

CONTACT US
Erick Bengel | Features Editor
ebengel@dailyastorian.com

WEEKEND BREAK

FOLLOW US
facebook.com/
DailyAstorian



First- and second-grade students of Ocean Park School perform during their holiday concert.

DAMIAN MULINIX/Chinook Observer

Rock the halls

Students at Ocean Park School perform holiday concert

By **DAMIAN MULINIX**
For The Chinook Observer

OCEAN PARK — “We’ve been working really hard and the kids have been awesome and amazing at learning,” said Ocean Park School music teacher Brian Vessey, as he opened the school’s recent first- through fourth-grade holiday concert.

First and second graders were up first.

“This year we’re mixing it up with some traditional songs — maybe a few goofy songs here and there,” Vessey said.

Speaking of silly, the first and second graders opened with “All I Want for Christmas is my Two Front Teeth.” And since it was a “holiday” concert, the students followed that with a Thanksgiving song about pumpkin pie.

“Christmas is known for a lot of things, but one of the big things, especially at this age, is a certain jolly old fellow that comes on Christmas Eve,” said Vessey while introducing “Santa Claus is Coming to Town.”

First-grade teacher Tiffany Morgenweck made a guest appearance for the group’s final song, a conversation of sorts between her and the kids on what they would like for Christmas, that gets increasingly silly — at one point asking for a rhinoceros.

“What? A rhino?” asked Morgenweck back.

“I want a rhino, for a present,” the kids sang back.

“How big is your litter box?” she replies.

Next up was the third-grade students, who opened



Ocean Park School music teacher Brian Vessey introduces the song that inspired his outfit choice for the holiday concert earlier this month — ugly holiday sweaters.

with “O Christmas tree,” followed by a “rocking” holiday tune.

“Back in the ‘50s, a lot of rock n’ roll bands started playing some Christmas music. This one is called “Rock the Holly,” Vessey said. That song was followed by “Deck the Halls,” which the students sang to a dance beat. Keeping with the theme of switching things up, the third-grade students finished with a hip-hop-inspired number.

“Who knew that elves at the North Pole really love hip-hop?” Vessey asked.

Rounding out the show were the fourth-graders, who opened their set with “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” complete with hand motions.

“You’ve all heard stories about reindeer with noses that ‘glow-ses,’” said Vessey, while introducing the next song. “But not everybody likes that, and this song is about that.” The song, which resembled rock music from the late 1990s, called on Rudolph to “Turn off that nose! It’s way too bright!”

“Much like how the first and second grade sang about gifts they were asking for, this is about one particular type of animal — a hippopotamus,” Vessey said, introducing the next song: “I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas.”

The fourth graders closed the show with a song dedicated to the somewhat new tradition of wearing ugly holiday sweaters — which Vessey demonstrated by wearing an orange and blue Denver Broncos-themed one for the performance.

“That’s why I’m wearing this,” he said.



Fourth-grade students at Ocean Park School perform a song with hand motions during their holiday concert.

DAMIAN MULINIX/Chinook Observer