

SCHOOL ZONE

A Monthly Newsletter for the Siuslaw and Mapleton Schools and Florence Community PTA

NERD SQUAD

Film class wraps morning announcement shoot



COURTESY PHOTOS

Siuslaw Nerd Squad crew films this school year's last morning announcement.

The Siuslaw Nerd Squad recently filmed its last video morning announcements for the year. The middle school crew includes Alicia Labelle (eighth grade) and Hannah Rasmussen (sixth grade) in front of the camera, Skyler Loomis (sixth grade) and Matthew Fusaro (sixth grade) behind the camera, and J.P. Tanikawa (sixth grade) on the teleprompter.

"Nerd Squad Techies" include Levi Spencer (sixth grade), John Rau (sixth grade), Logan York (seventh grade), Nathen Morgan (seventh grade) and Ross Richmond (sixth grade).



One day a week, the squad video records the next morning's announcements: "Order of the day" business, upcoming events, positive behavior awards and announcements, daily menu for lunch and even the Pledge of Allegiance, all examples of what they broadcast.

Broadcasts take all of about an hour and a half to film and another hour to edit.

This yields about a four- to five-minute long broadcast.

The Siuslaw Nerd Squad is an after-school activity connected with the Twilight program.

In addition to the morning announcement video, the squad has been busy filming and editing a feature film about how an "accident" in a robot lab at a middle school results in evil robots attacking students. The "nerd" students rise to the occasion and save the day.

Keep on the lookout for the premiere of "Robotocalypse," to be released soon.

Civil War comes alive at SMS

SUBMITTED BY
HEATHER WIGGINS

"Vent!" "Vent on!" Students cup one ear, leave their mouths open slightly and try to brace for the explosion. BOOM! The 12-pound cannon, brought by the Sons of Union Soldiers, fires off a tinfoil ball filled with four ounces of black powder. The blast and smoke are most satisfying.

Even the students who wish a real cannonball was being fired, are pleased to see little bits of foil fluttering through the air.

The Sons of Union Soldiers, a Civil War history group, comes each year to help bring the past to life for the eighth graders of Siuslaw Middle School. This is a highlight, with students looking forward to the "cannon" all year long.

To get ready for the event, students spend nearly two months delving into different aspects of the Civil War. The students read the fictional story "Bull Run" as well as journals and letters from the Civil War.

They look at the many events, beginning with the advent of the Slave Trade, that led up to the Civil War. They also look at the economic and social differences between the North and South. The unit culminates with a debate, the 1989 film "Glory" and the Civil War Field Day.

This year three stations were present: infantry, medical and artillery. As mentioned, the artillery station is always popular due to the explosions and the student involvement. The cannon needs five people to load it, and the students get to volunteer to help.

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Summer school program available

A year has already flown by and the end of regular school Twilight/Indian Education will be on Thursday, June 4, only to begin gearing up for another amazing summer school program.

On Monday, June 15, at 8 a.m. the doors at the Siuslaw Elementary School south building will open for the beginning of the four-week, four-day summer school program that will end each day at 2 p.m.

A myriad of classes will be offered, which include reading, math and writing in addition to art classes with Mrs. Kim Pickell, STEM/STEAM classes, Karuk language class and an American Indian culture class each day. The last day of fun is July 9.

Enroll students in this free summer school as soon as possible to have transportation available on the first week of summer school. Transportation takes three to four days to set up from receipt of registration forms.

Note that students can still attend on the first week, but transportation may not be available until the second week if they are not registered in advance.

Registration forms can be picked up in the Siuslaw Elementary office or at the Twilight/Indian Education after-school program in the south building from 3 to 5 p.m.

For more information, contact Indian Education Program Director Lynn Anderson at 541-997-5458.

Keep clipping 'labels' to support local education

"Labels for Education" labels have been coming in neatly clipped with the UPC code showing, making the job of sorting and counting so much easier.

Students at Siuslaw West have been handling the job of tallying up the different labels.

There are boxes for label collection in the office at Siuslaw

Elementary School and the Siuslaw Public Library.

This year Siuslaw West will benefit from orders made with the Label Points. Currently, the

Florence Community PTA account has 21,684 points and will be sending in more before June 15 in order to get a double point bonus.

—Submitted by Button Watkins

Mapleton students study soil and water as part of the educational activities offered during outdoor school. The program was first started in 1962.



PHOTOS BY JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

MAPLETON OUTDOOR SCHOOL TRADITION CONTINUES

Oregon's oldest outdoor school program combines education, camping and fun for students

BY JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

Anyone who ever said school was boring never attended the Mapleton School District outdoor school program, held last

month at Camp Lane, a 15-acre Lane County group camp facility located just off Highway 126 along the bank of the Siuslaw River, approximately eight miles east of Mapleton.

According to kindergarten teacher Carrie McNeill, the Mapleton program started in 1962 and is the oldest continuous outdoor school program in the state.

McNeill, along with teachers Jeff Greene and Mandy Werner, were this year's camp directors, overseeing nine Mapleton High School student councilors and 30 elementary

fifth- and sixth-grade campers during the four-day camp. The boys and girls slept in separate dormitory units.

"The primary purpose of the outdoor school is to teach the kids about living outdoors, with lots of science and hands-on activities and team building," McNeill said.

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