

We pumice you'll be lavan' it!

Totally Tubular

Plunging 200' below the surface, Geoff Bingham's geology class traveled to Mt. St. Helen's Lake Cave for a hands-on opportunity to learn about caves and lava tree casts.

1 Claude Koch, custodian, looks out from the cave. Koch, who is the vice-chair of the Willamette Valley Grotto, a local caving club, led the two geology classes on the Oct. 26 caving field trip. Photo by Malia Chong

2 Laura Huck, senior, crawls through a tree cast as a warm up for her quest into the cave. The tree cast was narrow and many students took the opportunity to learn firsthand about the lava flows that caused them. Photo submitted by Geoff Bingham

3 Led by Claude Koch, custodian, geology students descend into the cave using a ladder. Temperatures in the caves were a chilling 42 degrees Fahrenheit. Photo by Malia Chong

4 Jim Hartmann, science teacher currently on paternity leave, and Timothy Amritage, senior, wait at the edge of the stream erosion cave. Christopher Garfield, Laura Huck and Taylor Kolasinski, seniors, explored the side canal. Photo by Malia Chong

5 Kian Ghorbani-Elizeh, junior, maneuvers through one of the many small passages of the cave. Most students wore protective helmets and kneepads, and all students used a flashlight. Photo by Malia Chong

