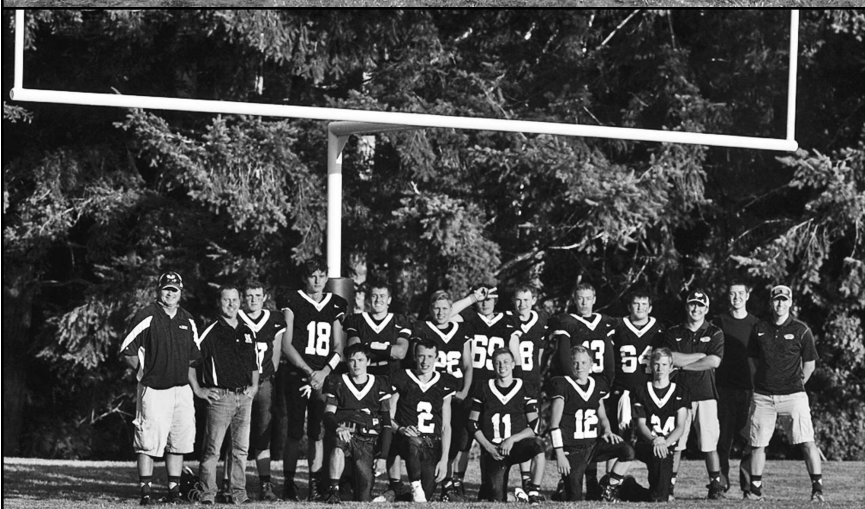


Mapleton

WELCOME BACK TO MAPLETON



COURTESY PHOTOS

Mapleton School District held its annual Welcome Back Barbecue on Sept. 23 for students, staff and families. "We had an amazing turn out," said Superintendent Jodi O'Mara.

"It was great to see parents visiting their child's classroom and enjoying a BBQ together with the community. We are very lucky to live in such an amazing place!" Mapleton School District also extends a special thank you to True Value Hardware and Florence Saw Shop for donating the use of a scissor lift so that people could pressure wash and paint the football goal posts — Submitted by Jodi O'Mara



Florence Community PTA

PTA holds first meeting

Florence Community PTA is off to a strong start for the upcoming school year. Back-to-school activities for teachers and staff, as well as students and families, have been going on since mid-August.

PTA held its first meeting of the year on Tuesday, Sept. 20, at Siuslaw Elementary School.

Board President Tiffany Holdahl presented 2016-17 board members and highlighted programs and events planned for the school year ahead.

New programs this year include a Color-A-Thon fun run, in conjunction with the annual Fall Fitness Fair on Nov. 5, and PTA Take Your Family to School Week and Multi-Cultural Fair in February.

Leonard Ulrich, new assistant principal for Siuslaw Elementary and Middle schools, introduced himself and spoke about his experience and what direction he'll be focusing on in the Siuslaw district.

The PTA members approved three grant applications for programs and supplies, submitted by teachers, which totaled nearly \$600.



COURTESY PHOTO

Board president Tiffany Holdahl welcomes members to the 2016-17 school year.

Florence Community PTA is parents, teachers and community working together to improve and support education, health, safety and well-being of all children and youth. The organization serves all of the Siuslaw district schools.

Membership is open to anyone: parents and guardians, grandparents, community members, teachers and staff, and even youth who are interested in being a part of an organization working to better their education.

Membership forms can be downloaded online at www.florencepta.org, or picked up at one of the schools. Keep up with events and programs on Facebook at Florence Community PTA. — Submitted by Diane McCalmont

'Every Student Succeeds' with Florence PTA

Community members and school staff gathered in the Commons of Siuslaw Middle School on the afternoon of Sept. 17. The topic: ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act), new legislation that replaces the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002.

The forum was hosted by Florence Community PTA in conjunction with Oregon State PTA.

The afternoon forum began with an overview of the history of ESSA, led by Collin Robinson, Oregon State PTA president.

The origins of ESSA stem from the 50-year old Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which emphasized equal access to education for all students. In 2002, ESEA was reauthorized through the No Child Left Behind Act, which was based on the premise of setting high standards and establishing measurable goals. NCBA required states to give assessments to all students in certain grade levels, and some funding was connected to test outcomes.

ESSA sets up expectations for schools receiving federal education funding. It retains the idea of standardized testing, but shifts the law's accountability requirements to states. The new law gives states more flexibility



COURTESY PHOTO

Florence Community PTA hosts an Every Student Succeeds Act forum on Sept. 17.

in setting standards and ensuring that all students have equal opportunities to succeed.

Oregon State Department of Education has been holding work group discussions throughout the state since April of this year, inviting school administrators, parents, teachers and education organizations to join the discussion. Stakeholders in Oregon have the opportunity to help decide how ESSA will work in the state. The goal is to take advantage of the law's flexibility to move toward a system that is more equitable throughout the state.

Along with Robinson, speakers included a representative

from Oregon Education Association, as well as Oregon PTA Legislative Representative, Otto Schell. For more information about ESSA, go to www.ode.state.or.us. — Submitted by Diane McCalmont

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.

Email Siuslaw News Features Editor Chantelle Meyer at cmeyer@thesiuslawnews.com.

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.

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