

Tooth Talk: Another successful Sealant Clinic thanks to volunteers, staff

By Mary Ellen Volansky, RDH, MS

This year's clinic for Siletz Valley School (SVS) students was such a success it's difficult to know where to begin – with the outstanding volunteers, the bright and cooperative students or the great statistics.

These statistics for 2012 are not manipulated to prove some point. They, like statistics for every clinic for SVS students so far, show an increase in services provided.

2008 was the first year our numbers stepped out of the expected. We were proud then that over two days we provided 127 students with screenings, sealants, home care supplies and instructions, and fluoride varnish. In the years before 2008, the numbers were fewer than 100 students at each clinic. Just the year before, 2007, we saw 63 students.

Over the years those numbers have expanded and this February we hit another milestone. We saw 182 students and provided 875 sealants, 182 screenings and 181 fluoride varnishes.

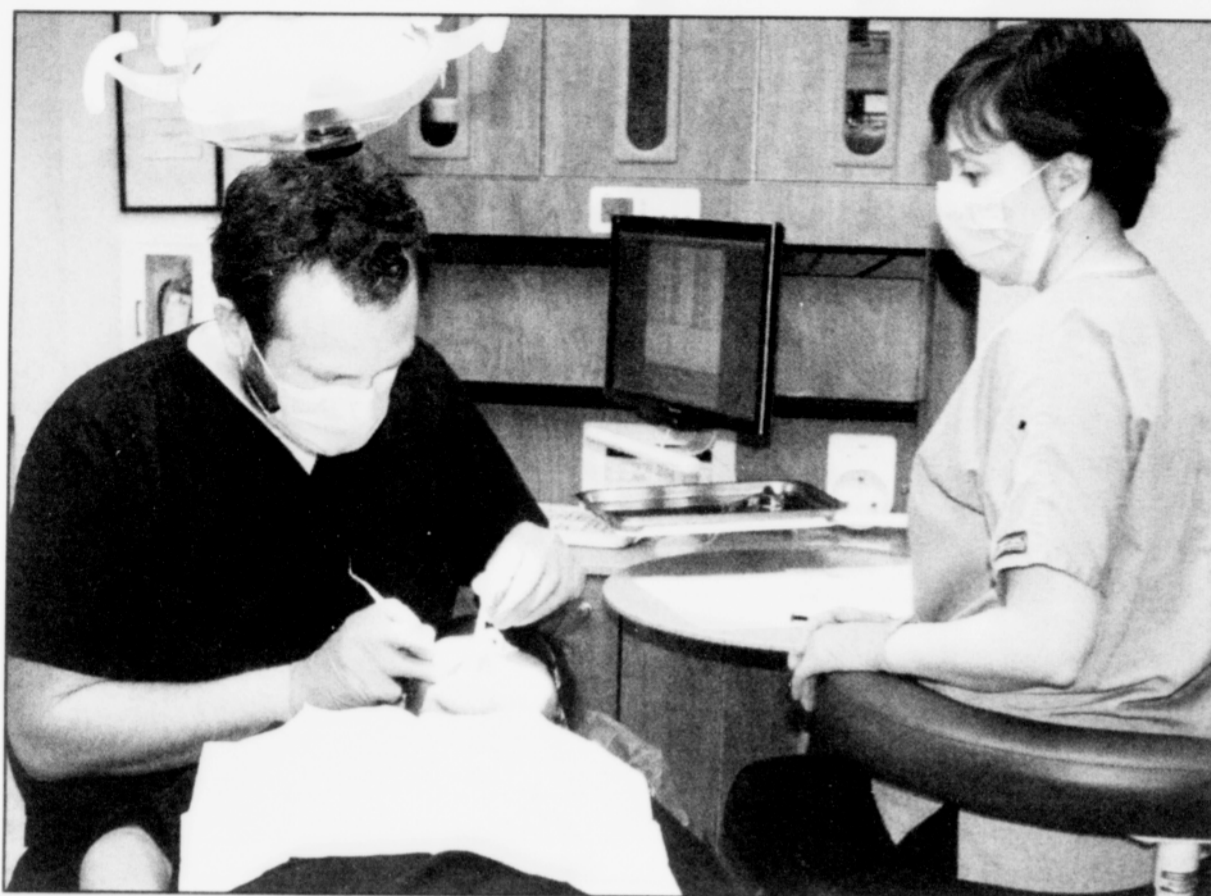
If these students went to a private dental practice, the cost to provide those same services would total \$55,713. If an individual were to pay for an average set of these services, it would cost on average about \$306.12 each.

Cavities? Yes, there were cavities, 185 visible to the eye. When a cavity is big enough to be seen with the naked eye, there is a risk the tooth could easily become painful. There also is a likelihood that smaller cavities exist.

In the Siletz Dental Clinic, we like to find smaller cavities because they are easier to treat and more comfortable for the patient. X-rays are needed to locate and diagnose these smaller cavities, which requires a dental office and a dentist.

This is why we refer all students at the Sealant Clinic to their dental home. We sent letters to all parents/guardians of these students that refer students to their dentist for regular dental care, including the 76 students with visible cavities. Their letters asked the parent or guardian to schedule a visit with a dentist soon.

One of the goals of Head Start is to find every student a medical and a den-



Dr. Douglas Chadwick and Alison Noble, dental assistant, check for cavities and apply sealants to the teeth of a student from Siletz Valley School.

tal home. Your primary care physician/provider is your medical home. You also should have a dental home, which should be found beginning at age 6 months. For Siletz Tribal members, the Siletz Dental Clinic can be your dental home.

