



Tooth Talk

by Mary Ellen Volansky, RDH, MS

Healthy Student SVS: Sealant Clinic 2008

The annual Siletz Sealant Clinic was held March 12-13. In slightly more than 10 hours, the Dental staff saw 127 children, sealed 733 teeth, and applied 123 fluoride varnishes.

The staff at SVS and here worked together to implement Health People 2010 Goal No. 1: Reduce the proportion of children and adolescents who have dental caries experience in their primary or permanent teeth.

This represents a leap from the lower increases in the number of children seen at previous clinics. In 2006, 41 children were screened and 110 teeth sealed. In 2007, 63 children were screened and 274 teeth sealed.

This year was a double and sextuple year! We doubled the number of children screened over the last two years: 127. The number of teeth sealed, 733, is a sextuple leap in services.

This success brings to mind a number of hopeful questions. Are more parents and their children attending the Siletz Dental Clinic? Is the prevention program at Siletz Tribal Head Start (HS) having an impact? Are kids taking better care of their teeth? Are parents taking better care of their children's teeth? However you ask it, this year's clinic was a success.

Note: HS teachers provide daily brushing and fluoride tablets for their students. The Siletz Dental Clinic has provided annual screenings with fluoride varnish to HS students.

This past year, we began providing sealants at the annual screening in the fall. The Siletz Dental Clinic continues to provide quarterly fluoride varnishes. These services are available at the Siletz and Springfield Head Start programs. Parental consent must be given for a child to participate in these services. If you are interested, speak with your child's teacher or case manager.

At the Sealant Clinic, we saw 12 children who had visible decay. This is a cavity large enough to be seen with our eyes, yours or mine. It would show as a brown spot or hole in a tooth. There was no time for X-rays to determine if smaller decay was present. Thus, everyone was instructed to see their dentist for an examination and X-rays.

This year we had volunteers who helped make the event a success. Maggie Norton, Human Resources, worked as paperwork/patient flow manager. Judy Line, SVS, was student supervisor.

The movie of the day was *The Bee Movie*. It was a success with all ages, including the Dental staff.

Tammy Pullam, transportation, drove the children back and forth from SVS.

Lourdes Jackson, SVS, obtained signed parental consents for treatment along with registering students last August. She also worked with teachers to coordinate release of students from class throughout the two days.

Dr. Molly Francis was responsible for a donation of supplies for the Sealant Clinic from the American Dental Association. They included fluoride varnish, gloves, masks, home care tools, etc. The nearly \$400 in supplies is part of the ADA's National Give Kids A Smile Day.

