

Local

Brooklyn holds tech night

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR
Samantha@TheBakerCountyPress.com

On November 15, Brooklyn Elementary held Tech Night, a meeting for parents and students to attend to discuss the use of technology in Brooklyn classrooms. They also discussed helpful apps and tips for parents to use with their children to practice class work and create a safe digital environment at home.

Beginning the presentation, Principal Phil Anderson began by taking an anonymous poll via text message for the parents asking how old they were when they first had their personal cell phones.

This led into his discussion about the average age of children using technology for the first time is 11.

Due to this, schools are beginning to introduce technology to their students and teach them safety when using the internet and apps.

"We use it very intentionally," explained Anderson. "Teaching specific skills such as research, and utilizing that skill through real world applications."

Kindergarten teacher Jason Todd continued the presentation by discussing the different apps and technology he uses in his classroom.

"Technology is not going to replace everything in the classroom," Todd explained.

The use of the technology with kindergartners is to create a safe and interactive environment while teaching responsibility and safety to his students.

One example he gave is the Class Photographer, where one student uses takes pictures of artworks or events happening in class and the students who

are having their pictures taken can present their work.

Todd uses Facebook to show parents what their students are working on.

Todd explained that some parents may not be able to see the physical artwork, but they are able to go on the Facebook page and see it.

Todd also includes Facebook's newest addition, Live Streaming. The example Todd gave was when OMSI visited the school and some students were home sick. Todd used Live Streaming via Facebook to give the absent students ability to watch the event from home.

Todd is also beginning to teach his student coding, how to write instructions to tell the computer what to do. He uses worksheets that have a character trying to reach a destination or an object and his students use arrows to tell the character where to go.

He discussed different apps that the students use on the iPads, including Brain Pop Jr., Headsprouts, and Splash Math. These apps are interactive learning games for students to log into and track their progress.

Todd explained he has different stations that have different activities for the students to do and the iPads with those apps are one of the stations.

Todd explained that first grade has similar apps and a favorite among his fellow teachers is Handwriting Wizard, where students practice handwriting.

Todd mentioned that teachers will reward students with Bring Your Own Device days as a reward for good behavior.

Angela Willison discussed the use of technology with second and third graders, explaining how they use certain apps that

individualize education.

"It's hitting every child's need," said Willison. "It's hitting everything you're teaching but it hits the kids individually."

Willison explained that on a heavy technology week, they will use two or three of the apps mentioned in the presentation. They do not use technology every day.

Students are learning to use voice memos on the iPads, using it to send messages of them reading to their teachers and allowing them to listen to how they read.

Willison explained that the third graders are also learning how to use Google Drive.

"They have their own safe account," said Willison. "They don't lose paper and it introduces them to what fourth and fifth are doing."

Anderson talked about a new program they are using where all second and third grade students take a math assessment test. The students log into their own accounts to take the test and it adapts to the individual student.

"It paints a nice picture and differentiates where each student is at," Anderson said.

The students in second through eighth grade take the test three times a year to see how they do in math. It allows teachers to see where each student is at and how they can help their students in one on one conversations. It also allows teachers to plan their lessons based on where their students are at in the subject.

Anderson discussed how third grade students are being taught how to use the Chrome Book to do research.

He explained that Brooklyn has a filter on their internet, creating a safe

environment for students to learn how to research a topic, how to verify the sources, and how to use safe sites.

Teachers encourage students to go to their instructors if something on the internet makes them feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

Anderson explained they want students to feel safe going to them with questions or concerns.

He discussed different safety lessons they teach their students when using technology and the internet, such as not sharing their full names, where they live, what school they go to, and sending or posting pictures.

Anderson continued the presentation, describing two helpful website parents can use; Common Sense Media and HealthyChildren.org. Anderson explained that Common Sense Media allows parent to type in the name of a show, movie, or book and it will show the recommended age for children to watch or read along with ratings other parents have given.

Anderson also discussed how parents can create a safe and healthy environment at home with technology, such as setting limits for how long a device can be used or when to not use devices.

Anderson gave parents two handouts from the two websites he described, one giving examples on creating "Screen Free Times" such as during dinner, one hour before bed, and many others.

The other handout was an example Family Media Agreement, a simple contract with rules for students and parent to sign in agreement with the rules.

Both are accessible on the websites Anderson described.

Bennett said he doesn't have an issue with a majority of the proposal, that it is a model to work with, and both City and County citizens pay for the services, City citizens paying more.

Kerns said that, since a majority of the funding comes from the City, the City should be allowed more management of the services.

Harvey said that he needs to see balance, and he doesn't, with the current proposed agreement.

Lowe said that, with the agreement, there is a goal of balance, and there is no intention to exclude EMT or rural fire department involvement.

Lowe said that he is proud of the current 911 Dispatch services, and he is impressed with Lindsey's efforts and monthly reports, which he said is an incredible improvement.

Bobbie Danser said that she sees the City wishing to add two more people to the BCCD Board arbitrarily, with the County incurring any liability.

She said there should be someone from the County, from the City, an EMT, and two people who can work with both the City and the County.

SEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PAGE 9

Two killed in crash



Submitted Photo.

Two were killed in this Malheur County crash.

