

509-J Schools in Action!

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Above (left to right): Second graders Logan Baldwin and Jayden Moll Palamo show off their "perfect copy" journal writing from Ms. Comingore's class at Metolius Elementary; Metolius Elementary second grader Tanner Coyle is making great progress with his writing skills.

Leadership Corner

A Message from Rick Molitor

Superintendent



Over the past few weeks, there have been conversations about a Warm Springs High School or School District and I wanted to share my thoughts and comments in an effort to minimize rumors and speculation. I'd like to start by saying that our District team -- including the School Board -- is not looking to divide our school district. In fact, we are proud of our diversity and the strength it adds to our education system.

We believe that we offer one of the richest cultural environments in the state and we value that.

With that said, we also believe in asking for and listening to community input. At a recent meeting between our School Board and Tribal Council, we discussed the previous Tribal Council's long-term goal to create a K-12 education system on the Warm Springs Reservation. This goal is also part of our current education agreement with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Because the agreement sunsets on July 1st, 2016, our School Board is working with the new Tribal leadership on the next agreement. As part of this process, we want to make sure that community members have a voice that represents the majority of Warm Springs residents and not just a small group. That's why we're having these meetings and asking for community input on how we can best meet the needs of ALL of our students.

Our mission will continue to guide us in Uniting to Empower Culturally-Enhanced Learners to Shape the World and our Strategic Plan will help us work in partnership with families and communities to make this happen.

Thank you for your on-going support and partnership. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me, or a member of our District team.

Sincerely,
Rick Molitor, Superintendent



Metolius Elementary teacher Ronica Comingore with blossoming second grade writers Addy Adams and Eben Tapia.

Metolius teacher encourages young writers

Second grade students at Metolius Elementary School are blossoming into great writers thanks to teacher Ronica Comingore, who is helping them learn how to organize and edit their work.

"In kindergarten and first grade, students do a lot of journal writing, but once they get to second grade, we want them to understand the writing process," said Comingore.

According to Comingore, students are learning to start with "sloppy copies" that they edit until they have "perfect copies" that they write neatly in spiral notebooks. The students are proud of their work and their writing skills are improving in leaps and bounds.

"Ms. Comingore has really high expectations for academics and writing and the kids are responding wonderfully," said Metolius Elementary Principal Craig Morgan. "I'm thrilled with the quality and detail of their writing."



Retired and former teachers come back three times each year to help with DIBELS assessments (from left): Heidi Boyle, Sandy Loomis, Angie Henderson, Terri Comment and Anne Scheideman. Not pictured: Barbara Manning, Doug Harris, Elouise Kirsch, Sally Miller, Carol Bicart and Patty Lieuallen.

A little extra student time goes a long way

JCSD elementary school students get a little extra support and attention thanks to a group of retired teachers who return three times each year to help with reading assessments. The teachers spend time with individual students grades K through 6 to see how they are progressing with reading and comprehension skills. DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) is a tool used by many schools throughout the country to assess student progress three times each school year.

"It's not just about testing, it's about seeing where kids are and watching their progress," said retired teacher Sandy Loomis who leads the District DIBELS assessments. "It also helps us look at our teaching practices so we can understand where we're doing well and where we need to improve."

According to Loomis, having that one-on-one adult time also helps students build confidence and set goals.

"We see the kids come back with big smiles on their faces because they can see their progress and understand what they need to work on," said Angie Henderson, DIBELS team member.



(Left to right): Metolius Elementary School students Selena Palacios and Maria Covarrubias visit with the new class turtle.

Calendar

February

- 4 Last Day of Semester
- 5-6 No School Conferences/Inservice
- 9 School Board Meeting/SSB Board Room/7:00 p.m.
- 11 2 Hour Early Release
- 16 No School President's Day
- 23 School Board Meeting/SSB Board Room/7:00 p.m.
- 25 2 Hour Early Release

March

- 6 No School Conferences/Teacher Inservice



(Left to right): Meriyah Maldonado, McKenzie Vansomeren, Dasen Rodriguez and Inorah Phifren are learning to organize ideas and write details in Ms. Comingore's second grade class at Metolius Elementary.

MHS athletes represent

Our MHS athletes have been turning heads for the past few seasons but not just for their athletic abilities. It seems that their conduct on and off the field/court during away games is making an impression outside of Central Oregon. Here's what a parent from Stayton High School in Stayton, Oregon wrote in an email to MHS Principal Sarah Braman-Smith after a recent boys basketball game:

"I want to take a minute to tell you what a wonderful impression your varsity boys basketball players made on the Stayton parents after last night's basketball game. Your players came into the stands and thanked parents, shook our hands and said 'thanks for having us.' As a parent of a Stayton varsity player, I was so touched to see such great sportsmanship. Your players looked each of us in the eye and were sincere in their sentiments, WOW! As a parent, it is so encouraging to see such thoughtfulness. You have an incredible group of young men, parents and coaches."

According to Braman-Smith and Athletic Director Evan Brown, coaches Sam McCormick and Allen Hair, have championed this sense of sportsmanship among their teams.

"We see this type of conduct everyday at school but it's nice when others notice and take the time to let us know," Braman-Smith added.

SCHOOL BOND CONSTRUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

It's been nearly two years and nine months since local community members voted to invest in education by passing a bond to fund new and upgraded facilities throughout JCSD. Here are some highlights on the projects to date:

Warm Springs K-8

- The Warm Springs K-8 Academy was completed on time, under budget and included many improvements (in spite of USDA funding setbacks and a federal government shutdown).
- Teamwork, communication and cooperation took place every step of the way.
- Travis Wells and Laurie Danzuka helped keep the project moving despite staff reductions and changes at CTWS.
- The team exceeded the goal of 25% tribal hiring with a peak of 44%.

In-town Projects

- All projects were completed on time (visit jcsd.k12.or.us for details).
- The District is currently working with Oregon Energy Trust and the Oregon Department of Energy on possible funding for several energy savings projects this summer.
- The District is waiting to hear about state grant funding to complete some of the remaining "wait and see" facilities projects.
- Darryl Smith and Tim Whitaker have worked closely with the construction project team to make sure the projects were successful.