

Early Childhood Education News

Adhere to parking rules, please

Parents/Guardians and visitors to the Early Childhood Center are reminded of the following parking restrictions: 1) Please do not park along the curb outside of "A" building. This area is for ECE bus/van parking only. Official ECE vehicles used for child transport are the only allowed to park along the curb so the children can exit and enter the vehicles safely. The curb is painted yellow as a reminder for others not to park there. 2) Please respect the handicap parking slots in front of the ECE building's main office. Each slot to the left and right of the front door are painted with the handicap logo and signs are posted at each location. These slots are reserved for those with a need to have close access to the building due to handicaps or disabilities. 3) Parents/

Guardians, PLEASE parallel park in front of ECE when you pick up or drop off your child at "E" building. The parking lot has been designed with parallel parking. Please drive with care through the parking lot for the safety of all the children who may be running out to their car. THANKS!

Learn to manage \$

Early Childhood is encouraging interested parents/guardians to attend a money management workshop, sponsored by OSU Extension. The training will be offered at the Education Center on March 13, 20 & 27 and April 5 & 7.

**PARENTS/GUARDIANS:
YOU ARE YOUR CHILD'S
FIRST AND BEST
TEACHER!**

Home Base program praises families

Home Base is an extension of the Head Start Program, with services taking place in the homes of 9 families in the community. Pam Jackson, the Home Base parents for their commitment and dedication to the program: Lois Smith and her son Jasper participated in Home Base last year and now her youngest son, Leander is in the program. Lois is congratulated for her perfect attendance in February and her participation in the training's offered to parents by Head Start. Lois was also selected by Head Start Policy Council to attend the "Indian Child and Family Conference" in Mesa, AZ.

Other families with perfect attendance in February are: Charisse Jackson and her daughter Sharon, who are new to the program; and Lillian Blackwolfe and her son Matthew. Congratulations!

Thank you to Maxine McKinley, the grandmother of 3 year old Maximino Ruiz for her donation of a Wing Dress to the ECE Parent Club "Made in Warm Springs" raffle.

To each of these people, for your involvement, in the Home Base program, you are an inspiration to all parents of young children. THANKS!

Join us at the Agency Longhouse
March 17 to Honor Senior Citizens!

Area support groups noted

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| Monday | 4:30-6:30 p.m. | Youth Aftercare, Community Counseling Center |
| | 7:00-8:30 p.m. | 12 Step book study |
| Tuesday | 5:30-7:00 p.m. | Women's Support Group, Community Center (babysitting provided) |
| | 5:30-7:00 p.m. | Parenting Classes, Community Counseling Center |
| Wednesday | 4:30-6:00 p.m. | Youth Support Group, Community Counseling Center |
| | 6:00-7:30 p.m. | Women's Support Group, Community Counseling Center |
| | 7:00-8:30 p.m. | Wednesday Night Candlelight AA Meeting, Community Counseling Center |
| Thursday | 4:15-5:30 p.m. | Adolescent Girls Group (13 years & up), Community Counseling Center (3-5 p.m. during summer) |
| | 7:00-8:00 p.m. | AA Meeting, Community Counseling Center |
| Friday | 6:30-8:00 p.m. | AA Meeting, Simnasho Longhouse |
| | 4:30-6:00 p.m. | Youth AA, Community Counseling Center |
| Saturday | 7:00-8:30 p.m. | AA Meeting, Community Counseling Center |
| Support Group Meetings Madras | | |
| Sunday | 7:00-8:30 p.m. | AA Group, Jefferson Co. Recovery Center, 639 D Street |
| Tuesday | 8:00-9:30 p.m. | Tuesday Night AA Group/Alanon, St. Marks Episcopal Church, 5th & F Street |
| Martes | 8:00-9:30 p.m. | AA Meetings in Spanish, Juntas de Alcoholicos Anonimos en Espanol. Jefferson County Recovery Center, 639 D Street |
| Thursday | 8:00 p.m. | Thursday Night AA Group (non-smoking), Lutheran Church, 1225 C Street |

Parents can help children learn to read

Before she reads well, your child needs to develop what experts call "linguistic awareness," meaning that she knows some of the conventions of reading, including what a word is. To help your child develop these skills, try the following: 1) Read and look at books with your child every day. Doing so will help to develop a relationship with and a love of books. 2) Help your child understand that words have interesting and important meanings, and that you enjoy reading them to get information or to have fun. (You can use newspapers, magazine articles, recipes, directions,

comic strips and so on.) 3) Show your child that a book has a cover, a title that tells what it will be about and pages that go in order from front to back. Discuss the pictures and their relationship to the story. 4) Young children may be unaware that words have spaces between them, both in speech and on the printed page. With a child older than four, call attention to what words look like when you are reading. 5) Without making an issue of it, occasionally trace your finger under the line so that the child sees you moving from left to right and from top to bottom on each page.

