

Siuslaw

ARTIST OF THE MONTH

Hanna & Ben — Creative Writing

Hanna Anderson and Benjamin Cahoon have been chosen as Artists of the Month in Creative Writing. Both students are seniors in Neil Wartnik's College Writing class at Siuslaw High School. Coincidentally, both students have been past winners in the Artist of the Month column.

BY BENJAMIN CAHOON
Siuslaw High School Student

Hanna won in Speech Arts for her debating skills three years ago, and last year for Creative Writing. Benjamin won for two-dimensional art last year.

Each student enjoys being able to express their opinions in the class rather than focusing solely on just putting words on paper. Through talking they become more introspective and can develop their thoughts more fully to explore their specific writing styles.

Benjamin states, "I have learned to use imagery and alliteration in my writing style."

When asked about their favorite class project, Hanna says she really enjoyed writing about her "Ideal Husband". Benjamin took his cue for writing from the



PHOTO BY CAROL JOLLEY

lead in phrase "At My House." From this he described what his house would look like and how he would build it to suit himself.

Hanna, daughter of Dirk and Kathy Anderson, was 2016 Queen Rhododendra of the 109th Rhododendron

Festival in Florence. After high school, she plans to go into the communications field in college.

She says "I like talking. I might go into politics or journalism; anything that involves talking or debate."

She is applying to Portland State College where she discovered she could be immersed in the communications major field for all 4 years rather than just her junior and senior year.

Benjamin, son of Ahren and Trudie Cahoon, has been accepted at George Fox University and Whitworth University. Both schools have offered him Trustee Scholarships. He intends to major in Art and Art Education.

Here in Florence Benjamin has been involved with Key Club, volunteer activities and his multiple prize-winning artwork projects. He is learning how to play the ukulele this year. He has also been the student writer for this Artist of the Month column for the past 3 years.

Benjamin has been selected to be one of three Senior Court Princes for this year's 110th annual Rhododendron Festival in May.

Students engage in great debate

Before Winter Break, eighth-grade students in Mrs. Wells' science class learned about human impact on earth's natural resources.

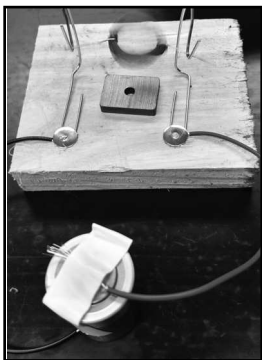
Student teams researched natural resources to determine the advantages and disadvantages of using those resources for the production of electricity. Then, they squared off against each other in The Great Energy Debate.

Students soon realized that there are advantages and disadvantages to using any of Earth's natural resources.

For example, using coal is a relatively cost effective way to produce electricity, but it is a nonrenewable resource that creates pollution. On the other hand, solar energy is readily available and once it is installed does not produce pollution, but can be prohibitively expensive to install.

While there was no clear winner in the great debate, most students agreed renewable energy sources like hydroelectric, solar and wind energy are more beneficial for our planet.

After The Great Energy Debate, students delved deeper into learning how electricity is generated. They learned about the relationship between magnetism and electricity by experimenting with



Eighth-grade students design and build wind turbine blades and simple motors and light up small light bulbs in Mrs. Well's science class.

magnets and by building a simple motor with wire coils, a magnet and a battery.

Students learned a motor is a device that turns electrical energy into mechanical energy and a generator is a device that turns mechanical energy into electrical energy.

As the culminating event to this unit, students used a renewable energy source — wind — to generate electricity with a model wind turbine. By becoming student

engineers, teams of students designed and built model wind turbine blades. They followed the engineering design process by testing, redesigning and retesting their wind turbine blades until they were able to generate enough electricity to power at least one light bulb. Some teams even managed to generate enough electricity to power as many as 3 light bulbs. — Submitted by Alexis Wells

GEARING UP

College days are here again! Siuslaw Middle School students are gearing up for activities focused towards college readiness and exposure to higher education. Students will participate in weekly scavenger hunts to learn more about their teachers' college experiences. They will then get the opportunity to attend presentations led by middle school staff members to get a more in depth look at college life, find out about the differences in educational opportunities and make a college pennant of the college of their choice.

Just as exciting is the middle school ASPIRE program. All eighth-grade students rotate quarterly through Mrs. Wells' ASPIRE class. ASPIRE is a mentoring program designed to help students develop educational goals for high school and beyond.

In this class, one focus is researching possible career choices and the paths students need to take to get to their career of choice. Ms. Girard, the school counselor, advises the students on various college options including technical schools, two-year colleges and four-year colleges and universities, as well as the availability of financial aid options.

The culminating event of the ASPIRE class is a college tour. Every eighth-grade student has the opportunity to travel to Eugene for a campus tour of the University of Oregon. The students are led on a 90 minute walking tour of the campus guided by a college student ambassador. The students learn about the history of the campus,



Eighth-grade ASPIRE students stand in front of Weatherford Hall at Oregon State University on a college tour.

college majors, campus life, and of course college food.

This semester some of the students were also able to attend a similar tour of Oregon State University in Corvallis. These college tours are made possible by a grant through the ASPIRE program.

While many students may not yet know what they want to do when they "grow-up," it is important for the students to start thinking about their future now.

Mrs. Wells and Ms. Girard feel that this program is one of the most impactful programs for getting students excited about what the future has in store for them. — Submitted by Alexis Wells

Giving a hand

Siuslaw Middle School students collected food for Florence Food Share during the month of December. Each year, the SMS library puts up the Giving Tree and has a competition between grade levels to see who can bring in the most food. This year, the sixth-grade won the contest with 126 items.



The total amount donated to Food Share this year by SMS students was a little over 250 items. — Submitted by Alice Burns and Colleen Christian

FULL OF HEART

Siuslaw High School Choirs will present a program of love songs for Valentine's Day on Monday, Feb. 13, at 7 p.m. City Lights Cinemas, 1930 Highway 101, is providing the venue for this special evening. Bring your sweetheart to hear "Can't Help Falling in Love," "Hopelessly Devoted to You" and other oldies that are new again. You can support the music education of our talented students with a suggested donation of \$5 at the door. For up-to-date information on upcoming concerts, follow Siuslaw Choirs on Facebook. — Submitted by Debra Young



Vikings take second at Coos Bay Knowledge Bowl

On Wednesday, Jan. 18, the Siuslaw Middle School Knowledge Bowl Team traveled to Coos Bay for a competition. Knowledge Bowl is where students work in teams of four against teams from other schools, answering various academic-based questions on math, science, language arts and social studies. Thirteen seventh- and eighth-grade students from Siuslaw Middle School competed in this particular competition at the Coos Bay Boys and Girls Club. The other schools at this competition were Brookings, North Bend and Coquille. Siuslaw placed second. The top four scorers for Siuslaw were seventh-graders Hannah Warner and Jason Rawlins and eighth-graders MaKayla Cobb and Max Klump. The next scheduled competition is Feb. 22, again in Coos Bay. Nice job Viks! — Submitted by Andy Marohl