



# School Zone

The inside scoop on  
Cottage Grove-area schools

April 29, 2015

## South Lane students are On the grow

Local school gardens are a labor of love...here's how to help out!

BY LARAE ASH  
For the Sentinel

It's springtime in Lane County, and gardeners everywhere have emerged from the winter gray to contemplate sunny days and fragrant flowers, homegrown summer veggies and abundant autumn harvests.

Here in the Cottage Grove area, teachers and students are getting out too, into their own school gardens — gathering materials and organizing tools, starting seedlings and preparing summer beds — as they ready the outdoor classrooms for Oregon's exceptional growing season.

It is a big effort for busy teachers, and it does not happen without a caring and supportive community.

Fortunately, that support has been here over the years. Community foundations, local businesses and generous individuals have contributed their time, materials and monies to these learning labs — where the lessons come with fresh air, exercise and a little hard work — and kids learn lifelong skills that contribute to healthy lives and that could help them feed their future families.

In growing a garden, students apply math skills and practice science concepts as they learn plant propagation, bed preparation, soil amendment, composting and insect and bird control. They also develop life skills as they plan and produce together, take pride in their achievements together and feel a sense of community when they share the fruits of their labor.

There are many ways to help these gardens grow as the season gets underway. The following is a list of area schools that will be gardening this season, along with some of the ways they could use a helping hand.



photo by LaRae Ash

Recent beautiful weather found students at Harrison School Gardens outside with Trish Gillespie, dividing up donated veggie starts to be shared with other school garden programs.

### BOHEMIA SCHOOL

The Bohemia School/Community Garden was established in 2010 by Keith Folkman, with assistance from Kennedy High students, Americorp, the South Lane School District and grant funding.

The 31 garden beds are shared with community members, who may rent the 4' by 10' beds for \$15 per year.

"Gardeners get the benefit of raised beds, drip irrigation on timers, compost added annually, and a deer fence to protect their plants," says teacher Suzanne Keaveny. "Each year, students plant, cultivate, and harvest a variety of vegetables including greens, potatoes, tomatoes, asparagus, beans, strawberries, squash, and pumpkins."

The garden is currently plumbed using a series of garden hoses linked together.

"We could really use PVC pipe plumbed down the length of the garden with risers to hook up our hoses," Keaveny says. "Also, we could use a small tool shed and a utility sink for kids to wash veggies and their hands."

Contact: Suzanne Keaveny 541-505-2163

### CRESLANE SCHOOL

The Creslane School Garden program began in 2009, with the construction of the main garden taking place in March 2012. Today, the garden contains native shrubs, flowers, berries, fruit trees and vegetables, and it is where about 30 third, fourth and fifth-graders take their lessons in a gardening class held each fall and spring.

"They learn the essentials of gardening and then put that knowledge to work: planting, maintaining, harvesting and eating!" says teacher Bill Freid. "Hopefully, this fall we will be able to do some cooking and preserving."

"There was a major expansion this year, and we will be growing vegetables that will be served in the cafeteria this spring. We have plans for further expansion in the future to increase the amount of fresh grown food we can provide the students."

Fried says that the best way to contribute would be to attend the Creslane

Please see **GARDENS**, Page 11A

## Retiring teachers will be missed

BY KIM SCRIMA  
Dorena Principal

Karin Willis, Sharon Edwards and Reta Cochran graciously stayed through the new principal's first year, offering their expertise and mentorship; however, these three amazing teachers have decided that it is time to retire from education. Willis retired in December, and Edwards and Cochran will retire at the end of this school year. These three teachers will deeply be missed, but they have promised to be around for support next year. That is the kind of dedicated attitude these veteran teachers have always offered to the Dorena community and South Lane School District. Please, join us to celebrate their retirement at the May 15 fundraising event, 'The Beat Goes On.' Dorena School has recently recommended three new teachers for permanent positions. We plan to confirm their employment and provide an opportunity to learn more about our new staff soon.



Clockwise from the bottom left: Dorena teachers Karin Willis, Reta Cochran and Sharon Edwards will be recognized at a May 15 fundraiser.



## School Board election recommendations released by SLEA

During the week of April 12, the South Lane Education Association conducted interviews of the nine candidates seeking election to the South Lane School Board on May 19. On Monday, SLEA announced its recommendations.

SLEA said it discussed each candidate's skill set, adding that it hopes "all of the candidates will continue to seek out opportunities to

serve Cottage Grove and its youth."

The recommendations are:

**Position One: Tammy Hodgkinson**

**Position Three: Merlene Martin**

**Position Six: Jerry Settelmeyer**

**Position Seven: Gary Mort**

LET US HELP

CASCADE RENTAL

FOR YOUR LAWN AND GARDEN NEEDS.

(Maintenance at CG location only)



WE ALSO OFFER SERVICE ON ALL BRANDS OF POWER EQUIPMENT.



Garden supplies  
Tools and Equipment  
Raised beds  
Hoses, etc.  
& So Much More

Get MOW for your money at...

(541) 942-1301  
40 South 5th • Cottage Grove

CASCADE Home Center & Equipment Rental

(541) 895-4166  
104 South Mill St. • Creswell

Mon-Sat 8am-6pm • Sunday 9am-4pm

## A CLEAN COMPETITION!



photo by Jon Stinnett

Contestants in Cottage Grove High School's Lion King Pageant can count washing cars among the tasks they've undertaken to help raise funds for the Children's Miracle Network. The Pageant is scheduled for Saturday, May 2 at 7 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. Admission is \$10 per person, and eight senior boys will compete to be Cottage Grove's next Lion King. Pictured washing cars on Sunday, from left, are Elijah Shanklin, Spencer Quimby, Luke Bennett, Jarret Raade, Kenny Thurman, Justin Bennett, Cameron Sandoval and Jacob Eckstine.

## SLSD BRIEFS

### OSU Day of Service

On Saturday, May 16 from 9 a.m. to noon, volunteers are sought to take part in the OSU Community Day of Service at Harrison Elementary School, a day where OSU alumni and friends across the U.S. give back to their communities through service projects.

The Harrison Parent Club is excited to be organizing this service site in Cottage Grove to work together rain or shine on projects to improve the school's playgrounds, landscape and garden.

Those interested in volunteering are asked to register online at osualum.com/service and let organizers know so they can be

treated to a lunch after the work party and a free t-shirt while supplies last.

All ages welcome to help, though children under age 12 need to bring an adult work partner.

Sponsored by OSU Alumni Association and Harrison Elementary Parent (and Grandparent) Club.

Volunteers are asked to bring wheelbarrows, shovels, rakes and gloves, if possible.

Contact Melissa Fery, 541-513-3208, with questions.

### Latham Kicks Off Reading Program

On April 3, Latham had the Eugene Emeralds Reading Program Kick-off Assembly. At the

assembly, Sluggo and members of the Emeralds front office talked about the importance of reading before putting on an interactive performance of Ernest Thayer's classic baseball poem "Casey at the Bat." At the end of the assembly, each teacher received bookmarks for his or her class. Each bookmark has 10 slots in which the student can log his or her reading tasks. Each individual teacher sets the 10-task goal, whether that is 10 books, 10 chapters or, for those who can't read, 10 books read to the student. The students are excited and motivated to read! Students who complete their bookmarks will receive two free tickets to a Eugene Emeralds baseball game this summer. A great incentive to keep reading!