

SCHOOL ZONE

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

Nominate best Oregon Teacher of the Year

Teachers all across the state are helping prepare Oregon's children to become the leaders of tomorrow. The Department of Education's annual Teacher of the Year award gives Oregonians an opportunity to recognize teachers who are making a positive impact in student's lives.

The Department of Education is accepting nominations for the 2016-17 Teacher of the Year Award.

The Oregon Lottery is proud to partner with the Oregon Department of Education to honor Oregon teachers through the Teacher of the Year award.



COURTESY PHOTO

Anyone can nominate an area teacher for the Oregon Teacher of the Year Award.

Once selected, the Teacher of the Year and his or her school are each awarded a \$5,000 cash prize. Two runners up also each receive an award of \$2,000.

Anyone can nominate a teacher for the award, but teachers may not nominate themselves.

To nominate a candidate for the 2016-17 Oregon Teacher of the Year, go to: www.oregonteacheroftheyear.org.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, May 13.

Oregon's current Teacher of the Year is Heather Anderson, a fourth grade teacher at Juniper Elementary in Bend.

Oregon's Teacher of the Year will continue to teach in the classroom and will have opportunities to speak and present around the state. In addition, he or she has an opportunity to apply for the National Teacher of the Year award and attend several out-of-state events including: International Space Camp, the National Teacher of the Year conference and the National Teacher of the Year Recognition Week in Washington, D.C., where he or she gets to meet the president at the White House.

To learn more about the Teacher of the Year program or to make a nomination, go to www.oregonteacheroftheyear.org.

New local driving school aimed at teen drivers

Rob's Driver Ed. LLC, a new driving school in Florence, aims to educate novice drivers with a program developed and overseen by Oregon Department of Transportation. The school is intended to not just teach teens the mechanics of driving, but to develop good driving habits that will benefit them for a lifetime of driving.

The teen program is a minimum of 47 hours long, including classroom, in-car and home practice, and takes 10 to 12 weeks to complete.

A teen program is currently being scheduled for students at Siuslaw High School, beginning in April.

At this time, Rob's Driver Ed. LLC also offers individual instruction to novice drivers 18 and older and private lessons to any licensed driver who wants to tune up their driving.

For more information, contact Rob Griffes at 541-999-9179.



STARS SHINE AT PTA TALENT SHOW

Annual two-night Siuslaw Elementary show has been running for more than 10 years



COURTESY PHOTOS

Siuslaw students performed a variety of skills throughout the two-night show, including singing, traditional dancing, gymnastics and an act all about Siuslaw Elementary staff.



Students' talents were the main event at the Florence Events Center (FEC) on March 10 and 11 during the annual Florence PTA Talent Show.

Crowds of more than 200 family members, friends and community supporters turned out in full force to watch the awesome acts performed by Siuslaw Elementary School students.

PTA has sponsored and organized the elementary school talent show for more than 10 years.

Alice Burns has been the

coordinator the past few years, with elementary school music teacher Debra Dietrich and staff member Alice Holden assisting with auditions, scheduling and managing the flow of the show. Jennifer Wilks was in charge of program design again this year.

Members of local Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts opened the show with a presentation of the flags, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The evenings' entertainment included pianists, gymnasts, vocalists, Native Education

dancing, Mrs. Stokes' second grade choir led by Dietrich, a scarf dancer and an SES staff impersonation dance.

Michael Harklerode, principal at the elementary school, emceed the show.

Friends of the FEC provided a grant to help with costs of the facility use for both nights, and FEC staff were on hand to handle tickets, lighting and back-stage assistance.

"This annual event has grown each year from a one-evening show held at

the middle school commons to the current two-night extravaganza," said Diane McCalmont, Florence PTA president. "Our PTA organizes the show as a service for students to flash their talents, and not as a fundraiser. The funds raised from ticket sales go to cover the remaining balance of the facility, as well as cookies and punch served at the end of each show."

Find out more about the Florence Community PTA at www.florencepta.org.

Emeralds, tie-dye help Mapleton 'Read Across America'



Mapleton Elementary School celebrated Read Across America from Feb. 29 to March 4.

During the week, MES had a visit from the Eugene Emeralds baseball team and its mascot Sluggo. This visit kicked off a reading program for students to earn tickets to an Ems game by reading 10 books.

We also had a visit from Miss Gayle from Siuslaw Public Library and the Rotary Club of Florence. They were so generous and brought free books to our entire



Students read and play for Read Across America.

student body.

The final highlight of the week was making tie-dye T-shirts which we all wore on March 3 for "My Many Colored Days" dress-up day. — Submitted by Carrie McNeill

