

Grand Ronde Elementary Welcomes New Principal

By Justin Phillips

Along with the new school year, new students arrived at Grand Ronde Elementary School with butterflies in their stomachs. What once was a summer day to play, is a school day today.

And, with the new school year and the new students, there is a new face in the elementary school.

New Principal Olivia Johnson takes the place and responsibilities from previous Principal Kathy Summers.

Johnson, born in California, earned her Bachelor's degree from Humboldt State University and her Master's degree at Portland State University. She has taught first, second and six grades for four years. Altogether, she has taught school for ten years.

She has also been a principal at a California school for 300 students, compared to Grand Ronde Elementary which has 142 students.

One of her goals is to increase academic performance.

"Reading has increased, but we will also be working on improving math and writing skills," says Johnson.

"We are proud to have a majority of the students Native American. We need to teach them about their culture, and bring in Native Americans from the community to share with them their ways."

*~ Olivia Johnson
Grand Ronde Principal*



Photo by Justin Phillips

Johnson said she wants to continue Summers' efforts to make Grand Ronde Elementary School a place where students want to come to.

"Parent's have to understand the importance of learning at the young age," said Johnson. "If they (students) are brought in late or miss days, they may have missed important reading or writing assignments."

The school will start giving out attendance awards in an effort to in-

crease attendance.

"We are proud to have a majority of the students Native American," says Johnson. "We need to teach them about their culture, and bring in Native Americans from the community to share with them their ways."

Johnson said the Tribe has been a big help in providing funding for the school.

"It's so hard to tell a student that

we can't go on a field trip this year because we can't afford it," commented Johnson. "We have already had to cut an employee this year because of funding."

Through thick and thin, Johnson appears to have what it takes to run a successful school. With schooling and experience on her side, she is sure that all her goals will be met.

Johnson welcomes the new challenges that lie ahead.

Lunch Buddies Needed

Lunch Buddies are assigned to a child that needs a positive role model in their life to eat at least one lunch a week with the child they are assigned to. If anyone is interested in becoming a Lunch Buddy volunteer at the Grand Ronde Elementary School, please contact Betty Sledge at (503) 879-5210.

New Sheriff Joins Grand Ronde

By Justin Phillips

The Grand Ronde community will be a safer place to live, visit and pass through now that new Polk County Deputy Sheriff Steve Duncan will be on patrol.

Duncan chose the Navy rather than attending the police academy. He was in the Navy from 1990 to 1994, stationed in San Diego.

After returning from Southern California, he became a reserve deputy for the Polk County Sheriff's Office.

"I just put my nose to the grindstone and volunteered a lot of my time making myself available to the sheriff's office to gain as much experience as I could," said Duncan. "It helped me prepare myself for the tests I had to take."

Duncan worked three years with the sheriff's department before being transferred to Grand Ronde. Duncan said he had responded to several calls in the Grand Ronde area, making it a little more familiar



Polk County Deputy Sheriff Steve Duncan

to him.

"This will give me an opportunity to get more integrated, involved with specifically the Grand Ronde community," says Duncan.

The Tribe now currently employs six full-time deputies for the Grand Ronde community.

Red Ribbon March

Friday, October 27 at 9:30 a.m.
starting at Grand Ronde Elementary

The Red Ribbon is a symbol to show intolerance for drugs in our schools, workplaces and communities.

Students and the Tribe's Wellness program will leave the school at 9:30 and march to the Tribal offices, where the kids will learn about "Red Ribbon." A snack will follow before heading back to the school for the Health Fair.

5th annual Community Health & Safety FAIR

Friday, October 27 ♦ 1 to 4 p.m.
Grand Ronde Elementary School

- ♦ Family services provided
- ♦ Learning techniques
- ♦ Self awareness
- ♦ Fire & Medics
- ♦ Sheriffs



Open to all community members.

We encourage all parents, guardians, grandparents, and community members to participate and assist children.

All Grand Ronde students will be attending.

Help Us Find You During Your Emergency

The Willamina Fire District is selling green reflective address signs for your residence. They will install your reflective sign if you live within the district. However, you do not need to live within the district to purchase a sign. The signs are being sold for only \$10 per sign.

Installation is free with purchase. If you are interested, call the Willamina Business Office at (503) 876-2004 or Norman Peterson at (503) 876-5606.



Local Recreational Center in Early Stage

A meeting was recently held to discuss a possible recreational center for the local community. The location of the recreation center has yet to be determined, although easy access before and after school is an important factor.

A board of directors from the local communities would be responsible for the facilities. The project would not depend on local taxes, it would be financed through grants. According to some estimates, the recreational center, including a pool, would cost between \$2 and \$5 million dollars.

This center is a community project, not funded by the Tribe, and could be eligible for the Spirit Mountain Community Fund. Anyone interested in information or serving on the committee please call Angie Ellis at (503) 876-3277.