

FALL, continued from Page A1

creating gaps in learning. Online accessibility is run and managed by SKPS.

When Gov. Kate Brown made the decision to postpone, and then eventually cancel in-person classes earlier this spring, SKPS, along with the rest of the state, went to a distance-learning model that focused solely on virtual learning. Model three would continue that strategy into the fall.

Model one is considered the best-case scenario out of the four options. Although it features in-class interaction with students and teachers, the likelihood of school returning to pre-coronavirus procedures is unlikely according to Sproles.

"Kids would be returning to school, but there would be a greater emphasis on safety. There would be hand-washing stations and greater cleaning protocols," Sproles said.

One of the other protocols

on safety that is being considered under this model is keeping groups of kids in cohorts during school, meaning that the same students would be attending the same classes and lunch breaks all throughout the day.

Sproles said the difficulty in executing that plan would be the transition time between classes and handling the entrances and exits before and after school.

"It would be very difficult to plan for social distancing during transition periods," Sproles said.

Model two, the hybrid model, could be established in a few different ways.

One example would be having half the students at a school attend class in the morning and do virtual learning in the afternoon — and vice-versa for the other half of kids.

Another option would be having an A-day/B-day class schedule for all K-12 students, where kids would attend school every other day and do virtual learning on the days where they weren't in class.

However, Sproles is aware of

the stress this could potentially cause Salem-Keizer families.

"We realize that this model may be more difficult for our younger students," Sproles said. "We want to consider how a family would be able to straddle a schedule like that."

Model four, on the other hand, would be put in place to help the district properly handle numerous scenarios, including the threat of another possible outbreak.

"The idea with model four is that if there's another outbreak, schools could transition into a hybrid model quickly and efficiently and still have all the materials to learn from home," Sproles said.

Sproles also shared how there could be different levels of effect on possible scenarios. The district wants to be prepared for anything from a district-wide shutdown to handling an outbreak among a particular grade level or cohort.

"If an infection only spread among a grade level or cohort, we could just have that group participate in distance learning from home without having to

shut down the entire district," Sproles said.

SKPS personnel are preparing to send out surveys to parents and teachers looking for feedback on the virtual learning that has taken place this spring and the different possibilities for this fall.

"We're just trying to learn what has worked well, what hasn't and what our best options are moving forward," Sproles said. "We know this has been a hardship on families."

However, Sproles said that ultimately the final decision would come from the state level and that the ODE, along with Gov. Brown, could have guidance on a decision by as early as next week — although the district wouldn't be locked into the chosen model if effective treatment for the coronavirus was made available this summer.

"I'm increasingly hopeful that we will have flexibility at the district level," Sproles said. "We wanted to create a system that would avoid an entire closure."

Duncan pivots to housing assembly

After 18 years in the commercial construction division, Rich Duncan Construction is expanding into residential construction as well.

The new residential services will be headed by their Residential Project Manager Ross Bowman. Bowman can be contacted at 503-390-4999 or Ross@RichDuncanConstruction.com.

KAI, continued from Page A1

Another member of the Bicycle Club, and also a fellow Keizerite, Larry Miles, stepped up to the plate.

"I let Hersch know I had my grandson's old bike in the garage and we could fix it up and give it to him," Miles said.

With all the pieces in place, Kai and his mom visited the Keizer Police Department for the delivery.

Kai's only regret was not being able to give his mom a lift home.

"We should have brought the pegs today," Kai exclaimed.

Kai's kindergarten teacher, Jill Whitney, was the one that got the ball rolling.

"Kai is really resilient and it was amazing to see how a group of 5- and 6-year-olds got together to get through this past year," Whitney said.

As far as a physical recovery, Kai is doing great, Hong said. But there are still lingering impacts from the crash.

"His moods are different. He gets irritated more easily and he doesn't have as much patience," she said.

Kai's memories from before the collision are still touch-and-go. Hong would serve him his favorite dinners from before the accident and Kai would have to ask what it was and if it was something he liked.

"He's remembering everything since the accident," she said.

Watching Kai ride around on a new bike, no one would think he had a care in the world beside the next burst of speed. That alone is a catharsis for a lot of people who knew him or have come to know him through the trauma.

"Being here to support this ... it's a good outcome," said Keizer Police Department Officer Jennifer Starns, one of the first responders to the scene the night of the accident.

CAA offers rent, utility assistance

The Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency is making more than \$2 million in rental and utility assistance available for income-eligible residents of Marion and Polk counties.

Community action is using its portion of a statewide rental assistance program, roughly \$1.5 million, to help those having difficulty paying their rent because of the COVID-19 crisis.

In addition, Energy Services, Community Action's

program providing energy assistance to income-eligible individuals and families is providing \$540,000 for direct client energy assistance for COVID-related energy and heating bill relief. Households must have been effected by COVID-19. Eligible household income must be at or below 60 percent of median income.

Those interested in applying for rental assistance should contact the ARCHES Project directly by calling

503-399-9080 (extension 4003). Those needing help with energy bills should call Energy Services directly at 503-588-9016.

ARCHES, another program offered by Community Action, continues to operate a motel program in Salem for medically fragile and COVID-19-positive homeless clients. The program has been in operation since mid-March, serving 95 clients per night.

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