

# Siuslaw

## Connections



COURTESY PHOTO

The Siuslaw School Connect class spent 45 minutes a week cleaning up outside around the school and community. They cleaned up April 18 and 21 for a total of 1 hour and 25 minutes. Names from left to right and front to back are: Sam Testa, Jennifer Hanna, Chris Smith, Brodie Riesenhuber, Madisyn Miller, Jaide Carter, Alex Kellerman, Skyler Winters and Joanna Gomez. — Submitted by Stephanie Rogers

## ARTIST OF THE MONTH Lupita Figueroa — Creative Arts

BY AUDREY LOWDER & BENJAMIN CAHOON  
Siuslaw High School Students

*“The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls.”  
— Picasso*

Lupita Figueroa was selected as this month’s Artist of the Month by Mrs. Kim Pickell and is currently a sophomore attending Siuslaw High School. She was chosen for her talent in line drawings, but enjoys painting with watercolors more.

Lupita explains, “You can combine colors together and it’s faster to do.”

She has learned a lot in fifth-period Creative Arts II, including how to incorporate balance, shapes and the color wheel.

“(This class is) calm, everyone gets along there. So it’s really fun,” says Lupita.

She enjoys Mrs. Pickell’s teaching because she class covers not only subjects Mrs. Pickell likes, but also subjects that students are interested in.

Lupita is the daughter of proud parents Jorge and



PHOTO BY CAROL JOLLEY

Belen Figueroa.

Seeing as this is only her second year in high school, she is not yet sure what she wants to do after, but hopes to continue with art as a hobby.

If you wish to see Lupita’s and other talented student artists’ work, make sure to visit the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St., for the Fresh Impressions art show this May.

## Spring service



COURTESY PHOTOS

Siuslaw sixth-graders who are members of the Knowles Creek Crew will be helping U.S. Forest Service fish biologists count and record data on native coho and chinook smolt and fry at the Knowles Creek Smolt Trap this spring. They will go once a week through early May. Students selected for the crew are Faith Lumadue, Bailey Myrick, Ian Sissel, Ava Glowacki, Kyle Hughes, Hunter Cole and Alize Castellanos. — Submitted by McKenzie Perry



## Bio students construct a web of interactions

In April, Biology students started with community interactions. Food webs were a part of the lesson where students learned how each plant and animal interacts.

The students picked a plant and animal to place on all of the desks and tables/stools around the room and connected them together with yarn. White yarn was for land interactions, colored yarn was for aquatic interactions, and twine for mix between the two, such as bears eating salmon.

A second lab covered Biogeochemical cycles that are found on earth and included water, O<sub>2</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>, microbial, plant, respiration for both plant (photosynthesis) & animal, rock and nutrient cycles.

The lab was to take the cycles students learned about and have them interact with each other in a logical way.

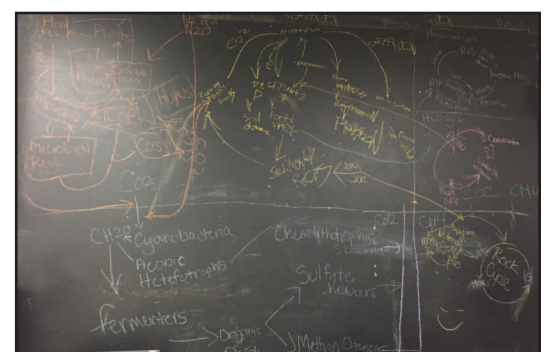
The students put the product of their



COURTESY PHOTOS

This biology class goes over food webs and biogeochemical interaction webs.

labs on a chalk board and a painted black space on the wall. The students then explained their drawings to their peers with an informal presentation. — Submitted by Stephanie Rogers



## Florence Community PTA

### PTA keeps up the momentum with letters, challenge

#### 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.

The school year is in the final stretch and Florence Community PTA continues to stay active with more than a few fun activities.

**BOX TOP CHALLENGE:** The week of April 24 to 28 saw a flood of Box Tops for Education come into Siuslaw Elementary School as Sarah Nunez, Florence Community PTA Secretary, led the charge to collect 25,000 Box Tops as part of a “special ops” mission for the kids.

The goal of “Mission ImBOXable” is to encourage students and parents to clip Box Tops for Education in a push to raise additional funds. \$1,000 of “Mission ImBOXable” funds are slated to be donated to ongoing disaster preparedness efforts at Siuslaw Schools.

The best part, though?

If the kids hit their 25,000 Box Top goal, Siuslaw Principal Mr. H will find himself duct taped to the wall by the “special forces!”

Box Tops for Education can be turned in anytime throughout the year, so be sure to share yours with your favorite Siuslaw student or send them into the PTA at P.O. Box 1140 Florence, OR 97439.

**TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK:** Florence Community PTA sincerely appreciates our teacher members and all educators in our area — and we know that the community does as well!

During Teacher Appreciation Week, coming up May 8 to 12, PTA invites the local community to help us “thank a teacher.”

Since 1984, National PTA has designated one week in May as a special time to honor the men

and women who lend their passion and skills to educating our children.

This year, help us show our educators how important they are by writing a note, sending a letter, drawing a picture and dropping it in the mail to FCPTA Thank A Teacher, P.O. Box 1140, Florence, OR 97439 or dropping your letter in the drop box of any Siuslaw School office starting May 1.

“Teachers are the foundation that our schools are built on, and in celebration of Teacher Appreciation Week, we’d like to shower them with tangible thank you notes,” said Tiffany Holdahl, Florence Community PTA president. “Whether you are a student, parent, alum or simply someone who recognizes the value of our local educators and all that they do for our commu-

nity, we hope to see a note from you!”

General thank you letters are welcome, or if you’d like to specifically address your note to a certain teacher or school, please note the intended recipient on the envelope. Help us show our thanks and start writing your thank you’s soon!

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** Tuesday, May 16, at 4 p.m. is the next Florence Community PTA meeting in the Siuslaw Elementary School Library.

Community members will hear from PTA convention delegates, celebrate the awards and honors PTA received — including the Oregon PTA Unit of Excellence — and elect next year’s officers.

For more information on Florence Community PTA, visit [www.florencepta.org](http://www.florencepta.org).