



Leadership Corner

The search for a new 509J superintendent

The JCSD 509J school board is partnering with the Oregon School Boards Association to find a new superintendent to lead the district. According to school board chair, Tom Norton, they are seeking a leader with strong budget, management and communication skills. Integrity and experience with a diverse population of students are also high on the list of qualifications. Once the top three to five candidates are selected, JCSD staff, families and community members will have an opportunity to hear from the finalists and provide input. Then the board will make the final decision.

“This is an important decision for our students, staff and families. We are committed to finding the right person to move us forward and continue the great work that Rick Molitor and the district team have been doing.”

— Tom Norton, JCSD school board chair

The screening process to select finalist candidates includes two board members, two teachers, two classified staff members, two parents/community members, two Education Service District board members and two administrators from the district.

JCSD superintendent search timeline

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| February 17..... | Closing date to apply |
| February 23 through March 2..... | Applicant screening |
| March 13 through 17..... | Site visits |
| April 4..... | Finalist community forum |
| April 10..... | Hiring date |
| July 1..... | Starting date |

JCSD science teachers gear up for solar eclipse

Science teachers from JCSD are over the moon with the possibilities for learning as the Great American Eclipse approaches. The city of Madras has been identified by scientists as one of the top 10 places in the U.S. to watch the solar eclipse and JCSD science teachers from all grade levels have been planning to make it a spectacular learning experience for students.

While Madras expects between 50,000 and 100,000 visitors for the August 21st event, the school district has been partnering with Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, AZ; OMSI Planetarium; and NASA to make sure students have access to hands-on learning opportunities. To make that happen, JCSD has offered Lowell Observatory free access to the Madras High School Performing Arts Center and athletic facilities in exchange for related science curriculum and support.

“We are excited to be part of this amazing opportunity and to partner with scientists and astronomers world-wide to enrich learning for our students,” said JCSD Curriculum Director Melinda Boyle.

According to Boyle, the Great American Eclipse will be visible from Madras for 2 minutes, 4 seconds on August 21st between 9:06 and 11:41 am. For details about the Lowell Observatory Solar Eclipse Experience 2017 in Madras, visit lowellsolareclipse.com.

Lowell Observatory Solar Eclipse Experience August 21, 2017

Madras High School Football Field
Gates Open: 6 am
Community Talk: 8 am
Eclipse Viewing: 9:06 - 11:41 am



Madras High School PAC

Talks by Lowell astronomers/kids solar activities: 12 - 4 pm



JCSD students enjoy a field trip to Erickson Aircraft Collection as part of the district's STEM Extended Learning Program.

Extra learning for JCSD kids

JCSD is expanding the after school extended learning program to provide more students with opportunities to explore Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). The program takes place three nights each week at the Bridges Career and Technical High School from 4 to 5:15 pm. Students in grades 1 through 5 who participate in the after school extended learning program also eat and play for free from 2:30 to 4 pm at the Kid's Club. Space is limited, but the district hopes to serve as many students as possible.



Family University classes to relocate

Family University classes will relocate from Bridges Career and Technical High School to Jefferson County Middle School beginning February 6th.



Kannon Whiting, grade 2, of Madras Elementary proudly displays his Inventerprise award for his concept of a library “book grabbing” machine. (Inset from left) Kianea Bearman, Ava Leach, and Addy Adams accept their Inventerprise awards.

JCSD student inventors shine

Three young inventors from Metolius Elementary and one from Madras Elementary were winners in a region-wide Inventerprise contest sponsored by Bend Research in partnership with Bend-La Pine Schools and Central Oregon Community College. The four JCSD winners were among 1,400 K-5 Central Oregon students to enter the contest and were tasked with inventing something that would improve a familiar place: their schools. Congratulations to Metolius Elementary's Kianea Bearman (grade 4) and Ava Leach (grade 3), and Addy Adams (grade 4). From Madras Elementary, Kannon Whiting (grade 2) took home the prize.

Kannon invented a machine that would help grab books in the library.

“This machine helps not waste time so you can do other things like spending time with your friends,” said Kannon.

According to Kannon, his machine would have a screen where the user could type in the name of the book or the subject, then the screen would display a selection for the user to choose from and a stretchy arm would come out and grab the book and deliver it to the user.

Helping JCSD parents and families with math homework

Helping kiddos with homework can be challenging for many parents because teaching and learning is constantly changing as educators learn new ways to engage students. Math can be especially tricky because the methods and strategies teachers are using to teach math are different from those most parents learned when they were in school.

That's why JCSD's math leadership team recently hosted a district-wide Math Night for families of students in grades K-5. Nearly 100 students and family members came together at Madras High School for an interactive night of Math learning sponsored by JCSD's Family University in partnership with the JCSD Elementary Math Leadership Team. They learned about the district's math curriculum called Eureka Math. Eureka Math is designed around the core principle that students need to know more than just what works when solving a problem—they need to understand why it works. The curriculum goes beyond facts and formulas, teaching students to think about math conceptually. This helps students become not merely literate, but fluent in mathematics.



JCSD parents, students and staff enjoy connecting and learning at Math Family Night.

“We heard such great feedback from the parents that attended. One mom told us it was the best family night we've ever had!”

— Nancy Viramontes, Community Liaison for JCSD

PAC Calendar

February

- 18 Oregon State Legislature Ways & Means Committee Meeting, 1-3 pm
- 22 Sen. Ron Wyden Town Hall Meeting 10-11:30 am

March

- 12 OperaBend presents La Boheme 3 - 5 pm
- 16-19 High Desert Community Theater Guild presents “Hang Him High & Read the Will”
- 22 MHS Music Dept. Concert 7 - 8 pm



Calendar

February

- 3 No School/End of Quarter Teacher Workday
- 13 No School/Teacher Inservice Day
- 13 School Board Meeting/District Office
- 20 No School/President's Day
- 27 School Board Meeting/MHS Library

March

- 3 Regular School Day

