



# Schools in Action!

## Leadership Corner

**A Message from Ken Parshall**  
Superintendent



We are approaching the home stretch of the school year and I want to thank our dedicated team, families and community partners for their commitment to our kids. May is probably our busiest month as we wind down this school year while also planning ahead for the next. Right now, we are focused on celebrating our retirees and hiring for open positions.

We look forward to welcoming Greg Cole as the new principal for Warm Springs K8. Greg comes to us from Salem-Keizer with 21 years of experience, including 14 years as an administrator and an outstanding track record with student success. We will also be recruiting for the Madras Elementary School principal position as we bid a fond farewell to Deborah Hunt who is moving to the Portland area to be closer to family. Deborah has been a tremendous asset to our students and staff and she will be missed.

In the classroom, we are focused on state testing. While these tests are only one measure of learning, they are important. We encourage families to offer extra support to students during this time. Getting rest and eating right are key to helping students do their best.

The next several weeks will be filled with hard work and pride as our students move forward from grade levels and walk across the graduation stage.

Please stay in touch with questions and comments. I look forward to hearing from you.

— Ken Parshall, JCS D Superintendent

## MHS Beauty and the Beast production shines



MHS students get rave reviews from their performance of *Beauty and the Beast* at the Madras Performing Arts Center. Photos courtesy of Joe Baumann

Crowds of people filled the Madras Performing Arts Center last month as Madras High School students transformed into candlesticks, teacups and more for a *Beauty and the Beast* production. With months of practice under their belts and an orchestra pit for additional dramatic effect, the actors delivered a performance that will not soon be forgotten.

“It was amazing, watching kids grow and the whole group become cohesive. It was a wonder to be a part of,” said Co-Director Juanita Payton.

However, the performance itself was a process — and not always an easy one. “It was a challenge to coordinate music, lines and choreography along with getting all of the props ready in time,” said Payton.

Additionally, the money for props and costumes for the play required outside funding. Thankfully, with help from the Madras Buff Boosters and the Jefferson County Cultural Coalition, over \$2,000 in donations were made.

In the end, all of the money and time paid off and the MHS rendition of the *Beauty and the Beast* was a huge success.

“Closing performance was my favorite memory,” said Payton. “When all of the actors let loose and just did their best.”



Photos courtesy of Joe Baumann

## Arbor Day in April

Last month, fifth graders, high schoolers, and members of the Madras community gathered at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Madras being recognized as a Tree City USA.

“I am so glad that Madras has been a Tree City for 25 years,” said 5th-grader Belicia Teague.

**For a city to be recognized as a Tree City USA, it must:**

- Have a tree board or department;
- Have a tree care ordinance;
- Have a community forestry program; and
- Celebrate Arbor Day.

“We feel the benefits of Arbor Day include a vision of the future for the City of Madras,” said 5th-grade teacher Carrie Dunten. “Students wrote their visions of what that could look like in 25 more years, and I can’t wait to see their beautiful plans come to fruition.”

Besides writing their visions, students also had the opportunity to count tree rings and make pinecone bird feeders. The fifth-graders and high school students also teamed up to clear a nearby field of rocks and plant trees and saplings donated by the Warm Springs Forestry.

“I can’t wait to see what it will look like in 25 years when the trees are grown,” said 5th-grader Jude Carmen.

Thanks to Madras’ history as a Tree City, Arbor Day represents a time when the community comes together to plant not only trees, but also ideas. It is a moment for students and adults to use teamwork and vision to create a better tomorrow.

## PAC Calendar

### May

- 23 Skills USA Talent Show Fundraiser / 7 pm
- 29 Madras Elementary Spring Concert / 1 pm
- 30 WSK8 Band/Choir Spring Concert / 7 pm

### June

- 1 Metolius Elementary Spring Concert / 1 pm
- 7 Buff 5th Grade Promotion Ceremony / 9 am
- 15 Dance Arts of Madras Showcase / 7 pm
- 16 Dance Arts of Madras Early Grade Recital (2 shows): 11 am / 3 pm
- 16 Dance Arts of Madras Showcase / 7 pm

## Poem of the Month

by Josiah Spino for my mentor and the man who raised me: Raymond Victor Johnson Jr

November, 10, 2014.... Cold day for the world especially for me  
 Can't believe when they told me you were RIP  
 I didn't even get to say goodbye, It was so hard for me can't you see  
 I just shook my head, This ain't how it's supposed to go, this ain't how it's supposed to happen  
 You were supposed to watch me graduate and make you happy.  
 On and on you pushed me to be a better you.  
 All your grandsons in the arena that was all for you.  
 Every step I took, lord knows, I was feeling pain.  
 You're my angel now, I know you won't let me hang  
 Thanks for waiting for me back in second grade.  
 Taught me how to be a man and that I can't repay  
 Staring at your pictures damn you got me reminiscing.  
 You were a funny dude tho, always had a vision.  
 Best cook in the world--damn-- I miss that chicken.  
 I should've got the recipe, but I never listened  
 I used to love it when you would gimme a surprise hug from behind.  
 Oh, I would kill to get that feeling one more time  
 I ain't talking when I said he was one of a kind, Walk in a room and make you wanna smile.  
 Look, Pops, I know you're looking down on me.  
 But Imma keep my head high you won't catch a frown on me.  
 I'll show them who I really am, I won't let them climb on me  
 You said only do, Josie  
 He was a great man for those whoever met him.  
 If it was cold out, he'd give away his sweater  
 I would try my best but he knew that I could do better  
 RIP, Pops, you'll be in my heart forever



## Awareness, Advocacy, and IEPs

Like many teachers, Jean Jones became an educator because she saw a need. After witnessing her own child struggle through school with unidentified learning challenges, Jones found her calling as a life skills teacher. More recently, she became involved in promoting professional development through Individualized Education Program (IEP) training.

“To write a good IEP, you need to know the child, have data, and have lots of time,” said Jones at a recent training for Metolius Elementary educators. “An IEP is not a document you can write in a few minutes or even an hour. A lot of thought goes into writing IEPs.”

Although not every child needs an IEP, they are more common than many people realize. In fact, IEPs are written for students with any type of setback or disability, including health and vision impairments. That said, sometimes learning hindrances are hard to catch, as was the case with Jones’ child.

When Jones was able to meet with a special education teacher, she learned that her daughter did have disabilities. That’s when she decided to use her experiences to help others. Today, Jones helps advocate on behalf of children and parents and encourages parents to do the same.

Schools in Action! contributing writer: McKenna Boen

## Calendar

### May

- 28 No school – Memorial Day

### June

- 7 Last student school day
- 11 School board meeting / 7 pm

