol Zosel of ZoselHarper Realtors recently took the reins as board chair for the organization.

“It’s an honor to launch into 2019 at Circle of Friends with a strong, committed board,” Zosel said. “It feeds my spirit to work alongside this extraordinary group of people committed to raising the funds and resources necessary to support our risk children and discover their passions and potential.”

She added, “We are extremely fortunate to have two committed people leading this effort. Nicky Merritt and Kellie Scholl share a desire and vision that aligns with the mission and vision



PHOTO BY JODI SCHNEIDER

Yoga was one of the activities during the Circle of Friends open house held last weekend at the mentorship program’s new headquarters in Sisters.

of this organization. This year will be a ‘tipping point’ for Circle of Friends, as we have been gifted with the opportunity to purchase the clubhouse that maximizes what we are able to provide. We are grateful for the support we’ve received from this remarkable rural community that has time and time again shown the importance of supporting our children.”

Circle of Friends is thrilled to have an anonymous donor that has offered a kickoff matching donation of \$25,000.

“In order for us to receive the match we will need to raise \$25,000 by April 15. We hope that the Sisters community feels as passionately as we do about Circle of Friends and will help us meet this first goal in our capital campaign,” said Merritt.

Submissions are being accepted for The Nugget’s February kids’ page themed...

“WHAT I LOVE ABOUT WINTER IN SISTERS”

Original poems, artwork, photographs, short essays, etc. created by children and students through 12th grade may be submitted by email to jess@nuggetnews.com or in person at The Nugget office, 442 E. Main Ave., 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Due to space limitations, publication of submissions is not guaranteed. Preference will be given to submissions that adhere to the theme. We seek to showcase a wide range of ages, styles, and abilities that represent the diverse talents of the youth of our greater Sisters community.



KIDS IN PRINT

The Nugget is creating a new place for Sisters youth to showcase their creative work. This monthly feature will be a must-read for Sisters-area kids and families! In addition to kid-generated content, look for puzzles & games, events for families, and more.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH & FAMILIES (More events on page 12)
Discover Nature Day: Winter Survival Join the Children’s Forest of Central Oregon and Wildheart Nature School in the snow and learn essential survival skills. Ages 6-12 with family. FREE! Sat., Jan. 26, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Info: childrensforestco.org, 541-728-3409.

L N E G S T S J O S U O E Z C
L X I C V N V E N H U D H Z N
A P Z Y A V O O V I E Q L G U
B Y B H S L W W E O I I N E V
W Y E X N B P A S K L I X R A
O M M D O Q J E H H Z G Z P G
N Q E A W F G K R E O W P M L
S L R A F E Q F E I U E P I I
S D M K L E A R M U F F S T J
C I K R A A F C V R S K I T U
M D S A K F A D O E I N A E B
W M J P E X M Z G Q V W W N S
Z J P X J P E A R K V N S S S
T K J D L N V E A L H O Q J I
E C O G Y G S N I A T N U O M

Beanie	Gloves	Sled
Earmuffs	Mittens	Snowball
Fireplace	Mountains	Snowboard
Freezing	Parka	Snowflake
Frozen	Ski	Snowshoe

Winter Inside

By Dugan Draper, 5th Grade

Winter is mittens.
Winter is socks.
But winter inside
Is quiet as a fox.

Winter is coal.
Winter is bare.
But winter inside
Is sleeping in a chair.

Winter is elves.
Winter is ice.
But winter inside
Is cozy and nice.



Submission deadline for “What I love about winter in Sisters” is Friday, February 15, at 5 p.m.

Ana Gilbert’s Patriots Pen winning essay...

—Why I Honor the American Flag—

Ana Lauren Gilbert, 7th grade

I honor the American flag because it is the symbol of our country, America. It stands for all the people that have lived and died for our country. It stands for the history of our country. It stands for freedom.

First, I honor the American flag because it stands for all the people that have lived and died for our country, whom I honor. People that have loved our country enough to die for America and our freedom really deserve our honor. They have made many things that used to be just dreams possible. They gave everything they had for America’s future, and so I honor them. One way I honor them is honoring what they lived and died for, America, and the symbol of America is the American flag.

Second, I honor the American flag because it stands for the history of America. The thirteen stripes stand for the original thirteen colonies. They stand for the people that bravely fled England and came to America to make a new life for themselves and eventually us. The fifty stars stand for the current fifty states that have freedom because of the original thirteen colonies. The fifty states still fight to hold on to the freedom that means very much to us. Together, the original thirteen colonies and the current fifty states have made America’s dreams a reality. I honor the flag because it stands for America’s history and how we got to the place that we are at now.

I also honor the American flag because it stands for freedom. America itself is freedom. We are the land of the free, the home of the brave. Our flag stands for the values and principles that our country was formed on, no matter what is going on inside or out of our country.

The American flag is the symbol that reminds us of what the heart of America is. It is freedom, justice, safety, bravery, loyalty, love, friendship, peace, and refuge. That is why I honor the American flag.