

509-J Schools in Action!

www.jcsd.k12.or.us



Leadership Corner

A Message from Rick Molitor
Superintendent



We are well into fall and our district staff has been hard at work creating effective Student Learning Goals. We also had a very successful professional development day and a few more coming up in November. I wanted to share with you some praise our district has received in regard to these activities.

I am always encouraged and impressed when education experts comment on the work we do throughout our district. What I usually hear is, "Wow, you have an amazing staff and a lot of great things are happening in your district!"

The expert who helped with our professional development day was impressed with the work we are doing and commented on the attentiveness and engagement our staff exhibited throughout his workshop.

The expert who is helping us set Student Learning Goals at the administrative level spoke very highly of our work and said Jefferson County is a leading district when it comes to evaluation systems. I am excited about the direction our district is heading. I want to thank our teachers and staff for their enthusiasm and hard work. I also want to thank Jefferson County School District families for your continued support of education. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or comments. I can be reached at (541) 475-6192 or rmolitor@509j.net.

See you soon,
Rick Molitor, JCSD Superintendent



From Left to Right: Student leader Spirit, Xavia Bernard, Tasha Herkshan, Stacy Taylor and Shanti Rodriguez enjoy camp camaraderie.

JCMS sixth graders take their learning outdoors

In September, JCMS sixth graders gained hands-on environmental science experience at Camp Tamarack outdoor school.

Ninety students attended the three-day camp, which is located just outside of Sisters on Dark Lake. Students conducted a wide variety of science-related activities including field studies focusing on fire, water and plant ecology. They took water samples of Dark Lake, learned how fire impacts an ecosystem and identified forest plants.

"Each of the field studies really focused on the students' relationship with the environment and how they can impact it," said Counselor Peter Hower, who was one of the camp chaperones.

Students also enjoyed "chatter" time – which included canoeing, printmaking, hiking, archery and team-building games.

"My favorite activity was canoeing," said sixth grader Eduardo Garibo. "It was the first time that I've ever done that and it was fun."

"The kids loved the activities and it was great to see them navigating Dark Lake in a canoe," said Instructional

Coach Gena Bennett. "One of my favorite moments of camp was watching a group of eight students at archery. One student had experience with shooting a bow and arrow and the other students were less familiar. That student was so supportive of his peers in showing them the proper way to hold the bow and aim the arrows. The students cheered each other along as they shot their arrows. It was truly a collaborative experience where students worked together and shared their knowledge to help everyone be successful."

The camp recruits and trains Central Oregon high school students to volunteer as cabin leaders. The sixth graders really connect with them.

"I liked my high school cabin leader," said student Shirley Menendez. "Her name was Dirt."

According to teacher and camp instructor Rachel Ryan, the outdoor school experience at the beginning of the school year helps incoming sixth graders build relationships with their new peers.



Sixth graders Natalie Ramirez and Neida Felix canoe across Dark Lake.

Getting to know our school board members

Meet JCSD 509J's newest school board member Courtney Snead. Snead brings her passion for education and our community to her school board role even though it will be awhile before her nine-month-old daughter is even a student.

"I want to help the district embrace and embed the heart of our strategic plan into every decision we make. The strategic plan was created by and for our community, and celebrates the diversity of our district students and families. That is something I get really excited about."



Is your child ready to walk or ride to school alone?

The Oregon Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School program has developed a poster to help parents decide if their child is ready to walk or ride to school alone. Oregon has no legal minimum age requirement for children traveling to school on their own. Basic guidelines include:

- Being "old enough" is different from being ready.
- Think about your unique child – can your child:
 - Pay attention?
 - Remember and follow the rules?
 - Make good decisions?
 - Feel comfortable on their own?



For more information go to:

<http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TSDocs/SafeRoutes/ChildWalkAlonePoster.pdf>

Are you in the loop?

If you haven't signed up to receive important district updates by phone, email, text and social media, don't wait any longer! We want to be sure we can reach you in the event of an emergency! If you've already signed up, but your contact information has changed, let us know ASAP!

www.jcsd.k12.or.us/parents/509j-myconnect-calling-system

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.

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

Performing Arts Center Events

PAC

November

9 "Unbranded"
6:30 p.m. • Fundraiser film screening for WHSN

17 "Mistatim"
6:00 p.m. • All Ages • Free Admission • Donations Welcome
A coming of age theater production about the truest of friendships. Presented by JCSD 509J in partnership with the Tower Theater's LessonPlan Program.

For more information, call 541.475.4327 or visit www.jcsd.k12.or.us/PAC.



"The camp really gives students a broader sense of the world especially those students who have limited opportunities outside of Madras. It is an experience in the outdoors that many of our students would not otherwise have."

— Rachel Ryan, teacher and camp instructor

Calendar

November

- 9 School Board Meeting: 7 p.m./SSB
- 9-10 No School/Teacher Work Day
- 11 No School/Veteran's Day
- 23-27 No School/Thanksgiving Break

