



# Schools in Action!

## Leadership Corner

A Message from Ken Parshall  
Superintendent



### Working together to improve teaching and learning

With only a few months left in my first year as superintendent for the district, I want to express my appreciation for our teachers and staff. We have spent this school year focused on improving our craft to support student success through professional learning communities.

### Support from our families

I would also like to send a special thanks to our families who attended the recent community meetings in Warm Springs and Madras to ask questions and make suggestions in support of education and our children. We talked about graduation rates, state testing, attendance goals and other ideas to help students be successful.

### School Safety

As our nation searches for answers to make schools safer, I want to take a moment to thank our local law enforcement for their on-going support and responsiveness. I am very proud of the partnerships we share with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office and the Madras and Warm Springs Police Departments. We will continue working together to monitor and enhance our safety efforts.

Happy Spring to all. I welcome your feedback and look forward to a successful end to the school year.

— Ken Parshall, JCS D Superintendent

## WSK8 family advocate makes sure students have what they need to attend school

Thanks to a grant from the Tribal Absenteeism Pilot Program, WSK8 launched a new program for encouraging students to attend school. The Family Advocate Program helps to remove barriers to getting an education.

WSK8 Family Advocate Tony Cortazar plays an important role in this mission. Cortazar grew up ranching in Eastern Oregon before moving to Warm Springs 25 years ago. He came to Warm Springs for rodeo, but since then, he has been involved in various other leadership roles, such as coaching, substitute teaching, and heading a wildland fire crew for Warm Springs Fire Management.

Through coaching Mat Club, football, wrestling, and track in Madras, Cortazar found his roots in the community. He has a great reputation for being a positive mentor and role model. As a former all-star football player and a five-time world champion for the Wild Horse Rider competition, Cortazar has many insights to share about accomplishing goals and dreams.

As Family Advocate, Cortazar helps students with transportation, clothing needs, and communication between families and schools. Cortazar aims to make school a more welcoming place and bring up attendance rates.

"I work mostly with grades K-4 and when I'm in the hallway and the kids leave their parents and run up to give me a hug, I know they feel safe, loved and wanted at school," said Cortazar. "I hope that when they are older and get to choose whether or not to go to school, they will pick school."

Cortazar and his wife, Darylynne have a son in second grade and a four-year-old daughter who will start kindergarten next year. Darylynne is a Warm Springs Tribal Member.

"I've been around reservations all my life," added Cortazar. "Umatilla, Yakima and now Warm Springs."

Cortazar believes that with the help of the Family Advocate Program, more kids will get the education they deserve so they can be successful in life and bring more back to the reservation.



WSK8 Family Advocate Tony Cortazar visits with students during lunch.



## Staff Feature: Brad Padgett

JCS D is lucky to have an outstanding team of educators who are dedicated to creating a bright future for students. Meet Brad Padgett, Educational Assistant at Bridges High School. Brad coached wrestling for one year before taking the position of Educational Assistant.

### 1. Why were you inspired to pursue this career?

This is a career that can have a huge impact on the future. I want to encounter a future where people live out their options with purpose. What better way to do my part in this than through a career of teaching.

### 2. What do you do on a daily basis to help students succeed and overcome barriers?

On a daily basis, I check all the students' online progress and schedule sitdown meetings with them to find out what they need. I meet with students every week so I can present necessary adjustments and make sure that each one can feel they have the potential and motivation to continue their journey towards graduation. I choose to be quick to listen and understand rather than quick to advise or push my opinion and it seems to work.

### 3. What is your favorite part about your job?

My favorite part of my job is all of it. I have never worked in a place that has respected my strengths and developed my weaknesses in a way that is empowering. That starts from the top down and I feel it is infectious to our students. I really enjoy seeing these kids every day and look forward to what they may bring to the table.

### 4. What advice do you have for students struggling in school?

The advice I have is... this will be the easiest yet hardest struggle of your life. Once you overcome this one you will be ready for the next struggle life presents. The real test is how much joy you can find in the present so that your future is full of joy. Life is full of struggles but there will always be a blessing in the end, if you choose to walk through and trust the process.

### 5. What are your hobbies and interests outside of work?

- I love to spend time with my son and wife.
- I love to hunt.
- Fishing is the best. If I had the choice that would be all I would do.
- I love the Central Oregon sunrises and sunsets.
- I am a food lover.
- I look forward to climbing mountains in the future.
- I enjoy rock climbing with my father-in law Rick Krause.
- I was a 4x All-American in college wrestling and fought MMA for a couple of years.

## WSK8 students show their skills in annual Iron Chef competition



Contestants brought their A games to the kitchen during this year's Iron Chef competition. They cooked a variety of foods from pasta to quesadillas and were scored by a panel of judges who were thoroughly impressed by each dish.



Some students at Roots High School choose to channel their creativity through poetry. This month's featured poem was written by junior Ikeana Kalama.

### Where I'm from...poem

I am from the table of respect from the kid table to the adult table.  
I am from the house which everyone grew up in - it's old but it makes you feel like you belong.  
I am from the land of trees. To the blade of grass whose limbs I remember as if they were my own nature land.  
I'm from the land you walk on and the air you breathe.  
From my mother and father.  
I'm from the attitude and wise and from the respect to respect everyone.  
I'm from the saying never let anyone drag you down but to keep moving forward with your head help up high  
And "Painful reminder of why. It can get brighter the further you put it behind you."  
I'm from a family that always has potato salad for every holiday and birthday  
I'm from the womb of my mother and a place which I am loved.  
Where my grandmother makes tasty food like stew and homemade candy treats to share.  
From family that had their own tough times - each suffered and survived.  
By looking at the children knowing you don't want them to suffer. Their times of suffering is where no other has known but only heard the story. But that's all we need to know and the family will be there to protect you.

— Ikeana Kalama

## PAC Calendar

### April

- 1 LHCC Easter Sunday Service / 10am - 12noon
- 10 JCMS 6th Grade Band Concert / 7pm
- 13 Beauty and the Beast / 7pm
- 14 Beauty and the Beast / 2pm & 7pm
- 20-21 Beauty and the Beast / 7pm
- 18 NASA presents "That was a Marvelous Eclipse! And Madras was the Best Place to Watch!" / 7pm
- 19 JCMS Spring Band Concert / 7pm
- 26 JCMS Spring Choir Concert / 7pm

Beauty and the Beast presented by MHS Drama

## Calendar

### March

26-30 No School / Spring Break

### April

- 6 No School / End of quarter / Teacher Work Day
- 9 School Board Meeting / 7pm
- 23 School Board Meeting / 7pm

