

# Mapleton

## Mapleton School District 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

## Mapleton 4-H receives Kiwanis grant to attend swim lessons

All 15 members of the Mapleton 4-H Club signed up to participate in a Swim Project this year, eager to improve their aquatic skills and stamina. Thanks to a 2016 grant from the Kiwanis Club of Florence, these youth go to the Coastal Fitness pool weekly from January until March for programs that fit their needs.

For Ariana G., Opal B., Isaiah E. and Kiana M., the FINS program run by Aquatics Director/Instructor Julie Ellingson is perfect.

Youth from both Siuslaw School District and the Upper Siuslaw River areas practice deep water swimming in the lap lanes for a full hour.

On the first day, each student was fitted with goggles to practice a important skill: how to keep one's head in the water and breathe while swimming the crawl.

By the second lesson on Jan. 12, improvement was already noted for Kiana, who swam continuously the full



COURTESY PHOTO

Mapleton 4-H student Jaime takes swim lessons in 2013, her first year of lessons at Coastal Fitness. Kiwanis Club of Florence provided a grant to allow 4-H students to increase their aquatic skills.

lane without once lifting her head or slowing her arms or

legs while taking breaths on the third and fifth stroke, per

Ellingson's instructions. The students found inspira-

tion by watching the Siuslaw school youth who have been

in FINS for at least one nine-week session previously.

Starting week two, 4-H volunteer and former Mapleton Pool swim instructor Beth Hammond assisted in the water as needed while Ellingson directed from the side.

In the shallow, warmer pool, instructor Bob provided lessons for those newer to swimming.

On day one, seven youth — Noah E., Sarah E., Jaime T., Lucy B., Helen B., Abbi G. and Jaid M. — practiced blowing bubbles, kicking, and floating until ready to push off from the side.

4-H Leader Lauren Hesse volunteered to assist Bob in the pool since the beginners' skills range from blowing bubbles to nearly ready for FINS.

Great appreciations go back to the Kiwanis Club of Florence for supporting the costs of transportation and aquatics lessons for these youth eager to swim in the Siuslaw River in the summer. —Submitted by Lauren Hesse

# Florence Community PTA

## Collect Labels for Education for area schools

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

# Scholarships

## LCC scholarships stack up for success

It's time to prepare for the 2016-17 college year and that means applying for scholarships.

Lane Community College Florence Center encourages students from all walks of life to participate in this process.

In addition to scholarships offered to high school seniors getting ready for college, LCC offers scholarships for those enrolling in specific programs or students facing particular challenges in their pursuit of a better life.

Last year, LCC Florence provided nearly \$48,000 in scholarships to western Lane County residents, ranging

from \$500 to \$6,000 each.

Even small scholarships can return big benefits. As many students bypass applying for the small-dollar awards, fewer applicants translate to better odds for success.

And listing your scholarship on a transfer application to a four-year college or on your resume for that new job can send you straight to the front of the line.

Stop by LCC Florence Center, 3149 Oak St., to pick up a scholarship information packet or visit [www.lanec.edu/foundation](http://www.lanec.edu/foundation) for more information. Application deadline is Thursday, March 3.

## Scholarships, training available

Florence Ladies of Elks, B.P.O.E No. 1858, is now offering applications for scholarships and vocational training to any graduating senior from the high schools of Siuslaw, Mapleton, Reedsport and Triangle Lake who plans to attend an accredited college, university, trade or vocational education program.

This year, awards in amounts of \$2,000 and \$1,000 are available for two- and four-year educational institutions.

Students should request an application packet from their school counselor. All packets must be complete.

The deadline for all application is March 5. Awards will be announced in April.

## 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](mailto: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.