Thank you to volunteers

Volunteers! You're wondering if I had forgotten them? Impossible! The list

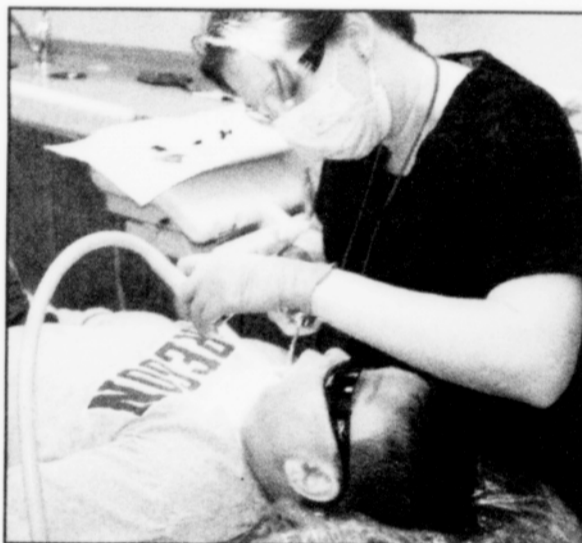
of volunteers hasn't grown but the faces have changed.

First, we did miss Maggie Norton, who has steadfastly worked at the Sealant Clinics for four years. In spite of our missing her, she is wished much success.

A special thank you goes to Terry Neilson and Mary Parker at SVS. These two women collected parental consent forms back in August along with their



Mary Ellen Volansky (left photo), dental hygienist, and Misty Reed (right photo), dental assistant, check students' teeth during the annual Sealant Clinic in February.



load of papers for student registration. They also coordinated students' schedules with teachers' needs so each student could be seen.

Sylvia Butler, working with the SVS staff, successfully transported all 182 of those students. With these three competent people, nothing would have happened at this annual clinic.

Seven employees (non-dental) from across the Tribal workforce also made it possible to deliver so many services to those 182 students. These women stepped out of their comfort zones, work and home, to be sure as many students as possible could be seen.

They have been certified to provide fluoride varnishes, are knowledgeable of infection control practices and demonstrate they are people with whom anyone would be pleased to work. Those seven people are Adrienne Crookes, Cecilia Tolentino, Verdene McGuire, Sharon Mason, Chuvonne Metcalf, Wendi Schamp and Trish Carey.

Chuvonne and Trish had the hardest job, this being their first year on this job. Their task was to monitor the coming and going of students and their health records, including what services were provided. A job well done too!

The other volunteers worked chair-side with us, except Wendi, who fed us all. Lunch is an eat-as-you-can process. This allows us to make the most of the school day, which is shorter than our work day.

"Us" are the usual dental professionals you see at the Siletz Dental Clinic. We are the hard working and diligent people you know from your regular visits to your dental home: Dr. Douglas Chadwick; Dr. Megan Saxton; Bobbi Foley, Bonnie McAlpine, Alison Noble and Misty Reed, dental assistants; and yours truly. Together we make a formidable team.

My hope is that learning about the good work of the Siletz Tribe and the good work the people who serve you provided to the members of your community, will be reassuring to you. Everyone has much to be proud of with this annual event, especially this year.

Nesika Illahee Pow-Wow

Vendor Application

Vendor applications are now available for the 2012 Nesika Illahee Pow-Wow on Aug. 10-12, 2012. Please call Nick Sixkiller at 800-922-1399, ext. 1207 or 1757; or e-mail nicks@ctsi.nsn.us.

You also can find the applications online at ctsi.nsn.us or pick them up at the Siletz Tribal Community Center, Tribal administration building in Siletz and at the Tribal area offices in Portland, Salem and Eugene.

Siletz Tribal Royalty Applications

Applications are now available for Siletz Tribal Royalty for 2012-2013. To request an application for Miss Siletz (age 18-24), Junior Miss Siletz (age 13-17) and Little Miss Siletz (age 7-12), please call Bev Youngman at 541-444-8290 or 800-922-1399, ext. 1290; or e-mail bevy@ctsi.nsn.us.

You also can find the applications online at ctsi.nsn.us or pick them up at the Siletz Tribal Community Center, Tribal administration building in Siletz and at the Tribal area offices in Portland, Salem and Eugene.

The deadline to submit applications for Siletz Royalty is June 1.

UO museum store seeks artwork

The University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History's museum store, Past and Presents, is seeking a limited number of artists interested in selling their original high quality crafts or non-2D artwork for sale on consignment in our museum gift store.

We invite Pacific Northwest Tribal members to submit four digital images of their work for consideration to Tracey Bell, visitor services coordinator, at tracey@uoregon.edu.

The University of Oregon's Museum of Natural and Cultural History protects significant collections, enhances knowledge and encourages stewardship of human and natural history through research, preservation and education.

Past and Presents offers a comprehensive selection of regional books and gifts that reflect the museum's exhibits, collections and research, as well as the inspiration of the Pacific Northwest landscape. It features handcrafted goods from local and regional artists, including jewelry, pottery, basketry and woodworking.

Books on anthropology, geology, paleontology, Oregon's cultural history, archaeology, natural history and an extensive offering of field guides are available so you can continue to learn after your visit to the museum.