

# Mapleton Schools

## Mapleton looks to pass local bond in 2016

Mapleton School District is very excited about the passage of Senate Bill 447 this year. This piece of legislation provides a great incentive for small communities, like Mapleton, Deadwood and Swisshome, to invest in their schools by passing local bonds.

With passage of a local bond, the state can provide a facility grant to a school district. Under this, Mapleton School District is eligible to receive \$4 million in grant funding if the community passes a local bond.

Because of this incredible opportunity, Mapleton School District is seeking a local bond in May to address the district's deferred maintenance problems. Mapleton High School (1948) and Mapleton Elementary (1957) have seen little improvement over their lifetimes. The district is looking to improve upon safety and to create a better learning environment for our students.

We are currently beginning the process of gathering information from students and staff. Together, students and staff have developed a list of improvements that are needed within our school district.

It is important to note that the local bond and grant funds under this program can only be used for capital improvement for buildings that are primary used for educational purposes. Therefore, our conversations have been focused on facility and technology improvements.

We are looking to provide students facilities where they are encouraged and empowered to reach their educational and personal potential.

In late January, we are planning to gather community input. We look forward to gathering input from our patrons and will hold several meetings within the different communities in late January and early February.

We will notify the community of when and where these meetings will take place and we encourage you to come provide input and ask questions.

In order to improve our students' educational experience we must provide facilities and technology that will support and optimize 21st century learning.

—Submitted by Superintendent Jodi O'Mara

## Students collect food, receive winter gear



COURTESY PHOTO

Mapleton Elementary students model some of the knitted hats, scarves and mittens donated by community members.

During the month of November, the students at Mapleton Elementary School (MES) focused on the character trait of "helpfulness."

Students held a canned food drive for the Mapleton Food Share. The students collected over 300 food items.

The staff at MES would like to thank all those that donated food to help support

our efforts.

The students and staff at MES would also like to thank the community members that made and donated all the hand-knitted hats, scarves and mittens to our students.

They were a wonderful surprise and our students and staff are very grateful.

—Submitted by Carrie McNeill

## Government in action

Mapleton Middle School students tour capital



COURTESY PHOTO

On Nov. 17, Mapleton Middle School teachers Jay Blake and Peter Marshall took the seventh and eighth grade students on a field trip to Salem. They toured the State Capital and met with Sen. Arnie Roblan. Superintendent Jodi O'Mara said, "We were very fortunate to be able to provide our students with this great opportunity to see government in action and meet with one of Oregon's senators." —Submitted by Jodi O'Mara



COURTESY PHOTO

## Bears find homes with kindergarteners

The kindergarten class at Mapleton Elementary School would like to extend a huge thank you to Susan Weathers for including it in her annual "Willie Gee" bear project on Dec. 17. "Thank you, thank you, thank you," said Carrie McNeill. The students feel so special and forever grateful to be able to provide each teddy bear with love and a home. —Submitted by Carrie McNeill

# Florence Community PTA

## PTA encourages fitness, giving

On Nov. 21, the Florence Community PTA held its annual Fall Fitness Fair at Siuslaw Middle School. The Siuslaw Athletic Booster Club held its first Civil War Challenge Run/Walk in collaboration with the PTA's fair.

Both were a big hit, with the run and walk starting the day off at 9 a.m. Runners and walkers included families and community members of all ages and running levels.

There were dashes for kids, a 3K walk/run and a 5K competitive run. The air was brisk, but the sky was blue, and fun was had by all.

The Fitness Fair included free snacks and booths set up by various organizations supporting healthy eating and exercise habits. Other booths displayed information about safety. There were exercise mats, games and a large inflatable obstacle course — a big hit for children and youth.

At the end of the day, the PTA gave away several items such as scooters, a skateboard, balls and other activity items.

Landen Linton won a bike donated by the PTA. Landen and his family then made the decision to give the bike back to the PTA so that it could be given to a child for Christmas.



COURTESY PHOTO

Landen Linton rides the bike he won at the Florence Community PTA's annual Fall Fitness Fair. After winning, the Linton family chose to have the bike donated as a Christmas present.

PTA chose to donate the bike to the annual Soroptimist Toy Drive.

It was a special act of giving for a special time of year.

Florence PTA would like to wish all of you Happy Holidays and a Healthy New Year.

—Submitted by Diane McCalmont

## 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 for the Siuslaw School District.

Before recycling packaging, look 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 or deposit at collection boxes at the Siuslaw Public Library in Florence and in the Siuslaw Elementary School Office.

—Submitted by Button Watkins

## SUBMISSIONS WELCOME

Be a part of School Zone, a newsletter about the Siuslaw and Mapleton school districts.

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of every month.

Call or email Siuslaw News Editor Ryan Cronk at 541-902-3520 or editor@thesiuslawnews.com.

# Siuslaw News

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Congratulations, Class of 2016

## Look for ... KID SCOOP

Kid Scoop runs every Wednesday during the school year in the Siuslaw News and features educational stories and fun activities for families.

The activity page is part of the Siuslaw News' Newspapers In Education program, in which teachers from Siuslaw and Mapleton school districts may request copies of the local paper to use as curriculum in their classroom. Call 541-997-3441 for more info.