

# manifests destiny at the beach



Students walk back from the ocean after taking pH levels of the water for their biology class at Seaside beach.



Instructor Jennifer Bown helps students identify organisms on the Peter Iredale shipwreck on Fort Stevens State Park.

The next stop on our trip was back over the Columbia by way of the Astoria Bridge and through Astoria to Fort Stevens State Park. Instead of seeing an actual fort, we went straight to the beach where the remains of the Peter Iredale, just one of thousands of ships brought over by the ever shifting sands of the Columbia Estuary.

The Peter Iredale met its demise in 1906 when it was making its way to Portland. Fog, rain, fog and bad weather were to blame. The ship was beached. Later the ship was scrapped down into the ribbings and anything remaining was buried too deep in the sand.

Throughout the trip, Bown and the class take samples of water at various locations. The water was tested for its clarity, salinity and pH levels. Wind speed, air temperature and humidity were also recorded for the lab portion of the field trip.

The trip took us up to Cape Disappointment, through

Astoria, to Fort Stevens, Gearhart and Seaside, to the salt works of Lewis and Clark and to some pretty fantastic sights.

The best part of the trip for me was not on the agenda.

When she discovered that we were a bit ahead of schedule after our visit to the Peter Iredale, Bown made the decision with Kelsey that we should take a detour to a lookout on the jetty.

The lookout was a shaky wooden platform. From the top, we were able to see the most beautiful sights in the area. The waves cresting and smacking into the basaltic rocks were breathtaking. Many students actually climbed some of the rocks that formed the jetty in order to get as close to the water as possible.

At this lookout, Bown said that on a previous field trip, she had seen three snowy owls that normally reside in Canada.

The next lab is on Feb. 6, and the class will be picking up just south of Seaside at Canon Beach.



The biology class looks into tide pools on Fort Stevens State Park on the Oregon Coast with the help of the instructor, Jennifer Bown.



Students from Clackamas look over the water from Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center while Bown explains how Cape Disappointment got its name.