Site council sets action plans

The WSE site Council was established 18 months ago as authorized by the state legislature to develop a school improvement plan. Site Council received a 21st Century grant which enables school staff, parents and community members to meet to generate and organize

thoughts about school, children and community.

The Site Council members are John Katchia, Sr., Pam Cardenas, Julie Quaid, Benson Heath, Sue Matters, Helena Jones, Jeff Sanders, Dawn Smith, Carol Bailey, Landon Belveal, Daniel Brown, Laura Fuentes, Russell Kaiser, Deanna LaPage, John Nelson, Harry Phillips, Donna Rodgers, Nancy Smith and Dennis White.

Thus far, site council has established several action plans to help carry out strategies that work toward improving WS Elementary. The plans look to positive change for the future and included many ideas which will need further refinement in the months and years to come.

Site Council meetings are held the 1st Wednesday of every month from 4:30 to 6:30 pm in the WSE library. Meetings are open to the public and input is welcome from anyone who wants to participate in positive change at Warm Springs Elementary.

Donations appreciated

The week of February 27th, ECE sponsored a food drive to collect items for the Warm Springs Food Bank. The Commodity food program is being cut on a national level and local food banks across the country are running low on reserve food. This is making it necessary for local communities to pull together and support their food bank.

Parents/Guardians dropped off non perishable food for the week in their child's classroom or in the ECE office. Thanks to all who contributed items to the food bank!

Mitchell chosen employee of month

February's employee of the month is Irwina Mitchell. She was selected for her excellent attendance and positive attitude.

Irwina is a teacher in the Toddler Room 1F. She is an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. She has a son, age 4, Ethan Smith, who attends the Head Start Full Day 4's program. Irwina is a single parent, working full time. She dedicates her spare time to visiting her fiancée, Rupert Smith, who remains in a comatose state in Mt. View Hospital. Other activities that Irwina enjoys are photography and cruising in her convertible!

The reason Irwina enjoys working at ECE is because she "likes being here for the kids." When asked her favorite themes with her classroom she stated that she "likes teaching them Sahaptin Indian language."

Irwina is a valued employee with Early Childhood Education and is appreciated by her students, their parents/guardians, other staff and supervisors. THANKS IRWINA!



Irwina Mitchell

And congratulations on being ECE's February employee of the month!

Children prepare for Senior's visit

March 17 is Honor Seniors Day in Warm Springs and the children of Early Childhood Education have been busy getting ready for the event. Each week Head Start classrooms have been donning shawls and vests to practice their finest moves in preparation for the ECE Mini Powwow to Honor Senior on their special day. Throughout all the programs the children and staff have been creating key chains, necklaces and other special gifts for the Honored Seniors from near and far.

It's time for the ECE Parent Club annual spring raffle "Made in Warm Springs." Donations are continuing to be accepted from all ECE parents/guardians and family members. Raffle tickets are on sale at the ECE office and from various program parents/guardians.

COCC Spring term classes scheduled

The Spring term for Central Oregon Community College in Warm Springs gets underway late this month—March 28, to be exact. In that week, registration at our office in the Tribal Education Center will commence. The selection of classes presented represents a number of areas which should hold particular interest for community members.

Community Education classes probably have the most appeal for the widest audience. Three classes, each having a different attraction, are featured this Spring term.

Golf, at Kah-Nee-Ta (**Golfing Around**) is a six-session offering designed for novices or for those who have recently taken up the challenge of this very demanding sport. Each class will take place on Thursday evening from 6 to 7 p.m. with the first session taking place April 13. Instructor is Mark Visintainer, Kah-Nee-Ta's new head pro, who previously worked at the Astoria Country Club and Illahee Hills in Salem.

