

Parkdale Elementary spreads holiday cheer to HR Care Center residents

Residents travel to Parkdale to meet with students

By **TRISHA WALKER**
News staff writer

December was service project month at Parkdale Elementary School, and 30 Hood River Care Center residents were the recipients of concentrated holiday cheer.

The school's PTO contacted Christine Shannon, Hood River Care Center activities director, who helped choose the 30 residents who received gift bags from the school's children — nearly all of the center's 52 occupants.

Each resident received nine handmade gifts, made during a PTO-sponsored art project day Dec. 12. Each classroom had a specific art project to complete: painting colorful pictures, personalizing a calendar, designing several greeting cards, sewing fleece hats and blankets, decorating gift bags, making silk floral arrangements, painting ornaments and creating a beaded window display, said Alison Betzing, PTO volunteer coordinator.

"Each art project was assembled by the students, and they created nine gifts for each of the 30 residents," Betzing said. "Each gift was made for the purpose of decorating the individual's room and bringing cheer to each resident throughout the year."

In addition to the gift bags, each resident will receive four or five cards throughout the year, for "birthdays or just because."

On Dec. 19, four of the residents — Christopher Schell, Lexie Jordan, Alvin Slory and Truman Keel — traveled to the school with Shannon and Tom Yates, volunteer with Providence Down Manor, who drove the residents to the school in that facility's bus. Once there, "a few students from each class introduced themselves and described what they contributed," said Betzing. "The students and residents were able to interact together, with lots of smiles to go around."

Shannon said the visiting residents had a great time at the school, and the gift bags were very well received by those back at the center. "Everyone's favorite thing was the wind chimes with crystals," she said, noting how they sparkle in the residents' windows. The handmade hats, blankets and scarves were also a big hit, and the calendars are hanging in each room.

"People were crying," Shannon said. "They loved it."



PARKDALE ELEMENTARY STUDENTS met with four of the 30 Hood River Care Center residents who received gift bags of handmade gifts as a special school-wide service project. Pictured are (back row, left to right): Joey Gill, Sophia Koekler, Suleka Ramirez, Alivia Bradley, Yesenia Carbontes, Charlie Wilson, Ximena Santillan, Bella Moore, Anna Pickering, Sherlin Flores Solano, — Tom Yates, McKenzie Quay; second row, seated: Christopher Schell, Lexie Jordan, Hood River Care Center Activities Director Christine Shannon, Alvin Slory, and Truman Keel; standing at right: Teagan Lynaugh, Meg Donnelly, Aireana Warren, Javier Marcias; front row, seated: Cale Goe and Reagan Mooney.



CALE GOE AND REAGAN MOONEY, kindergarteners at Parkdale Elementary, describe the silk floral arrangement project their class completed for Care Center residents.



FOURTH GRADERS XIMENA SANTILLAN and Charlie Wilson describe the paintings they created to brighten the rooms of 30 Care Center residents.

The residents are now writing thank you notes to the Parkdale students, and Shannon hopes a pen pal relationship will emerge.

"Now that school is back, we'll send something their way," she said.

Parkdale Elementary thanks Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital "for providing transportation, and a special thank you to Tom Yates, who drove them from HRCC to and from Parkdale," said Betzing. "A special thanks

also to the Parkdale community, for donating many of the supplies needed to complete each art project. Another special thank you to the hospital volunteers who provided several handmade blankets to go in a few of the gift bags."

Also in December, artist CJ Rench came to Parkdale Elementary to help students create small sculptures that each were able to take home. He also donated 100 percent of the

proceeds to the school's annual Happy Human Ornament sale (photo at right), 50 percent of which were donated to the FISH Food Bank.

THE HAPPY HUMAN ORNAMENT sale helped raise funds for Parkdale Elementary School this December.

Submitted photos



Breastfeeding support group looks to 2015

The Columbia Gorge Breastfeeding Coalition has formed a mother-to-mother support group to offer a place to turn during this important time. The group is facilitated by a Certified Lactation Consultant who listens and guides the discussion. Our goals for this group:

- Share breastfeeding information and personal experiences.
- Mutually support and learn from each other.
- Increase women's ability and confidence to nourish their babies.
- Discuss successful

strategies for mothers facing challenges while breastfeeding.

We are pleased to offer this community service at Riverside Church, Fourth and State streets, from 12-1 p.m. on the following Wednesdays:

Jan. 28; Feb. 11 and 25; March 11 and 25; April 8 and 22; May 6 and 20; June 3 and 17; July 1 and 15; and Aug. 5 and 19.

Please come, enjoy and offer support in an environment of ease and respect. For more information, please call Jennifer McCauley, RN, IBCLC, at 541-387-6344.

ON THE AGENDA

Cascade Locks City Council will swear in its mayor and council, re-elected Nov. 4, on Jan. 12.

The first meeting of the Hood River County School District Board of Directors for 2015 will be Jan. 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hood River Valley High School library.

These are the regular meeting times of governing bodies for these agencies:

Cascade Locks

Cascade Locks City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 140 W. WaNaPa St., second and fourth Mondays of the month.

Cascade Locks Planning Commission, 7 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 140 W. WaNaPa St., second Thursday of the month.

Cascade Locks Port Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 140 W. WaNaPa St., first and third Thursdays of the month.

Hood River

City of Hood River Plan-

ning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m., Hood River City Hall Council Chambers, 211 Second St., generally the first and third Mondays of the month. Place and dates subject to change.

Hood River Port Commission, 5 p.m., 100 E. Port Marina Drive, board room, first and third Tuesdays of the month.

Hood River City Council, 6 p.m., Hood River City Hall Council Chambers, 211 Second St., second and fourth Mondays of the month.

Hood River Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors meeting, 4 p.m., OSU Extension Service Building, 2990 Experiment Station Road, first Thursday of the month.

Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation District, 6 p.m., Aquatic Center, 1601 May St., third Wednesday of the month. Place subject to change.

Hood River County

Hood River County Board

of Commissioners regular session, 6 p.m., 601 State St., first floor conference room, third Monday of the month. Time subject to change.

Library District Board meeting, 7 p.m., 502 State St., conference room, third Tuesday of the month.

Hood River County Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m., 601 State St., first floor, generally second and fourth Wednesdays of the month.

Hood River County Water Planning Group, 2 p.m., 601 State St., first floor conference room, generally first Wednesday of the month.

Museum Board Meeting, 12 p.m., Grace Su's China Gorge Restaurant, generally second Wednesday of the month.

Hood River County Commission on Children and Families Board meeting, 5:15 p.m., Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital boardroom, generally first Tuesday of the month.

Hood River County School Board, 6:30 p.m., meets at schools and district facilities on a rotating schedule (visit hoodriver.k12.or.us for location), second and fourth Wednesdays of the month unless school vacations or other holidays interrupt the schedule.

Hood River County Transportation District, 9 a.m., Hood River County Transportation District Board Room, 224 Wasco Loop, second Wednesday of the month.

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