



# School Zone

November 25, 2015

A monthly newsletter covering Cottage Grove-area schools

## A blast after school at Latham

At Latham Elementary, the school is fortunate to have parents, staff, and community members that are willing to share their expertise with students through its after-school clubs. In November, students were able to participate in the following classes: knitting, chess, P.E. games, painting and crafts. They look forward to the December clubs, which will include knitting, P.E. games, holiday crafts, computers and watercolors.



courtesy photo

## Area teachers collaborate for writing instruction

London, Latham and Dorena get together

Teachers in London, Latham and Dorena schools are getting together to improve writing instruction at each school.

Representatives from the schools met for the second time on Oct.

21. Teachers have decided that the two goals to tackle this year are to create common formative assessment and prioritize writing instruction to align with their assessment findings. The schools are scheduled to meet a total of eight times over the course of the year. At the first meeting on Sept. 3, the group identified that their primary work will be to clearly define

student writing outcomes and effective assessment of those outcomes.

Teachers utilized different rubrics to assess student writing samples, beginning the process of calibrating an assessment of writing by grade level and determining what rubrics would best address the learning that takes place at each grade level.

By the next meeting, teachers agreed to complete a writing lesson so each can share the results. They say they are fortunate to have Deb Henderson coaching teachers at each of the schools as they work through this process.

## CATCH curriculum trainings held



File photo

Curriculum that aims to foster healthy habits drew teachers and staff together recently.

Dorena staff met with other district employees to train for a Coordinated Approach To Child Health (CATCH). P.E. teachers, cafeteria managers, teachers, and the principal met on Oct. 9. Teachers learned how to implement the activities, lessons and philosophies that will emphasize healthier eating and fitness levels for all employees and students. South Lane School District's health and wellness activities also provide a great way for all SLSD employees to lead healthier lifestyles.

At Harrison Elementary, stu-

dents learned about "Go, Slow and Whoa" foods as Harrison kicked off its first CATCH theme. Principal Ali Nice said combining the school's "eat smart" and "move more" messages is a great way to help students have happier and more productive lives.

At Latham School, Coach Jill has been working with students in each classroom every day of the week. The school began its CATCH kickoff week on Nov. 2. Student Council visited each classroom every day the week to explain the MVP (Move and stay active, Value healthy eating, and Practice healthy habits). The information went home to parents and was posted in the gym. In the cafeteria, students are able to bring food labels from home to place on a board and classify them as Go, Slow, or Whoa foods (Go foods being the healthiest and Whoa foods being the least healthy). Classroom teachers will teach nutrition lessons specific to their grade level. Through the CATCH program, curriculum and materials will be provided that will allow the staff to teach students the connection between staying healthy, being active and eating well.

## School-by-school

Updates compiled from information presented to the South Lane School Board

### Bohemia Elementary

#### Mural support

Principal Heather Bridgens said Bohemia is lucky to have CGHS senior McKayla Martindale painting murals around its building. Her first project is to paint scenes from Dr. Seuss around the walls outside the library. "Horton Hears a Who" is beginning to take shape!

#### Courtyard

Facility manager Joe Tennis has spent countless of his own hours to revamp Bohemia's courtyard, an outdoor space utilized by staff and students as weather permits. The courtyard looks lovely now, but promises

to be spectacular in the spring.

### P.E. Revolution

PE teacher Joe Randall has already revolutionized recess though he's only been with the school for a few days. Randall is spending the first few weeks of his tenure getting to know students and establishing recess games and rules. About two thirds of fifth-graders were involved in three new and different four-square games at a recent recess.

### Dorena Elementary

#### EBIS Program at Grove Christian Camp

Please see **REPORTS**, Page 2



Breakfast With Santa

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