

509-J Schools in Action!

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Buff Intermediate School teaches the ABCs of bike safety

Volunteers and faculty at Buff Intermediate School are helping students in the third, fourth and fifth grades safely walk and bike their way through the community for the fifth year as part of the Walk+Bike program.

“Walk+Bike provides students with an opportunity to be safe in the streets and aware of their surroundings as well as stop signs, stoplights and the cars and drivers on the road.”

— Brian Horton, PE teacher at Buff Intermediate School

As part of the program, third grade students walked around town and learned how to obey the rules of the road such as crossing streets where crosswalks are present, using stop signs and crosswalks at intersections, and understanding stop lights and signals for pedestrians,” Horton said.

The fourth and fifth grade students were also provided with loaner bikes and helmets and participated in a series of instruction, obstacle courses and games designed to teach them riding skills and proper bike safety.

“I learned that helmets save lives,” said Brooke Delmarter, grade 5.

“We should use turn signals like cars because we share the road with them,” said Ethan Hall-White, grade 5.

“I felt like this year’s event and events in the past were successful in that students were able to transfer what they learned in class and apply it to real-life situations,” Horton said. “This training is something that the learners will remember and use often throughout their lives.”



Madras High School student receives high desert hero award



The Center Foundation recently named Madras High School senior Melissa Olivera as a High Desert Hero. This award is presented each month during the school year to an outstanding Central Oregon student leader who demonstrates a high Grade Point Average, school leadership and community involvement. In addition to public recognition, Olivera received a college scholarship.

“Melissa is wise, humble and compassionate. While she certainly deserves all the recognition she is receiving at this point, she is motivated by a much higher purpose: she genuinely finds joy in pursuing the best in herself and in building up others.”

— Eric Carman, National Honor Society Advisor



“Melissa is an outstanding student and an even better person.”

— Leo Tson, MHS Business Teacher and FBLA Advisor



“We are fortunate to have Melissa Olivera as a part of our learning community. She is sincere, intelligent, and hard working. She has done a wonderful job representing Madras High School and I am excited for her current and future successes!”

— Sarah Braman-Smith, MHS Principal

Madras High School’s new Performing Arts Director has been all-in from the start

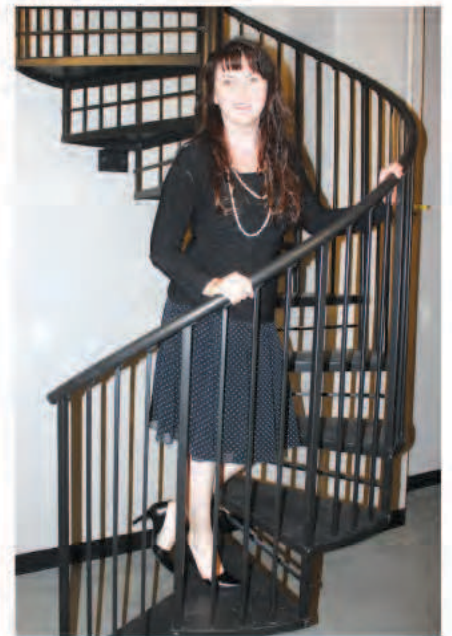
From the day-to-day operations of managing finances and marketing to the more creative aspects of sound and light management, new Director of Performing Arts Shannan Ahern is the backbone of Madras High School’s Performing Arts Center.

At the very beginning, Ahern was part of the bond committee that advocated for funding of the new Performing Arts Center back in 2012 and was on the committee that helped to design the new space.

“I am eager to see this wonderful building meet its full potential,” Ahern said. “I want it to become a mainstay for the community: when they think of great performances, I want them to immediately think of this venue and have it be a destination for them.”

As director, Ahern also hopes to be an advocate for students and the greater Madras community.

“I am passionate about the arts, appreciate how much they help our kids to grow into well-rounded human beings and want to do everything in my power to give kids the chance to experience them and learn that opportunities do exist there,” Ahern said. “I love the thought of opening up a whole new world to someone and helping them find their calling and their passion.”

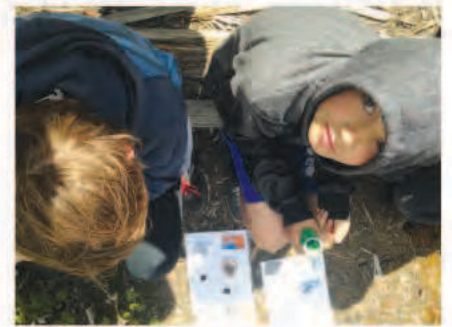


Shannan Ahern

Ahern’s goal is to also provide a cultural venue for the Madras community to attract larger acts and performances that draw larger crowds.

“In many ways, this community is culturally-rich, but also culturally-starved,” Ahern said. “I want this center to help fill that niche and need. I want to bring things to this stage that most folks would otherwise not have the opportunity to experience.”

Jefferson County Middle School students learn outdoors



Sixth grade students from JCMS recently attended a three-day outdoor school at Camp Tamarack near Suttle Lake. The students enjoyed outside learning where they studied ecology and discussed how all the parts of the planet need each other and depend on each other.

“Students got their hands dirty with field studies focusing on water, fire, and plants,” said JCMS teacher Gena Bennett. “They sampled water quality, determine pH, dissolved oxygen and turbidity and identified macroinvertebrates from Dark Lake.”

According to Bennett, the 86 students who participated also studied the effects of fire on an ecosystem and learned about plant adaptations.

“The other goal was to encourage team work and new friendships,” said Bennett. “They stayed in cabins and shared responsibilities for kitchen and cleaning duties.”

There was also archery, canoeing, gaga ball, hiking and printmaking during the day followed by evening skits and songs by the campfire.

“At Camp Tamarack a great experience was overcoming my fears. I wish I could have stayed forever. My advice would be to enjoy every moment.”

— Tatum Romero, grade 6



Visit the District website at jcsd.k12.or.us

Calendar

June

- 3 2-hour Early Release
- 6 MHS Graduation at the New Athletic Stadium: 2 p.m.
- 8 School Board Meeting SSB: 7 p.m.
- 11 Last Day of School: (1/2 day for students)

JCSD Alumni: Where are they now?

Do you know a JCSD alumni who has moved on to college and/or career success? We are looking to feature our graduates in future *Schools in Action* updates. If you know of a former student, drop a note and photo to Superintendent Rick Molitor: rmolitor@509j.net.