

# Schools open for community use

## Follow Whiteaker lead

By Josephine Henke  
Emerald Contributor

In 1969, Whiteaker Elementary school developed the first community school program, designed to expand the community's use of school facilities after school hours.

Since then, fifteen other Eugene middle and elementary schools also have developed community school programs.

The community schools' original goals, mandated by the school board, were to involve the community with the community's schools, to use school resources to expand education programs for children, to expand use of the school buildings by opening them after school hours and to encourage cooperation between community members.

"Seventy percent of the people in Eugene don't have kids in school, but they have to pay taxes anyway for something that's not even used all the time," said Kyda Dodson, head of the Whiteaker community school program.

Because Oregon requires public schools to accept students who do not have permanent addresses, Eugene community schools work with local agencies and community members to help these students and their families feed and clothe themselves and connect them with social agencies, Dodson said.

"Some of the families don't have a refrigerator or an oven, or sometimes even a can opener. They're trying to cook off a hotplate," she said.

One of the simplest ways for community schools to expand building use is to open the school gyms for informal sports games in the evenings.

"Often people come to play basketball in the evenings," said Wendy Jenks, head of the Willard community school program. "Right now we've got an intramural basketball game going on."

Lane Community College has held evening classes ranging from calligraphy to car repair in the community schools since the mid-1970s.

"I can't say exactly when or how I first found out about the community schools. You keep up with these things in the education business," said Naomi Shoales, head of LCC's Adult Education Program.

"Sometimes we call them and ask 'We need space for these classes, have you got it?'" Shoales said. "Sometimes they call us and say 'We've got this much space, would you like to use it?'"

Cal Young's community school has a mentor program to help children, some of whom are at risk of dropping out of school or who want individual attention from an adult. The mentors volunteer lunch hours to chat with the children.

Most of the mentors are from the Willamette Oaks retirement center, one of the agencies Cal

Young works with.

"Our society lost something really valuable because there is such a huge gap between the generations," said Ruth Koenig, head of the Cal Young community school. "Most kids don't grow up with their natural grandparents."

Patterson community school organizes food and clothing drives. People donate clean mended clothing to the pool and take what they need.

"It works on the honor system. No one checks how much the family takes," said Alice Brooks, the Patterson community school director. "Sometimes we see the same clothes come through the pool two or three times. I donated a coat that I saw re-donated three years in a row."

"We've got a 'community caring project' with J.C. Penney," Koenig said. "They give us things that they can't sell for some reason, stained or ripped a little, and we give it to Womenspace and the Relief Nursery. If it's ripped a little, we send it over to Willamette Oaks and they mend it for us."

Patterson also hosts the Community Family Soup Kitchen on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

In 1985, Don Johnson, head of the Community Family Soup Kitchen, asked Verge Erickson, the Patterson school principal, for permission to run the food program in the Patterson kitchen and cafeteria in the evenings.

"We'd been through just about every church in the community, but none of them really had the facilities for a soup kitchen. The school did," Johnson said. "We decided to serve families because the other soup kitchens served anyone who came, and parents didn't want to bring their kids there."

"We get a lot of food donated from restaurants and small groceries like The Kiva and Sundance because they don't have to fight company policy like the big chains do," said Harry Cummings, the on-site manager of the Community Family Soup kitchen.

"(The families we serve) don't like their names in the press, but (one) family is a good example. When they came a while ago, they were living out of their car. They just came to tell us that they had an apartment and the husband had a ... well, I wouldn't call it a decent job, but a job. They thanked us for setting them on their feet," Cummings said.

The school district gives the community school programs in elementary and middle schools \$9,255 and \$5,805, respectively. Each community school uses this money to develop a program to meet their community's individual needs.

The community schools, always at risk of losing their funding and facing more budget reductions again this year, may need to cut these programs, Koenig said.

"We're always short of money," Koenig said. "Sometimes I'd leave in the spring and not know if I'd come back to a job in the fall."



**Musique Gourmet**  
Catering to the Discerning Collector

**CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED  
CLASSICAL MUSIC & OPERA  
ON COMPACT DISC**

CD's FROM \$5.95

**CLASSIC FILMS  
ON VIDEO LASERDISC**

**NEW LOCATION**

---

**In the Fifthpearl Building**  
207 E. 5th Avenue **343-9000**  
OPEN 7 DAYS

## Ambassador


**UNIVERSITY BRANCH**  
831 EAST 13TH

**683-5577**  
Toll Free 1-800-888-3799

Hours 8:00 to 5:30 M-F  
9:00 to 1:00 Sat

**Lowest Fares Anywhere**  
*All Major Credit Cards Accepted*

**CHILDREN'S SATURDAY**  
*celebration*



**RECYCLING**  
SAT., APRIL 28 12-1PM AGES 3-8

**UO Bookstore**  
Gen. Book Dept. M-F 7:30-6:00 SAT 10:00-6:00 13th & Kincaid 346-4331




**Limited Edition  
and Limited Quantities**

*Oregon Daily*  
**Emerald**

**T-Shirts**  
green 100% cotton

**BUY NOW**  
**\$6.00**

ODE Main Desk  
3rd Floor EMU  
8am-5pm





**Introducing: The Bestseller  
You won't find at the Newsstand.**

Here's a book that's always on the best seller's list. With a U-Lane-O checking account, you won't have to read between the lines to find the moral of the story:

<p><b>1.</b> 5 1/4 % interest paid to you on your low monthly balance <small>(no minimum to earn interest)</small></p> <p><b>2.</b> No service fee if you maintain a \$200 balance. You pay only \$3 if your balance drops below \$200 <small>(unlimited checks)</small></p> <p><b>3.</b> Overdraft Protection <small>(with savings)</small></p>	<p><b>4.</b> Free American Express Traveler's checks.</p> <p><b>5.</b> 24-hr access to your account through the Exchange and Cirrus networks.</p> <p><b>6.</b> FREE checks with direct deposit of your U of O paycheck.</p>
--	---

So, the next time you read the features of your checkbook, remember a U-Lane-O checking account has a happy ending.

**E. 11th & Ferry St.**  
**687-2347**  
serving U of O students & employees