

Mapleton Schools

School district presents 3 new teachers

By Jack Davis
Siuslaw News

Mapleton School District welcomes three new teachers this fall.

Jay Blake will be teaching seventh and eighth grade language arts and social studies. He will also be the assistant volleyball coach. Blake and his wife Lori moved to Florence last year from Minnesota.

Elisa Gray will be teaching special education classes for grades seven to 12. She has more than 30 years of teaching experience.

Ruth Larson will teach ninth through 12th grade English language arts and high school drama. She will also be teaching middle and high school Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) classes.



Jay Blake



Elisa Gray



Ruth Larson

Larson lives in Veneta. AVID is a nationwide program designed to help students transition to college or post-high school careers. A grant from Nike allowed Mapleton to implement the program for grades one through 12.

Mapleton Superintendent Jodi O'Mara said, "I am very excited about our new staff this year. All districts have some amount of turnover each year and Mapleton is no exception. We feel lucky to have three outstanding new

staff members to add to our already amazing staff."

The district hosted its annual open house barbecue on Wednesday, Sept. 9, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the middle school.

"If you'd like to meet all of our staff, and check out the Mapleton School District, I invite families and community members to our open house barbecue. We are meeting in the high school gymnasium for staff introductions," O'Mara said before the event.

Lane County Sheriff's

Deputy Aaron Hoberg gave a short presentation on Mapleton School District's participation in Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate (ALICE) training that took place last spring. He also discussed what parents can expect from the new Active Shooter Drills the district will be having this year with students.

After the presentation, parents were encouraged to visit their student's classroom and meet their teachers.

4-H open for applications

The Mapleton 4-H Community Club is looking for more members.

Mapleton 4-H is in its second year as a club for positive youth development and community building. The "4-H" stands for head, hands, heart and health.

In 4-H, youth learn to be leaders. They are decision-makers and will come up with ideas and plans.

The club can hold up to 12 students, from age 6 through eighth grade.

Activities are up to each child. Youth aged 6 to 8 will do mostly arts and crafts, cooking and possibly swimming project clubs. Youth aged 9 and older can decide on their areas of focus.

All students participate in service activities.

Youth do not need to have any background

experience with 4-H. However, they do need to want to join such a club and to behave with respect, tolerance and good manners.

This year's adult volunteer is Lauren Hesse, who will be assisted by Beth Hammond. They are both 4-H trained and have had background checks.

There are membership dues, but Mapleton 4-H offers financial assistance.

Meetings will be held after sports practices, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of each month in the Mapleton Middle School Building.

The first meeting is Thursday, Oct. 8.

If you are interested in joining the Mapleton 4-H Club, contact Hesse at stang-hesse@msn.com or 541-268-6943.

Florence Community PTA

PTA BEGINS SCHOOL YEAR WITH AWARD

Florence Community Parent-Teacher Alliance (PTA) held its first meeting of the 2015-16 school year on Tuesday, Sept. 22, at the Siuslaw Elementary School Library.

Ethel Angal, Siuslaw School District superintendent, was the guest speaker.

Angal reported that there is a district-wide focus on attendance this year. Posters and banners are in the works that will promote good attendance.

Angal encouraged parents and school staff to read about the importance of attendance at www.attendanceworks.org.

Other highlights of the meeting included three grant fund awards for school programs in music and art at the high school and elementary school.

PTA members then voted to add Susy Lacer to this year's Board of Directors in the capacity of secretary.

Board president Diane McCalmont read a letter from National PTA's President, Laura M. Bay, congratulating Florence Community PTA and Siuslaw Elementary School on the recent recognition of becoming a School of Excellence.



COURTESY PHOTO

Florence Community PTA recently earned the status of National PTA School of Excellence.

This award was given to only two schools in Oregon this year.

School of Excellence pins were presented to committee members Michael Harklerode, Lacer, Jennifer Wilks, Alice Burns and McCalmont.

PTA started off the school year by showing support for teachers and staff with "grab and go" goodie baskets in each of the staff lounges, including the bus barn and dis-

trict office, on the first day of school.

Plans are in the works for other programs and events throughout this school year for families, students and staff.

Florence Community PTA invites everyone to join them in supporting quality education and activities for students.

Anyone can join PTA: moms and dads, aunts and uncles, grandmas and grandpas, foster parents, high school stu-

dents, teachers, staff and community members.

If you are interested in volunteering with the Florence PTA, there are opportunities awaiting your expertise and passion.

Individual membership dues are just \$11 and are 100 percent tax deductible.

PTA also welcomes Business Sponsors for an annual fee of \$25. Businesses will receive a PTA window cling to display at their location, as well as receiving recognition in the monthly newsletter and at PTA events and meetings.

Call Diane McCalmont at 541-997-1854 for more information.

Membership and Business Sponsor forms can be downloaded from www.florencepta.org.

The Florence Community PTA is an award winning organization that works to improve the education, health, safety and well-being of children and youth in our community.

This PTA serves all of the schools in the Siuslaw School District, Kindergarten through 12th grade.

The 2015-16 PTA board members are Diane McCalmont, president; Mike Kilgore, vice president; Jennifer Wilks, treasurer; and Susy Lacer, secretary.

Meetings are scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month at 4 p.m. in the Siuslaw Elementary School library.

Refreshments and childcare are provided.

Watch for the annual PTA Fall Fitness Fair coming in November. This program promotes health, exercise, nutrition, and safety for people of all ages.

It is a free community event.

If you are interested in participating or would like to help, contact Alice Burns at Siuslaw Middle School.

You can also show your support on the Florence Community PTA's Facebook page. Visit the website at florencepta.org. It includes links to the Oregon PTA and National PTA, as well as articles and information about what's going on in the Florence PTA.

—Submitted by Diane McCalmont

Schools, library collect Labels for Education

The Labels for Education program allows the Florence Area PTA to accumulate points that can be redeemed for various educational products.

It is no longer called the "Campbell's Labels for Education" program because there are so many other products involved now.

When recycling packaging, look first for the Labels for Education logo and clip the UPC code.

You'll find these labels on a huge variety of products, including Pace, Campbell's, Pepperidge Farm, Bic, Prego, Swanson's, V8 and more.

Send the label to your child's teacher anytime

throughout the school year.

There are also collection boxes at the Siuslaw Library in Florence and in the Siuslaw Elementary School Office.

Remember — it's the UPC code that counts with this program, and there are no expiration dates.

You can also save your Box Tops from participating products, and turn them into one of the schools, or in the drop off container at the Siuslaw Public Library. PTA earns 10 cents for each box top turned in. Go to www.boxtops4education.com to see a list of eligible products.

Schools can also earn double points if you register your Fred Meyer and Safeway loy-

alty cards at www.elabelsforeducation.com.

That way, you can earn points when you buy the product and then again when your child turns in the actual labels.

In addition, Labels for Education has a \$1 Million Giveaway that began Aug. 3.

One hundred schools will win \$10,000 each, plus there are weekly prizes of \$500.

Go to www.LabelsForEducation.com/sweeps and enter Florence Area PTA.

—Submitted by PTA Florence Area Coordinator Button Watkins

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