On November 13, 2016 at about 5:30 p.m., OSP Troopers and emergency personnel responded to the report of a multiple vehicle crash on Highway 95 near milepost 92 (30 miles north of the Nevada Border).

Preliminary investigation revealed a 2000 Toyota Tundra was traveling northbound on Highway 95 when it crossed the center line and collided with a southbound 2005 Chevrolet Trail Blazer.

The driver of the Chevrolet, Luis M. Salas Ramirez, age 35, of Garden City, Idaho and his passenger Parrish W. Speegle, age 49, of Boise, Idaho were pronounced deceased at the scene. The left rear passenger, William K Speegle, age 42, of Boise, Idaho suffered life threatening injuries was taken by air ambulance to Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Boise.

The driver of the Toyota, Brandon Fuller, age 45, of Livermore, California received minor injuries. He was arrested at the scene and taken to the Malheur County Jail where he was lodged on the following charges:

- Manslaughter II (two counts)
- Assault III
- Reckless Driving
- Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants

Alcohol consumption by Fuller is being considering a contributing factor in the crash. Highway 95 was closed for over six hours while the investigation was conducted. OSP was assisted by the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office (NV), Humboldt County Fire and Rescue (NV), Malheur County Sheriff's Office, Jordan Valley Ambulance and the Oregon Department of Transportation.

Family fun day at Interpretive Center

The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center (NHOTIC) and Trail Tenders are hosting a variety of activities for visitors during "Family Fun Day."

Family Fun Day is the day after Thanksgiving, Friday, November 25 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Family fun day offers a chance to learn more about the frontier and natural history of the region and to foster intergenerational connections.

Visitors will be able to make rag dolls and candles through candle dipping. Activities include a pioneer costume photo booth, a wildlife "skulls, scat and fur" table, as well as a variety of Junior Explorer workbooks.

Folk Musician Hank Cramer will be performing in the Leo Adler Theater at 11:00 and 12:30.

Wildlife-themed films will also be shown in the theater throughout the day.

The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center is located five miles east of Baker City, Oregon on Highway 86. Take Exit 302 from I-84. The Center is currently open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily. Admission for adults is \$5 and \$3.50 for seniors; children 15 and under are admitted for free. Federal passes are also accepted.

Call (541) 523-1843 for updates on programs and events.

Baker County warned of phone scam again

The Baker County Sheriff's Office has received several reports concerning a scam that is occurring within the county. Residents have been receiving phone calls trying to solicit personal and financial information. The caller tells the answering party that the Baker County Sheriff's Office has a warrant for their arrest and then will try to obtain personal or financial information. If you have received a scam phone call and have provided personal or financial information to the calling party, please contact the Baker County Consolidated Dispatch at (541) 523-6415.

The Baker County Sheriff's Office, the Baker City Police Department or the Oregon State Police will not call to advise of an arrest warrant or try to obtain financial information by phone.

County Commission Session

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

A majority of the session involved a discussion regarding the Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement For Dispatch And Records Keeping Services. Baker City Manager Fred Warner, Jr., and Baker City Councilman Dan Lowe were present to discuss this topic.

Warner, Jr. said that, on October 11, 2016, City Council had revised the agreement (as yet unsigned by City Council, copies of which were provided at the session).

Warner, Jr. said that the City and County have had a good partnership, and he wishes to see it continue.

Numerous revisions were indicated by Warner, Jr., including the change, from a three-member Baker County Consolidated Dispatch (BCCD) Center Board of Directors, to a five-member one, which includes two members appointed by the Baker County Board of Commissioners, two appointed by the Baker City Council, and one appointed "...by the entity that pays the majority of the dollars needed

towards the operation of the Center as outlined in the Consideration portion of this agreement," according to the agreement, which is Baker City, paying 71% of the funds.

Warner, Jr. said that the change in the Board structure, including the clause that the Center Director (currently Hope Lindsey), is an employee of the County, but is under the supervision of the BCCD Board, is what prompted this discussion.

Harvey pointed out there were major changes to the Responsibility section, and he also said that, according to the agreement, the parties agree that Baker County "...furnish the necessary personnel, supervision, administration, and supplies to maintain the level of services to be rendered under this agreement..." noting the significant role of the County, and one of the issues with the proposed agreement.

Harvey also said that there is an issue with the Limitation Of Liability, stating that, though the City would be joint-managing the services, the City would not be held liable for any claims against the City, but the County would still be held liable for claims against it.

Harvey said that, according to the agreement, the BCCD Board shall employ a Center Director,

but Harvey said that the BCCD Board can not hire a Director, but could only make recommendations. Harvey, Bennett, and Warner, Jr. discussed the word "employ," which may not necessarily mean "hire," and the trio agreed about the hiring process.

Harvey said his suggestion is that the five-member Board be composed of the County Commission Chair, the City Manager, an EMT representative, a fire department representative, and two representatives from outside entities.

He noted that he wants to see some language changes, including that the BCCD Board "advise" that the Center Director accomplishes certain duties, rather than "insure," as the agreement states.

Harvey said that he sees an issue with not including EMS representation, which he said is a potential, with the agreement, and he emphasized that the whole process, including who Board members are and what is being discussed at meetings, needs to be as transparent as possible.

He said that major progress is being made by both the City and the County, but to significantly revamp the Board structure, and to have too many people managing the Center Director, is counterproductive.