

SCHOOL ZONE

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

BALLET FANTASTIQUE

Mapleton 4-H attends ‘A Christmas Carol’ ballet at the Hult Center

On Sunday, Dec. 13, seven members of the Mapleton 4-H Community Club attended the Ballet Fantastique performance of “A Christmas Carol” at the Hult Center in Eugene.

Parent Stephanie McNutt and leaders Lauren Hesse and Beth Hammond provided the transportation for the event.

One of the goals of 4-H is to provide positive youth development. To that end, youth are asked what they want to do. The Mapleton club selected dance as one of its project areas this year.

The director of Ballet Fantastique offered a discount on the tickets to continue supporting Mapleton youths’ growing interest in ballet since 2010.

When Hesse received an email from the Ballet Fantastique inviting her to bring a group to Eugene for this season’s performance, she asked the members to decide if they wanted to go and to use some of their 2014-15 fundraising to pay for it.

The club president, sixth-grader Katelyn B., said, “I remember when we went to a ballet in LEAF. And I remember when we had ballet lessons. That was amazing. I think we should vote to do dance in 4-H this year.”

Sitting in their balcony seats, several of the girls said, “Ms. Hesse, did you know we’re afraid of heights?”

But as the performance started, the gasps, gaping mouths and eager faces showed only rapt attention.

Seven-year-old Brooklyn was shocked when a group of young dancers came onto the stage.

“Children? I never knew there could be kids performing!” she said.

To everyone’s surprise, the ballerinas came out to the common areas at the Hult after the performance. The girls spent an extra half



A ballerina from Ballet Fantastique’s “A Christmas Carol” interacts with members of the Mapleton 4-H Dance Project Club after her performance at the Hult Center in Eugene.



Seven 4-H members attended the ballet with three chaperones.

hour meeting the dancers and celebrating with them.

“What a great start to their dance project,” said Hesse.

A partnership with Ballet Fantastique and the Mapleton School District’s former after-school program known as Learning, Enrichment and Fun (LEAF) began six years ago when Hesse read about the ballet company in The Register-Guard.

Over the years, the LEAF program contracted with the Ballet to bring visiting professional ballerinas Leanne Mizzoni and Caitlyn Christopher to teach ballet to the afterschool program. Each year, the entire LEAF participants took a bus to the Hult Center to see the company perform.

Ballet Fantastique offers two annual productions for school and youth groups at a significant discount, often supporting bussing costs with separate funding. One year, the entire elementary school attended a production.

—Submitted by Lauren Hesse

STREAM TEAM THANKS COMMUNITY FOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Susan Hawke and Stephanie Rogers, Siuslaw Middle School seventh and sixth grade STREAM Team teachers, would like to thank the community for helping with projects that encourage learning.

Stream Team is a class focused on watershed ecology and the importance of salmon to our area and Oregon. Students study and monitor local streams and go on 15 to 20 field trips throughout the year.

The seventh-grade class completed a lab called “Rockin’ Through Time” to show erosion through chemical and mechanical weathering.

Great local business Sand Master Park gave the class the rock and sand supplies and materials for this lab.

“A huge thank you to them,” said Hawke and Rogers.

Another “thank you” goes out to the City of Florence staff for help in Stream Team field trips to see



COURTESY PHOTOS

Siuslaw Middle School students attend Stream Team field trips about water quality at various locations.

local water uses.

Stream Team also would like to acknowledge Paul Burns and his U.S. Forest Service crew, Forestry Experts Rick deSantos and Mitchell la Chappel and fisheries/biologist expert Jack Sleeper.

Students (from left) Elaine Morgan, Jessica South, William Owens and Tyler Stenerson work on the “Rockin’ Through Time” lab.



“You guys make outings to Enchanted Valley fun and educational,” the teachers said.

Stream Team’s final shout out goes to Cape Perpetua director Brian Hoeh and his staff, including Ian Throckmorton, for putting together excellent field trips and guides for the students.

—Submitted by Susan Hawke and Stephanie Rogers

