



SCHOOL ZONE

Siuslaw News' monthly school newsletter for the Siuslaw & Mapleton School Districts and community groups serving youth in the Siuslaw Region

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WINTER MUSIC FESTIVAL Kids Concert



Students from Mapleton, Reedsport and Siuslaw elementary schools were invited to the Florence Events Center on Jan. 23 for the annual Winter Music Festival Kids Concert, sponsored by Sea Lion Caves and the Florence Kiwanis Club. To kick off the annual three-day festival, the Greg Blake Band, featuring fiddler Annie Savage, played bluegrass music for the students. Attendees were encouraged to clap, snap, stomp and dance during the music. In addition, the musicians taught the students about their instruments, including bass, violin, guitar, mandolin and dobro slide guitar.



PHOTOS BY CHANTELE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS



Siuslaw Education Expo to bring together 60+ community groups

By CHANTELE MEYER
SIUSLAW NEWS

The Siuslaw Education Expo, designed to showcase educational opportunities that exist for people of all ages in the Siuslaw area, will take place on Saturday, Feb. 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Siuslaw High School (SHS), 2975 Oak St.

The idea for the expo was generated last year in a Siuslaw School District Facilities Advisory Committee meeting.

"We were discussing ways to help bring the schools and the community closer together," said Bob Orr, who serves on the committee and leads the ASPIRE program for both Siuslaw and Mapleton school districts. "This has been a very generous community in a lot of ways to the kids and schools, particularly in the form of scholarships, where our community is tremendously generous. ... We are always looking for ways to not only connect with but give back to the community."

More than 60 organizations have already signed on to partner with or attend the event.

"We realized what we could really do with this is have the school be a gathering point for lots of different ways that organizations educate in the community," Orr said. "We have a lot of different organizations that we hope will be of interest to the whole community — every age group, every constituency. We're having all of these organizations all in one place, at one time, and people can just wander and talk to representatives."

Groups from both within and without the region will attend, including the expected child-focused groups such as Boys and Girls Club of Western Lane County, Shoreline Christian School, Wildflower Montessori School, Head Start and area preschools, and that less expect-

ed groups, namely, the Siuslaw Rod & Gun Club, would also set up a table, possibly with safety demonstrations.

The partners also include regional organizations, such as Siuslaw Public Library, the Siuslaw Vision, Western Lane Ambulance District and others who serve the entire population, including the upriver communities. Orr also hopes to add more Mapleton representation.

"As the ASPIRE program has expanded to Mapleton High School, we have more connections," he said. "The two communities are pretty closely linked in a lot of ways."

Dunes City is also a partner, and the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians will be in attendance.

"We really hope that we get a large turnout of people from the whole community who just come to see what the educational opportunities are," Orr said. "A lot of these clubs and organizations might not be in the forefront of everybody's minds, but I'm hoping that people will be able to come in and find an organization they are particularly interested in and sign up to join or participate in some way."

The expo will feature tables set up for up to 75 organizations in the SHS commons, gymnasium and library. Additional rooms will be open throughout the school as students help lead tours.

"We want the whole community there," Orr said. "The education expo is experimental, as we've not tried it before, but I think it's going to be a lot of fun and just a great way to have people come together about education."

For more information about the expo, visit <https://bit.ly/siuslaweducationexpo> (must enter whole address; case sensitive) or facebook.com/siuslawexpo.

KINDNESS MOST POWERFUL OF ACTIONS IN AFFECTING CHANGE

(Editor's Note: The following is a speech given by Siuslaw High School senior Ramiro Ramirez during the Jan. 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. "Healing the Divide" event sponsored by the Bahá'ís and held at the Siuslaw Public Library.)

I am both privileged and thankful that I get to once again speak about the great man we know as Martin Luther King Jr.

Or just Dr. King. Now, most — if not — all of us remember who Martin Luther King Jr. was. He was a man who fought for the equal rights of African American people. He proved that "Separate,

but Equal" could not work.

He endured the hardships of the Southerners who did not welcome change.

He provided the way to give the freedoms and rights all of us have regardless of race, sex and religion.

Fifty-one years, nine months, two weeks and one day after his passing (Yes. I did the math to get that result), his legacy still lives on to this day.

With the information I stated earlier, it is clear that the acts of civil disobedience have worked. African Americans can now vote, sit anywhere they please in a bus, own homes and property, and have an increased pay salary.

Some changes, such as bus riding privileges, seemed to be almost instant while others, such as increased salary, took a while to change.

GUEST VIEWPOINT
By Ramiro Ramirez
Siuslaw High School Student

Pretty unfortunate isn't it? You've fought for a long time and you deserve to have those changes, but all you get are some minor changes. We can all agree that that wouldn't be fair.

But there is one important factor that can help fight for change tremendously.

We can all agree that kind-

ness has its excellent perks. Kindness throughout the rallies and strikes helped fuel the Civil Rights movement. In fact, before the African Americans joined MLK Jr.'s sit-ins, they would go to camps where they would learn to control their impulses.

They would learn how to be cool under pressure after being shoved and told racial slurs.

Eventually, they made it and joined the rallies throughout The South.

And they were kind to one another.

Kindness helped others join in and brought together whites as well. You see, the power of kindness can really go a long

way. Even in times of hardship, kindness can help multiple people through it — and eventually, you could even make friends with your "enemy."

Maybe that's why they say "Keep your friends close, and your enemies closer?"

So, to all the people fighting for equal rights, I encourage you to use kindness. Even if it doesn't change the opposition, don't feel offended by it — just acknowledge the fact that they can't embrace change with open arms. When the time is ready, they'll show it by action, because actions speak louder than words.

And kindness is the most powerful of actions we can share with others.

Look for KID SCOOP

Kid Scoop runs every Wednesday in the Siuslaw News and features educational stories and fun activities for families. The 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 information.

Submit to School Zone

Be a part of the Siuslaw News' monthly newsletter for students in the Siuslaw and Mapleton school districts. It runs September to May each school year. Email Siuslaw News Features Editor Chantelle Meyer at cmeyer@thesiuslawnews.com