



## Leadership Corner

### A Message from Rick Molitor

Superintendent



#### A time for change

You may have heard that this will be my last year as superintendent for JCSD. It has been my honor to serve students, families and staff members for the past nine years and I've been very proud of the progress we've made. Together, we have made improvements in student academic growth and graduation rates. With support from our community, we also passed a \$26.7 million bond that has resulted in a new Warm Springs K-8 Academy, the Madras Performing Arts Center, and a new track and football stadium at Madras High School.

My plan had always been to stay in this role for eight years, but I wanted to make sure the timing was right for our school communities. Our school board members and I agree that this is the right time and a positive move for the district.

My family and I love this community and we hope to stay here as I explore new career opportunities. Over the coming months, I will be working with our school board to recruit and train a new superintendent who is well-versed in diversity and will continue the good work that's been done while expanding our focus on relationship building.

I want to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for your support over the years and I look forward to our continued growth as we finish out the school year and prepare our kids for the future.

#### Diversity and voice create unity

As we navigate the current political climate, I think it's important to remind ourselves about the core values and beliefs that our JCSD community helped to identify in our strategic planning process. Among many things, we believe that diversity and voice create unity and we also value respect, citizenship, caring and fairness.

Let's stand together as adults and role models to support each other, regardless of our political beliefs. Please join us in showing our children what it means to be part of a welcoming and accepting community.

Rick Molitor, JCSD Superintendent

*"Our school district is unique in that it represents multiple cultures. As the world becomes smaller, understanding and acceptance of multiple cultures helps us live and grow in harmony. Therefore, the JCSD recognizes our diversity as a strength to be nurtured."*

— JCSD Strategic Plan for Future



WSK8 students Alosa Sohappy, Jedediah Governor, Katelyn Tanewasha and RJ Medrano hold up a poster with pictures from their recent outdoor learning trip to Camp Tamarack.

## Students get outside to learn

Fifth and sixth grade students from Warm Springs K-8 Academy and Jefferson County Middle School recently shared in a three-day outdoor learning experience at Camp Tamarack near Suttle Lake.

"Our kids studied about plants, animals, water, fire, oxygen and many other things, but they also had a very special opportunity to build positive relationships with each other and their teachers," said WSK8 Principal Ken Parshall. "Studying science outdoors builds curiosity and provides our kids with exciting hands on learning."

According to Mark Hubler, who teaches fifth grade at WSK8, Camp Tamarack was a great experience for students and teachers alike.

"It's a really special spot with supportive staff who get kids excited about science," said Hubler.

"I liked walking in the woods because I grew up hunting, fishing and cutting wood with my dad so I know a lot about trees," said WSK8 fifth grader Jedediah Governor.

Katelyn Tanewasha, also in fifth grade at WSK8 said her favorite part of the trip was canoeing but she learned a lot of things too.

"In 2003, there was a fire from Warm Springs to Sisters. We also learned about water and archery and went on a long hike," said Tanewasha.

WSK8 fifth grader Jedediah Governor said he saw crawdads and skippers and liked sleeping in cabins and hearing stories told by his group leader "Chicken Joe."

Last month, Oregon voters approved Measure 99, the ballot measure that takes a portion of the state's lottery money to fund programs like Camp Tamarack so students will continue to have access to these programs in the future.



Justice Allen, grade 3; Maylene Smith, grade 3; and Warm Springs elders Wanda Calica and Lois Squiempfen help celebrate WSK8 Spirit Week in traditional Native American dress.

## WSK8 celebrates heritage

There were many activities to celebrate Spirit Week at WSK8 in November, but on November 15, halls and classrooms were filled with smiles and bright colors as students came to school in traditional native ribbon shirts and wing dresses.

November is National Native American Heritage month, but the WSK8 team and students strive to celebrate and study Warm Springs culture year-round.

"There is a feeling of pride and ownership in the school and the community seems to embrace this building," said Shontae Thomas, speech/language pathologist assistant. "These lovely women, Warm Springs elders, come and teach the three native languages of this region and it's wonderful to hear the languages being spoken. The kids are so excited to learn and share the languages."



JCS D Superintendent Rick Molitor enjoys lunch with Warm Springs K-8 students during Spirit Week.



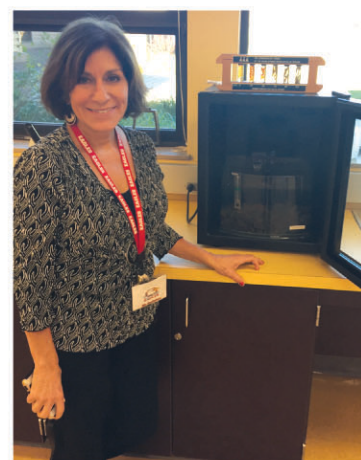
Justice Allen, grade 3, in a traditional wing dress made by her grandmother.

## Something's fishy at WSK8

WSK8 science teacher Rosa Gastiaburu has partnered with The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Fisheries Department to teach students about salmon spawning. With help from local hatchery fish biologists, who delivered salmon eggs and spawning equipment, the students are part of a hands-on science learning experience.

"It's wonderful to see the kids take ownership and work together while learning about nature and science," said Gastiaburu.

WSK8 science teacher Rosa Gastiaburu (right) with salmon spawning equipment on loan from the CTWS Fisheries Department.



## Impact Aid Survey deadline extended to December 9th

### Help identify Native American student needs

Each year, our school district reaches out to parents, families and community members to learn how we can best support the needs of our Native American students using our Federal Impact Aid funding.

Please visit our district website at [jcsd.k12.or.us/district/impact-aid](http://jcsd.k12.or.us/district/impact-aid) and complete the survey to share your priorities for this funding. The information collected in this survey will be provided to the school board. We've extended the deadline to December 9th so we can learn from you.

## PAC Calendar

### December

- 6 MHS/JCMS Winter Choir Concert: 7-8 p.m.
- 7 Buff Elementary Lessons Recital: 6-7:30 p.m.
- 8 MHS/JCMS Winter Band Concert: 7-8 p.m.
- 9 Madras Elementary Winter Concert: 1-2 p.m.
- 10 3rd Annual Holiday Gala: 7-9 p.m.
- 15 Buff Elementary Winter Concert: 12:30-2 p.m.



## Calendar

### December

14 Board Meeting at District Office: 6 p.m.

### Winter Break/No School

December 19, 2016 through January 2, 2017

### January

- 16 No School: Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
- 27 No School: End of Quarter Teacher Work Day



Visit the District website at  
[jcsd.k12.or.us](http://jcsd.k12.or.us)