



(Above left): Metolius custodian Gus Torres hard at work.
(Above right): Students shop for gifts at Metolius' holiday student store.

Leadership Corner

A Message from Rick Molitor Superintendent



Happy holidays! I hope you enjoy a safe and happy season. I wanted to give you a quick update on the reconfiguration planning work we've been doing. You may have heard that our elementary-age student population is expected to see the largest enrollment increase – between 250 and 350 students -- within the next eight years. To make sure our elementary schools don't become overcrowded, we've been exploring reconfiguration options.

While we haven't made any final decisions, we have a possible model that we are sharing with staff and stakeholders to get their input. The model is based on two years of discussion, research and review and includes:

- Changing Buff Intermediate, Madras Primary and Metolius Elementary to serve students in grades K-4
- Expanding JCMS to serve students in grades 5-8
- Keeping Big Muddy, Warm Springs K-8 and Madras High School the same

The model we're considering addresses the need for more space at both Madras Primary and Metolius Elementary. We've discovered that simply redrawing boundaries won't solve the problem of over crowding. JCMS has the greatest available space. The preferred K-4 and 5-8 model requires minimal structural changes, creates consistency among the three elementary schools in Madras and Metolius, and allows for one less transition for primary and intermediate learners.

We will be collecting staff input through January. Parents and stakeholders are invited to learn more and provide feedback at the following community input sessions:

Monday, January 11 6:00 p.m. Metolius Elementary	Wednesday, January 13 6:00 p.m. Buff Intermediate
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For those who are unable to attend or wish to share additional feedback, there will also be an online survey on the district's main website page. We want to make a final decision before March and roll out the changes for the 2016-2017 school year. I look forward to hearing ideas from our staff and the community on how we can best meet the future needs of our students.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have questions or comments. I can be reached at (541) 475-6192 or rmolitor@509j.net.

Rick Molitor, JCSD Superintendent



Students enjoy lunch in the principal's office as a reward for good behavior.

Positive Climate Makes Metolius Shine

New principal Adam Dietrich is thrilled with the direction that Metolius Elementary School is heading.

"There are so many great things happening at our school," Dietrich said. "Our school climate is extremely positive. Teachers are excited about the year and the new programs that we are working to implement."

For starters, the school had 100 percent attendance at its fall conferences, which is amazing considering there are 300 students at Metolius. In addition, the school has not had below 90 percent attendance on any given day this year.

"Our staff are working hard to engage and excite students as they teach newly adopted reading and math curriculum," said Dietrich. "We have meetings after each benchmark testing period to assess the effectiveness of our reading program and teaching strategies. Teachers are setting goals to help students continue to find success."

To encourage and celebrate student success, the school has monthly award ceremonies to recognize good character traits, attendance, fifth grade self managers and those who demonstrate the school's three expectations -- being safe, respectful and responsible.



Discovery – Metolius students Carolina DeAnda and Steven Johnson dissect owl pellets as part of their third grade science lesson.

"Our staff are working hard to engage and excite students as they teach newly adopted reading and math curriculum."

— Adam Dietrich, Principal, Metolius Elementary School

When students are "caught" demonstrating these expectations, they earn wolf tickets. These tickets can be spent on special incentives, including extra recesses and activities, as well as the holiday student store, lunch with staff, and Metolius' "minute to win it" competitions at assemblies.

"Being a new principal coming to a school with such a strong and experienced team of educators and staff, at first seemed intimidating, but after the first five minutes, I felt very welcome," explained Dietrich. "The entire school staff is working as one cohesive team to ensure the best education and learning environment for our students."



The Grinch Visits Metolius

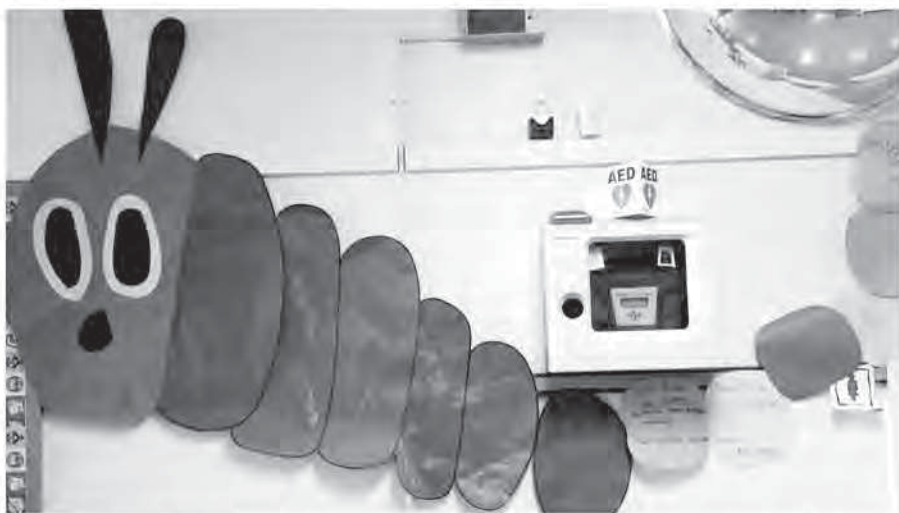
Students and their families were treated to a visit by the Grinch during the school's Holiday Family Night and book fair. All students who attended received a free book, and families who shopped at the book fair enjoyed a buy one, get one free book sale.

Getting to know our school board members

Lyle Rehwinkel can hardly believe it has been ten years since he was first appointed to the Jefferson County School board. Rehwinkel has a 21-year-old daughter who graduated from Madras High School and is now a senior at Pacific University studying to be a pharmacist. His 17-year-old son will graduate from MHS this year.

Rehwinkel joined the board to be part of the overall system and to help make decisions that would shape the future for JCSD students.

"I am most proud of how our students have handled all the changes the district has made in the past three to four years, and how they continue to work hard and strive to play a positive role in our community. I hope that our district continues to create opportunities for all our families to have the education they want and deserve."



Worming their way into reading

This very hungry caterpillar keeps growing and growing, thanks to readers at Metolius Elementary School. Students get to add a circle to the caterpillar's body each time they finish a book. Each circle has the book's title, author and name of the student who read it. According to Principal Adam Dietrich, students read 250 books in two weeks alone. When the worm winds its way around the entire school, students will have a "read in" party. "We are building an environment of children who love to read," Dietrich said.

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

Calendar

January 2016

- 4 School Resumes
- 11 School Board Meeting – 7 p.m./SSB
Parent Community Meeting (reconfiguration)
6:00 p.m. / Metolius Elementary
- 13 Parent Community Meeting (reconfiguration)
6:00 p.m./Buff Intermediate
- 18-19 No School
- 25 School Board Meeting – 7 p.m./SSB
- 29 End of quarter 2/semester 1

February

- 1 No School – Teacher Workday