Conversational Spanish features Warm Springs Healthy Nations Director Scott McLean as the instructor. Scott has a wide range of experience in settings where Spanish was the dominant language, including an extended time attending the University in Chile. The emphasis of

the learning approach in his class is not on a "book learning" address to the language. Instead, he focuses on the speaker being able to make himself understood in a simple, clear manner through concentrating on conversation and information that are drawn from ordinary, everyday life activities. Classes are to begin meeting April 12 and continue for six weeks ending May 17. Wednesday is the meeting night with each session lasting from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

The ever-increasing presence of computers has caused more and more people to feel that they had better develop some comfort with this

technology before it overwhelms them. An ability to use the keyboard and typing skills to communicate with the machine is vital to successful computer operation and to the execution of work using it. Marilyn Hart's class, **Keyboard Typing on the Computer**, presents a perfect, cost effective opportunity to pick up this skill. Class begins April 18 and will last for seven weeks ending May 30. Each class will run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Obviously, this course is ideally suited for beginners but is also perfectly appropriate for those who can "fumble" around the keyboard but are looking for a way to become more expert.

COCC offers credit courses

College credit classes are also part of the COCC Spring term package. The Employee Development Program financial course sequence will continue into its third component with the presentation of the last **Accounting** class.

An additional credit course offering that will be of more general interest is **Psychology 201—General Psychology**. This class is being sponsored in response to the needs of some ECE staff people who are

currently working toward an Associates degree. However, it is a class which is a common component in almost any college degree program. So, at this time, there is space available in Psy 201 for anyone in need of this type of college credit.

To participate in any of the classes, you must register **IN PERSON** at the Tribal Branch Education Center with COCC. Remember, your place in a particular class can be reserved only if you have made payment. Questions, call 553-1428.

Little enjoyed the days of her past better

Sixty-two year old Ursula Little is an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. She was born November 2, 1932 at the old clinic which was a hospital back then. She was born to Nathan and Lilly (McBride) Heath. Her grandmother was Jessie Heath. She has five brothers and two sisters; Kathleen Heath, Teaman Heath, who preceded her in death July 18, 1973, Sanders Heath,

Delvis Heath, Nola Queahpama, Martinez Heath and Benson Heath. They grew up in Simnasho, where her brother Benny now lives.

Ursula went to school in Simnasho by horseback with her brothers and sisters. She attended Simnasho until it closed, then she attended Warm Springs Boarding School. Ursula stated that, "we were required to wear certain types of clothing." She also mentioned

when students were punished, they were required to sit facing the corner wall until school was over. When the high school opened in Madras she went there. She also recalled attending Chemawa Indian School for one year when she was about seven or eight years of age.

She was employed at Kah-Nee-Ta sort as a maid until her dad away January 5, 1970. She picked potatoes in Madras, Rea. and, Culver and Prineville with her mother. She has been cooking and cleaning at the Senior Citizen Building in Warm Springs. For the past three or four years.

When she was younger, she recalls picking berries "down the road" from Mt. Hood. She rode horses a lot, and took part in cattle rides in the spring. She and her family sometimes stayed at Eagle Springs all summer long, where it was cool.

She mentioned people used to load their horses on a truck to attend the fair in Tygh Valley, but she and her brothers would ride their horses from Simnasho. They would stay in a teepee throughout the fair and display their beadwork for show. She also remembers in her youth, attending the Longhouse powwows by wagon and camping there throughout the

weekend. Fishing in the Warm Springs River by net is also a fond memory from her youth.

She is active in all the Warm Springs Longhouses but is originally from the Simnasho Longhouse. She has done a lot of beadwork in her years, which she enjoys.

While she was attending school in Simnasho, she and her brothers would ride their horses to church every Sunday, they attended at the old Presbyterian Church in Simnasho. She commented, "now we got car, you think we go."

Ursula married Leo Little of Owyhee, Nevada, November 10, 1960. He preceded her in death June 29, 1992. She had two sons; Elton Timmy Heath, who preceded her in death August 13, 1990, and Eli Little who died January 18, 1986.

As far as traveling she mentioned trips she has taken which include flying to Oklahoma for a powwow as well as a trip with the seniors to Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Her feelings of the past days as compared to now she mentioned, "I used to like it better long ago compared to now. Back then we didn't know what it was what kids do now days, getting into mischief and using drugs."



Ursula shares a photo of her and her son Eli together.



Sixty-two-year-old Ursula, proudly displays a bag she made. She now makes her home in West Hills.

Information compiled by Bob Medina
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