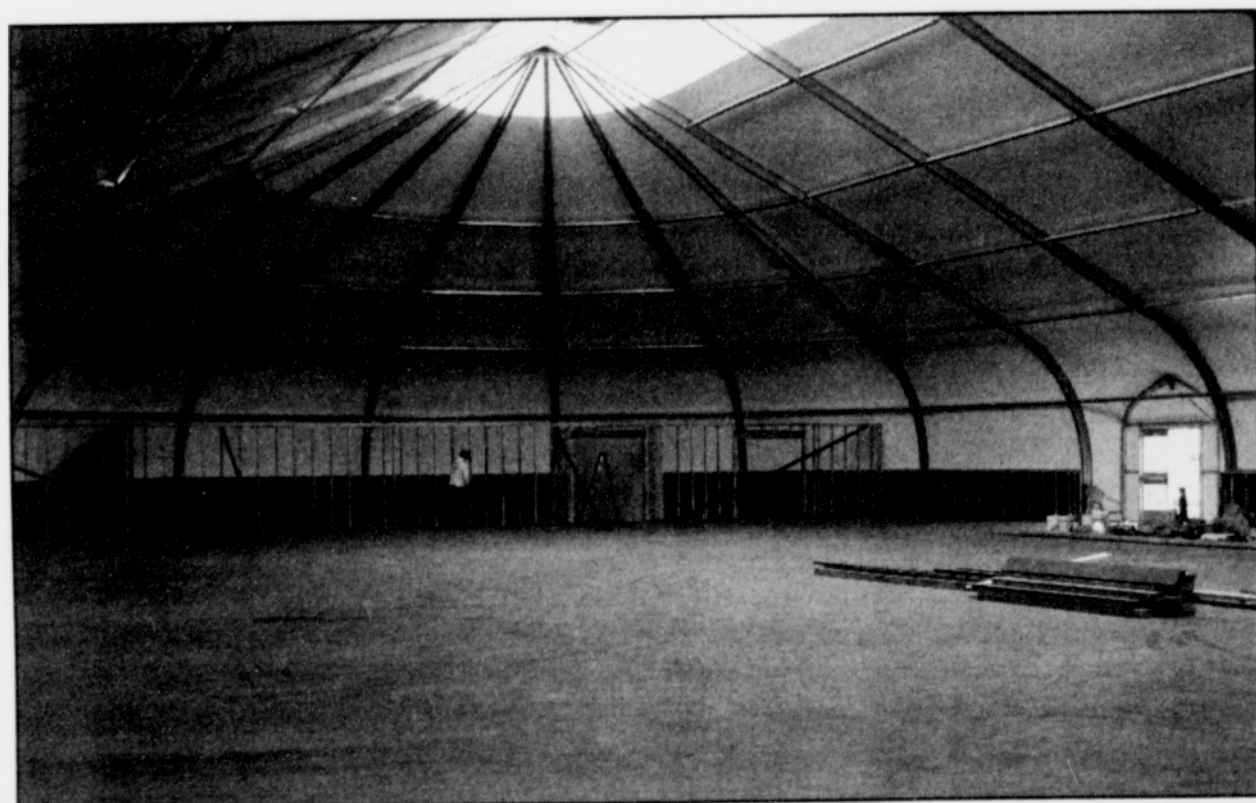
The dental assistants also contributed through organizing, ordering and paperwork in preparation for this clinic. Many hands make light work and that has always been the case for this clinic.

The Siletz Dental Team includes Dr. Francis and Dr. Matt Winkle; dental assistants Bonnie McAlpine, Alison Noble, Misty Reed, and Diane Tripp; and myself as the dental hygienist. You'll never find a better group of professionals to work with or to have as your dental care providers.

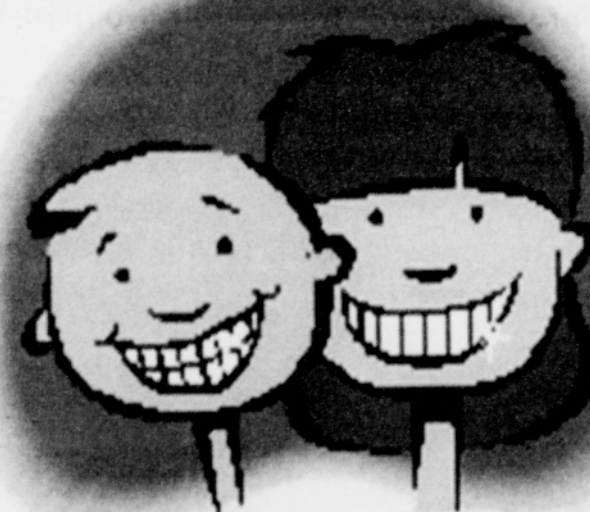


Maggie Norton (bottom left) helps the Dental staff (clockwise from middle left) Alison Noble, Dr. Matt Winkle, Diane Tripp, Dr. Molly Francis, Misty Reed, Bonnie McAlpine and Mary Ellen Volansky at the Siletz Sealant Clinic in March. (photo by Diane Rodriguez)

A special **thank you** to everyone who worked, volunteered or was a patient in this year's clinic. You made it a great success and helped bring this community closer to the Health People 2010 No. 1 goal.



The inside of the new gym will include a high school regulation basketball court that can be broken into two junior high courts, two restrooms, a recreation area, concession stand, office, storage and multipurpose room. (photo by Diane Rodriguez)



It's EASY!

What can you do today to protect your child's teeth?

Fluoride Treatment: Get one today!

No Appointments are necessary for a quick, easy and effective fluoride treatment.

All ages accepted.

Siletz Community Health Clinic
Patients of Dental Clinic

Monday—Thursday

8 a.m.—12 p.m.

&

1 p.m.—4 p.m.



Fridays

10 a.m.—12 p.m.

&

1 p.m.—4 p.m.