

Students of all ages enjoy field trip

By Justin Phillips

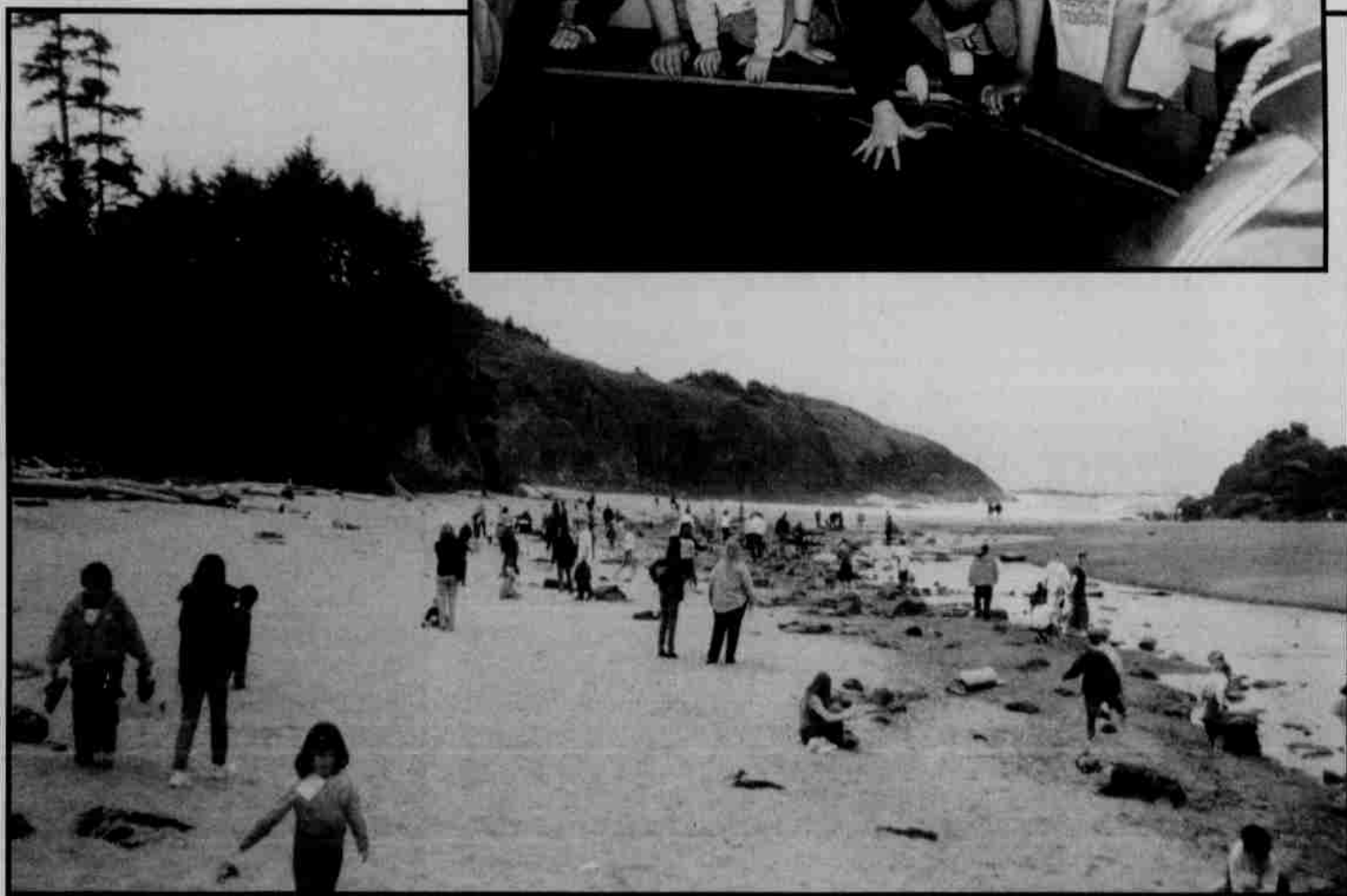
Eager students recently loaded onto three buses to take an adventurous trip to the Oregon Coast. Students from Willamina Jr. High School, the Native American Club, Science and Math Investigative Learning Experience (SMILE) program and the Twah Sunchako Head Start Preschool took a field trip on Wednesday, May 31 to the Oregon Coast Aquarium. A total of 85 students benefitted from this learning experience.

Students had the chance to walk through Keiko's former home in the new \$6.9 million "Passages of the Deep," that features three large ocean habitats connected by a 200-foot underwater tunnel and showcases the diverse marine life found off the Oregon Coast, including rarely seen cold-water sharks. All along the tunnels there are large viewing windows incorporated in the floor, giving a 360-degree view.

The students then boarded the buses again to Fogherty Beach for a walk and exploring along the beach. For some students, this was their first encounter with the beach and ocean. The students also ate lunch in the park at the beach.

"Thank you to SMILE, the Native American Club and the teachers who helped out," said Vikki Bishop, preschool/Head Start supervisor. "There is no way this could have been possible without their help."

RIGHT: Teachers and students gather around a tide pool at the Oregon Coast Aquarium. Shown here L to R: Melody Fuller, Teacher Kandee Little, Jordan Smith, Teacher Penny Cook, Caitlin Cauning, Zachery Olson, and Tyson Lee.



Students explore Fogherty Beach on the Oregon Coast where they also ate lunch and walked along the beach. This is in part thanks to the SMILE program and the Native American Club, where students and teachers teamed up with the Head Start preschool for a field trip.

Photos courtesy of the Head Start staff

Head Start Literacy Night proves successful

By Head Start Teachers Penny Cook and Elaine Moore

Twah Sunchako Head Start kicked off their first literacy night on May 30. This was the first in a series of nights where both Head Start children and parents will be invited to share a good book together.

During literacy night, the parents, children and staff enjoyed a meal of Indian tacos made by the new Cook Clara. After dinner, Teacher Penny called everyone to "circle" where she read the book *Ten Little Rabbits*. Then Teacher Elaine gave the parents a quick lesson in Chinook. (The children were very proud of how

much Chinook the parents picked up!) Afterward, the parents and children moved to three tables where activities had been set up. Everyone was able to make a paper batik painting, a geometric shape blanket of foam, and a pattern blanket of craft sticks. By the smiles on everyone's faces, it was easy to see that the event was a big success. And at the end of the night, each child who attended was given a hardback copy of *Ten Little Rabbits*.

Head Start will hold their next literacy night on July 26. *Storm Boy*

by Paul Lewis will be introduced at this time and new activities will be offered after the meal. These literacy nights will be a monthly event starting with the new school year. Each month a new book will be introduced and given to the families who attend. The staff is very excited about offering this program to its families.

The Tribe's billboard for the Start Making a Reader Today (S.M.A.R.T.) program states: *An Imaginary Friend Won't Read To Him*. Head Start's literacy night will be just one more opportunity to encourage the

sharing of books at home. Parents and teachers have a common goal of keeping children safe and healthy while also wanting them to learn whatever they need to succeed. And one of the skills needed to succeed is definitely learning to read. And while that is not developmentally appropriate for preschool aged children, it is very appropriate for them to gain love of reading and books at this age. Hopefully, literacy night will become one more reason for our Head Start children to really enjoy literacy.



HEAD START LITERACY NIGHT: Twah Sunchako Head Start held its first literacy night where Head Start children and parents joined together for a meal and read a book together. The literacy nights will be a monthly



event starting with the new school year. Shown here are students with their parents in "circle" where a book is read to them. The next literacy night will be held on July 26.

Photos courtesy of the Head Start staff