



(Front row left to right) Simon Sangha, Lizzy Wienert, Ryan LeRiche, Ginny Huang, Killian Smith, Coty Simmons, and Jeremy Stinson attend the closing ceremony of the Future Business Leaders of America state competition. (Top left) Ryan LeRiche, Simon Sangha and Omar Dominguez are dressed for success.



The Native STAND health education program helps MHS and Warm Springs Native American students deal with coming-of-age issues. (Top right) Warm Springs seventh grader Amyha Miller enjoyed participating in the Native STAND program.

MHS Students Are Business Leaders of the Future

The Madras High School chapter of Future Business Leaders of America pulled off the strongest showing in recent school history at the state competition in Portland. Thirteen MHS students competed against more than 2,600 students from across the state.

Junior Idalis Ibrahim won state champion in Introduction to Business Procedures. In addition to Ibrahim, eleventh graders Jeremy Stinson, Carly Breach and Ryan LeRiche qualified for national competition. Vanessa Aguirre, also a junior, was nominated to attend the nationals in a leadership role. Eleven students made the top ten in their respective events and Carly Breach was elected state vice president for the Cascade Region.

"I've learned so much since joining FBLA this year," said Ibrahim. "It's encouraging to have done so well in such a great group of students and I can't wait for nationals this summer."

FBLA is a student organization that combines education and business skills to prepare students to be strong leaders in business, government and communities.

"It has been an adventure with this great group of students determined to build a strong FBLA chapter here at Madras High School," said first year adviser and business teacher Angie Mason-Smith. "They have succeeded beyond my expectations. We have grown the program, excitement and membership. Many of these students are first year FBLA members. We have strong leadership and it shows in our output."



MHS Junior Carly Breach inducted as FBLA vice president, Cascade Region.

Warm Springs, MHS students participate in Native STAND

Native American students at Warm Springs K-8 and Madras High School participated in a unique health education program created specifically to help them deal with coming-of-age issues.

Called Native STAND (Students Together Against Negative Decisions), the program is held at the Warm Springs campus and is facilitated by Scott Kalama and Anita Davis. Kalama is a Warm Springs tobacco prevention specialist and Native American hip-hop artist. Davis is a Warm Springs community health educator.

"While all youth face extreme pressure to fit in and belong, Native youth face unique challenges because they walk between two different, but interconnected worlds," Kalama explained.

Native STAND is aimed at seventh through twelfth graders and uses peer educators to teach students how to make the best decisions for themselves based on factual, science-based information delivered in a way they can relate to, by people who they can trust and feel comfortable talking to.

The program's comprehensive and skills-based curriculum embraces traditional teachings and cultural strengths and includes STD, HIV, and teen pregnancy prevention, as well as drug and alcohol issues and dating violence.

"It's important for kids to know their bodies and to understand what's happening when their hormones kick in," said Davis. "I want them to feel a sense of ownership for their health and their bodies. I tell them 'You have a choice and how you exercise that choice can be a pitfall or a reward.'"

Sessions focus on positive personal development, including team building, diversity, self-esteem, goals and values, decision making, negotiation and refusal skills, peer educator skills, and effective communication.

"It was fun learning about native culture. It helps us to get courage and is part of us and part of our life," said Amyha Miller, a seventh grader at Warm Springs K-8. "I learned that the sage and sweet grass represent part of the colors in the medicine wheel."

"It's interesting learning different ways to cope with life in general," said MHS senior Nicole Goudy. "I got involved because I wanted to be a mentor to the younger kids and I thought this could be a good way to give back."

JCMS students' cuisine reigns supreme

Jefferson County Middle School students once again chopped the competition in the regional Iron Chef cook off.

Seventh-graders Heather Horn and Jose Mendoza and sixth-grader Madisyn Johnson kept cool under pressure, even after blowing a breaker and relocating to another part of the room. The team's three-cheese rainbow pasta - loaded with colorful veggies, five cheeses and lots of spices took first prize at the recent competition held in Culver.

The trio first won the local JCMS competition, beating out two other teams from the school. The win enabled them to go on and compete at the regional event against the Culver team.

"The students were seizing the opportunity to learn about and develop a skill they were interested in and wanted to be able to use at home," said JCMS teacher Rachel Ryan, who was there to cheer the students on.

"I'm still using many of my skills at home that I learned at Iron Chef, starting at how to season foods and to how to use a knife correctly," said Horn.

"Now I'm able to cook with my mom and make many foods that I had no idea how to make before," added Villegas.

For their expert culinary skill, the team won a trophy that is on display at the school and gained memories to last a lifetime.

When asked how it felt to win, Mendoza said, "I felt excited and exhilarated! It was really great."



(Left to right) Heather Horn, Madisyn Johnson and Jose Mendoza show off the blue ribbons they won at the Jefferson County Middle School Iron Chef Competition. The trio went on to win the regional competition in Culver.



Metolius Elementary students celebrate the opening of their new playground.



James Mikkelson, educational assistant at Madras High School's Learning Annex, assists a student.

Metolius Elementary Gets New Playground

After six years of PTA fundraising, Metolius Elementary held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the purchase and installation of a shiny new play structure.

The green and tan equipment is designed for students in grades K-5 so it can be enjoyed by the entire school.

Generous donations were also received from numerous businesses, organizations and individuals in the community.

Patrick Hughes, husband of first grade teacher Penny Hughes and owner of a trucking and excavation company, led a group of volunteers in putting the equipment together. This helped the PTA save money as well.

"A special thank you to all those who have participated in fundraisers and donated time, money or products and to those that helped throughout the construction process to make our students' dream of a new playground structure come true," said PTA Co-President Kayla DuPont.

MHS graduate discovers a passion for teaching

A stint filling in as a substitute teacher at his alma mater has led Madras High School graduate James Mikkelson on a whole new career path.

Mikkelson, a 2010 graduate, attended Eastern Oregon University for a year after high school. He planned on getting a degree in exercise science and becoming an athletic trainer. Something about that just didn't feel right and Mikkelson decided to change direction.

He took a job subbing for Patricia Wetzel, instructor at MHS' Learning Annex, for a couple days and really liked it.

"I heard the district needed educational assistants and it sounded like something I would like," Mikkelson explained.

He decided to apply and worked at Madras Primary for a while. He now works with seniors and five-year graduates at the Learning Annex.

"The best part of my job is seeing a kid pass a class or understand what they are working on," Mikkelson said. "The most challenging part is keeping students on task and making sure they understand their course work."

Mikkelson now plans on attending Central Oregon Community College in the fall and working toward a teaching degree.

"This job has been a great way to see what it's like to be a teacher," he said. "Turns out it is something I really enjoy."

Performing Arts Center Events

May

- 13 Becoming Shakespeare - 6 p.m.
- 14 Becoming Shakespeare - 6 p.m.
- 15 Becoming Shakespeare - 2 p.m.
- 18 MHS Choir Spring Concert - 6:30 p.m.
- 19 JROTC Awards Ceremony - 2:30 p.m.
- 24 Buff Music Lessons Recital - 6 p.m.
- 25 Madras Primary Lessons Recital - 6 p.m.

June

- 2 MHS Band Spring Concert - 6:30 p.m.
- 3 Buff Intermediate Spring Concert - 6 p.m.

Calendar

May

- 9 First Budget Committee & School Board Meeting - 6 p.m./SSB
- 23 School Board Meeting - 7 p.m./SSB
- 30 No School - Holiday

