

SCHOOL ZONE

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

WANTED

PTA gathers labels, UPCs for school rewards

Florence Community PTA members continue to make the Labels for Education Program work for them.

“The Campbell’s Labels for Education is winding down, but we can still earn money for our schools by turning in UPCs with the Labels for Education Logo next to them. Newer packaging no longer has the logo with the UPC and cannot be counted,” said Button Watkins, PTA Labels for Education Coordinator.

UPC codes from the following products are sent in for points: Bic, Campbell’s, Pace, Pepperidge Farm, Spaghetti-Os, Swanson’s and V8.

From now on, only UPC codes with the Labels for Education logo attached will be accepted.

There are collection boxes in the Siuslaw Elementary School Office, 2221 Oak St., and the Siuslaw Public Library, 1460 Ninth St. in Florence.

Watkins said, “Thank you to everyone who’s helped us get products for our students.” —Submitted by Button Watkins

Patriotic essay contest seeks entries

Florence Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3232 and its auxiliary are sponsoring two essay contests available to middle school and high school students.

The “Patriot’s Pen” contest is open to students grades six through eight and requires a typed 300-400 word essay.

The essay topic is: “The America I Believe In.”

The top national winner will receive \$5,000 and an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C.

Students in grades nine through 12 can enter the “Voice of Democracy” contest by submitting a written or CD essay on the theme: “My Responsibility to America.”

The top national winner will receive a \$30,000 scholarship.

Each state winner will receive an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C., and a portion of the \$153,000 available in national awards.

The deadline for both contests is Tuesday, Nov. 1.

For more information, visit www.vfw.org or call Ken Smith, VFW Post 3232, at 626-945-4044 or Tom Benedict at 702-610-9617.

SAVING SOLUTION



Mapleton helps ‘SOLVE’ beach litter problem

COURTESY PHOTOS



Students from Mapleton High School, with teacher Terri Johnston and two other adults, participated in National Beach and River Clean Up Day on Saturday, Sept. 24, at the Siuslaw River North Jetty Beach. “The clean-up went great,” Johnston said. “The weather was gorgeous!” Thank you Mapleton High School students for doing your part in making the world a cleaner place. As Ghandi would say, “Be the change you wish to see in the world.” The event was hosted by SOLVE and sponsored by the Oregon Lottery. More information is available at solveoregon.org/. — Submitted by Pamela Lauer



COURTESY PHOTOS

Welcoming sixth-graders to SMS

The first day of school. For some, a chance to show off new clothes, hair and height. For others, a cruel end to summer. For the new sixth-graders at Siuslaw Middle School (SMS), it was a day to learn the school, master their lockers and have fun.

For the third year, the SMS WEB Leaders took charge of the sixth-graders’ first day.

WEB stands for “Where Everyone Belongs” and the eighth-grade volunteer leaders went out of their way to make sure the sixth-graders felt welcome. WEB Leaders helped facilitate a two-hour assembly which featured clapping challenges, singing, relays and silly floor challenges. Even the most nervous

new students couldn’t help but laugh when they were told to skip in a circle singing the theme song to “Spongebob Square Pants.”

From the gym, the WEB Leaders took small groups of sixth-graders to classrooms to participate in a variety of ice breaker activities.

Students took on a straw challenge, several balloon challenges and a few more serious discussions about strategies for success in school.

After the activities, the groups donned silly hats and began a school tour. As part of the tour, they completed an intensive Locker Station — including a how-to video with hands-on practice with individual combination locks. By the end of the hour almost every sixth-grader had opened their locker — and several asked to do it again, for fun.

Lunch was extra long the

first day to give everyone a chance to learn the routine. The sixth-graders were treated to artisan pizzas and frozen yogurt. A few students took this chance to practice their lockers again. Most just enjoyed the break and the dessert.

After lunch, students went through their entire schedule and met all of their new teachers. The classes were only 14 minutes long but on Thursday, when all of the seventh- and eighth-graders showed up, the sixth-graders were confidently navigating the school.

By the end of the day, the sixth-graders were exhausted but happy. Per an impromptu survey, most sixth-graders gave the day a 5 (meaning it was awesome) and said they were eager to come back the next day. They felt that Siuslaw Middle School was a great place to belong. — Submitted by Heather

