

Bringing first & second grades together improves education

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school districts in the area," commented Steve Farrell, principal at Washington Grade School. "There was a school out by the golf course, and schools in Keasy, Natal, and Mist as well. As transportation became more available, districts started consolidating," he said. "They have found that it's cheaper, and you can have more programs if you can bring students together," he added.

The purpose of Lincoln Grade School was to ensure the safety and

convenience of the children who would have had to walk across town, according to Proehl. "Originally, there was a grade school at the Washington site," he said. "We built Lincoln so the children wouldn't have to walk across town. Then Washington was built," he continued. "We decided to continue using Lincoln for the first and second graders on that side of town," he added.

Washington Grade School was

built in 1930. Originally there was a first and second grade at Washington and a first and second grade at Lincoln, Farrell said. "But there was some feuding between families whose children were going to that school," he added. "Some wanted all their children to be at Washington rather than Lincoln, there were also rumors that smart kids went to one school and stupid kids went to the other, totally unfounded things," he said.

"There were two reasons for bringing the first and second grades together," said Proehl. "First, because of basic education. The teachers are together, they can plan together and they have all their

materials in one place. This provides for better programming," he said. "The second reason is that families wanted their kids going to a certain school. It was semi-political, though not very, and we've eliminated that," he added.

The staff at Lincoln consists of four teachers; Sunny Huntman, Susan Gay Bartels, Sharon Batty and Marguerite Nice, and Delores Fowler, who acts as a volunteer assistant. "Mrs. Fowler has been wonderful," said Huntman. She comes in three or four days a week, and listens to the kids read, types, and answers the phone, which I'd have to leave class and do, if she weren't around," she added. Don Jackson, the music teacher, is also a part-time member of the staff.

The four room school has no office staff and, according to Huntman, does not appear to need any. Huntman is happy with the school arrangement. "By splitting the classes, it was more difficult to make use of our materials, or arrange programs," she said. "The children seldom had a chance to get together. This is more cohesive," she added.



STORYTIME— Second grader Jason Ceballos shows an illustration from a personally selected story he is reading to his classmates. First three viewers to his right are Justin Proehl, Teresa Lohr and Kristen Beisly.

FREEDOMFOTO

Vial of Life program can save your life

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Noell Sturdevant named to Hanover Dean's list

Noell M. Sturdevant of Vernonia was among 197 students at Hanover College named to the Dean's List for the fall term.

Sturdevant, a senior Geology major, is a member of the Gamma Sigma Pi scholastic honor society, and the Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

Noell is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Sturdevant, 1306 Rose Avenue, Vernonia, OR.

Editor's Note: A student must maintain a 3.50 or better grade point average to be included in the Dean's List.

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