



# Schools in Action!



Buff Achievers pose for a group photo outside the Three Rivers Humane Society.

## Buff Achievers Club creates positive change

At every school, regardless of grade level, there are always certain students who get everything done and still want to do more. To encourage this mindset, the Buff Elementary team created the Achievers Club. Specifically designed for fourth and fifth grade students, the club helps students develop organizational skills and practice working in group settings by planning a project to benefit the school and/or community. To become a member of the Achievers, students must have a signed parent permission form, write a letter of interest, and receive teacher approval.

This year, Buff Elementary had four Achievers Clubs, two for fourth grade and two for fifth. After going over project options and ideas, each club voted to serve at the Three Rivers Humane Society earlier this year.

"I have always loved animals," said 5th-grader Gracie Otter. "I really enjoyed seeing how the dogs behaved. I loved holding them and I loved giving back to my community."

Dulce Orozco also said that giving back to the community was the most special part of the project.

"It was a good experience for the dogs to interact with us since we have a lot of energy," said Orozco. "I also liked holding the dogs and giving them treats because some of them have never had homes and have been treated badly."

In the future, the Achievers will continue volunteering and making a difference through various service projects. In May, students will be back at Three Rivers Humane Society planting flowers with the help of the OSU Extension in Madras.

"My hope is that students will realize the importance of giving back to their community, and have fun doing it," said Buff Achievers faculty advisor Tracey Sklenar. "I want them to be thinking about their future and the benefits of having volunteer experiences to put on their scholarship essays as well as their resumes."



Buff students and Three Rivers puppies receive lots of snuggles and love.

Articles written by McKenna Boen

### PAC Calendar

#### April

26 JCMS Spring Choir Concert / 7pm

#### May

10 MHS Spring Choir Concert / 7pm  
 17 MHS Band Spring Concert / 7pm  
 29 Madras Elementary Spring Concert / 1pm  
 30 WSK8 SPRING Band/Choir Concert / 7pm



Metolius students with Oregon park ranger at Mt. Bachelor. (Inset) Penguin snow slide!

## Metolius 4th-graders learn and snowshoe at Mt. Bachelor

This past winter, 4th graders from Metolius Elementary went on a very cool field trip — literally. Packed into snowsuits and winter jackets, dozens of students snowshoed a 1-mile loop near the base of Mt. Bachelor. With the help of Discover Your Forest Northwest and Oregon Park Rangers, this annual tradition gets kids physically active while they learn about earth science.

Besides learning about how trees and animals adjust during the winter, Metolius 4th-graders also had lessons from park rangers on snow dangers and watersheds.

"The field trip was fun because we got to learn a lot of stuff about Mt. Bachelor," said Marcus, grade 4.

Forth-grader Alicia added "It was nice and very cool. We even got to penguin slide down a little hill. On the trip we learned about tree wells and to not stand next to one."

"Our field trip was amazing and I learned about wildlife there and other facts," said Leticia.

For many of the students, this trip was their first time going to Mt. Bachelor or snowshoeing.

"This is a great tradition that exposes our students to a very important and exciting area in Central Oregon," says 4th grade teacher Koryl Reese. "It is so exciting for them to discover a new way of hiking in the winter and it also addresses our 4th grade science standards with a wonderful hands-on experience!"



Koryl Reese's 4th grade class gets ready for a day of fun learning in the snow!



Metolius Elementary students visit JCMS Science Fair.

## Science fair field trip helps prepare 5th-graders for the future

In March, 57 nervous 5th-graders from Metolius Elementary traveled to Jefferson County Middle School for the annual science fair. Once there, the almost-middle schoolers saw catapults, pinhole cameras and numerous experiments created by their older classmates.

"The atmosphere was inquisitive in nature. The 5th-graders examined the projects with nervous anticipation for next year," said 5th grade teacher Carrie Dunten.

When asked what they liked best about the science projects, students were especially enthusiastic.

"The great boards had color, big titles and cool ideas. I can't wait for middle school so I can do this too," said 5th grade student Steven.

"I might try a pinhole camera, or what makes ice melt faster. The pictures with nice writing, pictures, and graphs on them looked the best," said 5th-grader Eben.

Besides serving as a fun field trip, this tradition also helps prepare 5th-graders for the types of assignments they will be required to complete next year.

"Our goal is to give students a head-start in planning for this giant project next year. Students of all reading and math abilities seem to feel successful in the field of science because it makes sense of the world around them," said Dunten.



5th grade students take notes on the projects as they prepare for next year.

### Calendar

#### May

14 School Board Meeting / 7pm  
 28 No School Memorial Day

