

Spring Performance Demonstrates Success of Language Programs

By Cova St. Onge

The Siletz Tribal Language Project staff partnered with Siletz Valley School and Siletz Tribal Head Start to stage the first annual Spring Performance: "Language and Cultural Sharing."

The performance showcased the accomplishments of SVS students, Siletz Tribal Head Start and the language-rich environment the students have had the rare opportunity to experience. Enriching students' lives in the classrooms this year has been sign language with Janet Johnson, Arabic taught by Abir Hassan and Siletz Dee-Ni lessons with the language project staff.

The songs and skits shared with the community were as follows:

Head Start singing

Head, Shoulders, Knees & Toes (Dee-Ni lyrics)

Kindergarten singing

The Counting Song (Dee-Ni song)

First and Second Grade perform a Dee-Ni skit

I am a Flower

Third Grade Sign Language Songs

ABC Song

We are the World ~ Michael Jackson

Celebrate Earth Day ~ John Denver

Third and Fourth Grade perform a Dee-Ni skit

The Salmon Cycle

Fifth and Sixth Grade perform

Vocabulary Charades (Dee-Ni version)

Ninth Grade performs an Arabic skit

Animals

Sree Hvsh Singers

Happy Birthday to You (Dee-Ni lyrics)

Paddle, Paddle, Paddle Your Canoe (Dee-Ni lyrics)

Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star (Dee-Ni lyrics)

Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star Round Dance Style ~ SanPoil

Whitehead (Dee-Ni and English lyrics)

Red Lipstick ~ Little Island Cree sang by San Poil Whitehead and Logan Butler

The Siletz Dee-Ni performances highlighted the curriculum development and song translations of the Siletz Tribal Language Project staff. The staff has worked as a team to develop Siletz Dee-Ni curriculum for Head Start through the fifth grade.

The performances were a direct result of a year and a half of efforts by Alfred "Bud" Lane III as the language specialist and director, Joe Scott as the curriculum developer and teacher and my efforts as the Dee-Ni music teacher and project coordinator.

The Arabic skit *Animals*, composed by Abir Hassan, is an activity of the Egyptian teacher who has been part of Siletz Valley School and Early College Academy for the 2009-10 academic year. She was placed with the school through a Teachers of Critical Languages Program grant.

Abir Hassan has brought the verbal and written Arabic language to students through the sharing of language and culture. The *Animals* skit was a demonstration of her achievements.

The Spring Performance was brought to the community through a partnership of efforts and funding from the Administration for Native Americans, TCLP U.S. Department of State through the American Councils for International Education, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and Siletz Valley School.

