

Kindergarten

By Kathy Cole

A Kindergarten class was provided for the children of the Tribe. The children went to Willamina Elementary in the morning and came to the Tribe's Kindergarten in the afternoon. The enrollment number ran between 10-12 for the year.

The children worked hard and learned a lot in a variety of subjects. They began with learning their letters and sounds. They learned simple rhyming and sight words. At that point they began journaling. Each child contributed their own page to a class book, one of which was on animals and the other was a Chinuk book. Eventually, each child wrote and illustrated their own book. They were all able to read when they left for the summer.

They were also quite proficient in math. They began with patterning and graphs. They were able to add using manipulatives in the beginning and then without by the end of the year. They counted to 100's, by 1's, 2's, 5's, 10's and also in Chinuk.

The children created a lot of art. We completed an art project at least three times a week. We used almost every medium there is. They started out the year being unsure of their abilities but by the end of the year, they were creating everything on their own.

The children learned about seasons and

weather throughout the year. We not only learned about our country, but what the weather was like in other places as well. The children planted flowers and took care of them

motions to songs. We went and sang for the Elders and everyone loved it so much that we went and sang for the preschool as well.

We also cooked from time to time in class. We

read *The Little Gingerbread man* and made Gingerbread cookies. We read a book about a baker and made pretzels. We also made green eggs and ham and made other things throughout the year.

We also had many special activities throughout the year. We had a party and activities for each holiday. The children always made their own decorations and props for the party. We had a party for Dr. Seuss's Birthday, for the 100th day of school and for graduation. We invited our Grandparent's into our class and had a special day with them. We made our own Pinata for

Cinco De Mayo and had a party in which the children broke it open.

Our class was always busy. The children learned a lot but had a lot of fun at the same time.

The Kindergarten class was taught by Kathy Cole. Her assistant was Nick Kimsey. Kathy also had high school interns that helped tremendously every day. They were Ali Holsclaw, Caitlin Zimbrick and Alex Bishop.

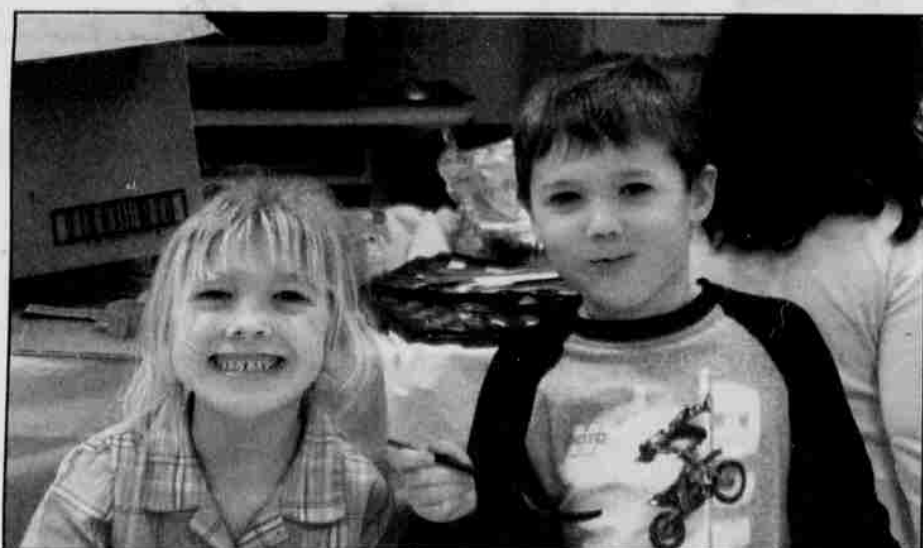


Kathy Cole (right) reads to kindergarten students at the Grand Ronde Tribal Youth Education classroom. The Tribe provides full-day kindergarten to students.

for the last few months. We started with the flowers indoors as seeds and eventually were able to plant them outdoors.

They were always busy with physical activities. They played a lot of games and learned different exercises. They really enjoyed playing and creating their own games.

The children loved to sing and we sang a lot of songs together. It was a special part of our day. They learned a number of songs and some



Kindergarten students Nikia Mooney and Reese Ebensteiner.



Kindergarten kids show off the masks they made in class. The Tribe strives to provide a well rounded curriculum that teaches kids social, literary, emotional and physical skills.

Youth Education (K-5) Before & After School

By Lynden Jones

In our K-5 Program we offer activities both educational and fun for children in kindergarten through fifth grade. During the School year our full-time staff work in the Willamina and Sheridan School Districts as Tutors to Native American children. After school we offer a fun and active program. Our enrollment numbers for the after care improved during the school year from 17 to 28 children enrolled. During the school year we were able to do many craft projects, singing for the Elders at Christmas time, lots of wonderful field trips to the coast, the Tillamook Cheese factory, OMSI, the movies, pizza, hiking, the pumpkin patch, trick or treating at the Tribal Facilities and lots of other exciting activities. Our summer



K-5 teachers (l to r) Kathy Cole, Lynden Jones, Esther Fasana and Margaret Wilds.

Photo by Peta Tinda

program started off with a bang! We had 32 students signed up and were at full capacity the first week. In the summer we bussed the children to a local swimming pool for swimming lessons for two weeks; during these daily trips we took advantage of local parks for picnic lunches and play time, the Police Academy, the Dallas Fire station, the Jensen Arctic Museum, Pizza, Miniature Golf and a variety of other activities. The coast is always a favorite field trip; playing on the beach, building sand castles and finding treasures. The children