



# Schools in Action!

## Leadership Corner

**A Message from Ken Parshall**  
Superintendent



### Working together across the district

What an honor it is to serve as the new superintendent for our school district. I am enjoying getting to know our students, the talented team of teachers and staff and the families and community partners who support us. Before the school year started, I made a great big ask of our teachers. I asked them to start working together beyond the walls of their own schools. I asked them to reach out to other schools to help create a more unified learning experience for our kids. I am so proud of how positively they have responded. Our team is taking ownership of student success not just in their own classrooms, but in classrooms across the halls, across town and in Warm Springs.

### Our community supports education

I've also been struck by the support of local residents, as well as business and community leaders who are stepping up alongside our teachers to support education. From alumni volunteers like the "Chain Gang" to others who donate time, expertise and services to our schools, we feel fortunate to have the community on our side.

### We're making progress, but attendance is key

We are making great strides with freshman on track to graduate and student growth at all grade levels. We're proud, but know we still have a lot of work to do. One of the biggest challenges we face is attendance. Unfortunately, 25% of our students are chronically absent. That means that 1 in 4 students misses more than 10% of school days each year.

We need to change that. My big ask of JCSD families is that they do everything they can to make sure kids come to school every day. Our teachers are working hard to improve learning and we can only be successful if students are in the classrooms. Attendance matters and we can't make a difference without help from our families.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to meeting more of you and seeing more students cross the graduation stage each year, ready to take on college, work or trade school.

Ken Parshall, JCSD Superintendent



WSK8 families filled the school and connected with teachers and staff at Open House.

## Warm Springs K8 Academy families help make learning better

The Warm Spring K8 Academy team has been partnering with Warm Springs families to grow stronger connections. With funding from the United States Department of Education, the WSK8 team has been working to create new ways for family members to get involved and be part of their children's education.

"While families are always welcome at our school, we are opening our doors every month outside of school hours to welcome families," said Chris Wyland, assistant principal for WSK8. "We know that when families are engaged, our students learn better."

According to WSK8 Principal and district Superintendent Ken Parshall, each monthly family night has a different theme. September family night was a back-to-school barbeque and October was Open House.

"It's a good way to get parents to come in and see and meet the teachers of their children in the school. It also will help parents get connected and know they are part of the WSK8," wrote one parent on an evaluation form at the October open house event.

*"I always feel welcome here and my boys love this school. Every day, they always have good stories."*

— WSK8 parent

*"The teachers and staff are like family"*

— WSK8 parent

## Buff Elementary students do the right things

Every month, five students from Buff Elementary are honored with the Principal's Award for doing the right things...even when no one is watching. They follow the school's three rules: Be safe, Be respectful, Be responsible.

"We talk about integrity in our assemblies and these are the students who work hard to be kind, help others, and do their job in the classroom, cafeteria, hallways, and at recess without being reminded by the adults," said Buff Principal Billie White.



Buff Elementary School's September Principal's Award winners: (From left) Breann Heckathorn (grade 5), Kilynn Monroe (grade 4), Brock Etter (grade 3), Marlee Simmelink (grade 2), Anabelle Salgado-Galan (grade 1), Tommy Norton (grade K).



Buff Elementary 5th graders partner with friends from other classrooms to present projects after reading the novel, Frindle, by author Andrew Clements.



## JCSD students experience the joy of learning outside

JCSD students from grades 5 and 6 just got back from outdoor school where they learned about science up close and personal. Thanks to Camp Tamarack in Sisters, Oregon, the kids spent three days and two nights with 600 campers their age from other schools throughout the state. They spent time exploring nature and experiencing hands-on science learning while building social skills and learning to work and live in a community setting.

"Our second year of outdoor school was a tremendous success. The experience is one that both the teachers and students will benefit from for the rest of the year," said Mark Hubler, fifth grade teacher at WSK8. "The Camp Tamarack staff was accommodating and treated our students with respect and care. The students were exposed to scientific topics that were presented in an understandable way. The community building activities we engaged in during camp, have had a positive impact on our classroom teaching."



WSK8 5th graders enjoy outdoor school at Camp Tamarack

## PAC Calendar



High Desert Community Theater presents  
"She Was Only Marginally Modest"  
by Vern Harden

November 9, 10 & 11 from 7-9 pm  
November 12 from 2-4 pm

## Calendar

### November

- 3 No School – End of quarter teacher workday
- 10 No School – Veteran's Day
- 13 School Board Meeting/7 pm
- 20-24 No School – Thanksgiving
- 27 School Board Meeting/7 pm

## 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, contact the District office at (541) 475-6192.

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