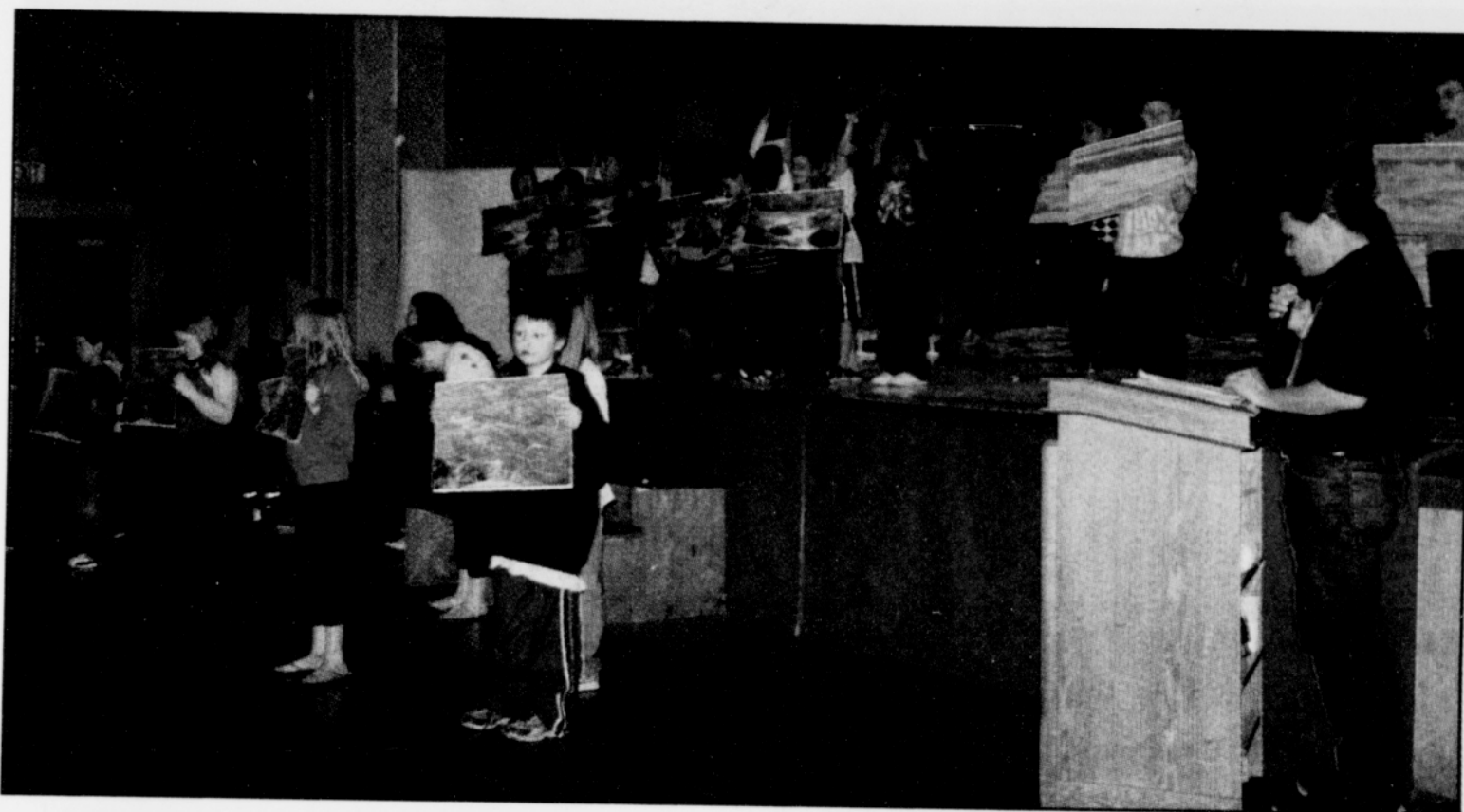
The event was extremely successful, involving 367 attendees, 162 kids and 20 staff. In addition to the staff, a special thanks to the volunteers who assisted in the success of the event; Cheryl Schriver and Linda Luckini for the beautiful painting on the stage backdrop; Kelli Brugh and Patty Socha-Paul for staging students and general assistance; Bonnie and Morgan Crawford for greeting and general assistance; Darod Cheek for video recording; and numerous students who assisted in the setup.

Thank you to Siletz Valley School and Siletz Tribal Head Start staff for your support and participation in bringing this outstanding event to the community.

Nuu-wvn srxi-xe xuu-srxii-xe hii-chu xuu-srxii-xe hii-chu xaa-ma

(For our children, their children and their children)

Hvm'-chi'



Joe Scott (top photo, right) leads third- and fourth-graders through *The Salmon Cycle*.

Bud Lane and Cova St. Onge (middle photo, left) help the kindergarten class through *The Counting Song*.

Ninth-grade students (bottom photo) perform a skit in Arabic called *Animals*.

Photos by Natasha Kavanaugh



A Poem by Sequoia Breck

Creation, is a song that only the creator knows how to sing

Treading our ancestor's paths, we make new roads, both following and leading

We are the ancestors of our children's futures

Fires, destroying and cleansing, healing the broken bones of our forests

We dance to the song, not needing to know the steps or the beat, just living aloud

The creator has designed a dance for us ... we all play our parts, the creator all the time knowing

we will change our parts