



School Zone

October 26, 2016

A monthly newsletter covering area schools

NEW SCHOOL NEWS



Greg McCracken of BLRB Architects shows drawings of the new elementary school that will replace Harrison Elementary to current Harrison students on Tuesday, Oct. 18. McCracken and Mike Gorman talked about the job that architects perform and solicited possible names for the new school.

Sentinel file photo

Ducks, Beavers square off in reading challenge

In celebration of SMART's (Start Making A Reader Today) 25th year, Oregon State University Athletics and University of Oregon Athletics have partnered with the organization to raise funds and awareness for its work bringing a love of reading to Oregon kids.

From Saturday, Oct. 15 through Saturday, Nov. 26, the teams will compete in the SMART Literacy Challenge, a campaign encouraging donations to benefit local SMART programs, which build reading motivation and enjoyment in Pre-K through third-grade children.

"SMART is delighted that both teams have stepped up to the challenge, embracing the importance of early literacy and the role that they (and their mascots) can play in inspiring children to love reading," says SMART Area Manager Kari Rosenfeld.

Community members can show their school pride by donating to the campaign in the name of their favorite team. The winning university will be crowned the SMART Literacy Champion at the Civil War football game between the two teams, and honored for making a significant contribution to early literacy. One lucky donor will also select a local elementary school for their team's mascot and student athletes to visit for a school-wide reading assembly.

SMART Literacy Challenge participants can donate online at: www.crowdrise.com/BeaversVsDucks.

Harrison students help imagine new school

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Last Monday evening, Greg McCracken and Mike Gorman of BLRB Architects showcased the evolving plans for a new elementary school building in Cottage Grove to members of the South Lane School Board. The next morning, McCracken and Gorman shared those same plans with a very different audience — the students themselves.

Students in all grade levels at Harrison Elementary School got a chance last Tuesday to imagine what their day may be like in a brand-new school, one approved by the voters through a bond issue in May that is scheduled to open for the 2018-19 school year.

"What an awesome experience," McCracken said after the final presentation of the

day. "The kids had such fantastic questions about the school design, and they learned a lot about what kind of work an architect does."

Of course, some Harrison students will have moved on to middle school by the time the new building opens for the first time, and one fifth-grader reportedly exclaimed that he'd like to be held back just so he can experience the new school. Younger students in grades K-2 got a chance to color drawings of the school and imagine its color scheme, and others utilized the qualities of the Cottage Grove area to imagine themes for various portions of the school building.

During the final presentation to a group of fifth-graders, questions included whether the school's playground will be open after school, to which the architects responded that plans call for the school building to

be a community resource that is available outside of school hours. Another asked if the old Harrison building would be salvaged. One student even asked if the school would be a Poke stop, though the architects responded that such a determination wasn't up to them. Students were able to imagine themselves in a new grade and find the appropriate classroom.

Much discussion involved the naming of the new school, and one teacher stated that she was quite partial to the existing Harrison name. It's a conversation that's been going on among the older members of the community as well, and a link on the South Lane website will allow those interested to weigh in before Nov. 22. Names from the students included "Harrison Junior" and "Harrison 2.0," among many others.

"We always gain a lot of great insight as to what makes a great learning space, what is valuable to both teachers and students," Mc-

Cracken said. "It's great to engage with the kids, connect and share ideas so everybody can understand what we're getting into."




SCHOOL BRIEFS

Holistic support training for Kennedy staff

Kennedy high school staff attend sessions to learn about holistic support for students. Ongoing staff meeting presentations have brought back the recent training to the whole staff. The MMSAP (Masonic Model Student Access Program) is now in place to assist staff in providing more support for students.

London School Farm Field Trips, Oct. 27 and 28

Kindergarten through third-grade students will visit Ruby & Amber's Farm in Dorena on Oct. 27, and fourth through eighth-graders will visit Lone Pine Farms on Oct. 28. Buses leave at 8:30 a.m. Parents are asked to make sure their child dresses for the weather and wears rain boots. Students will be bringing back pumpkins from the farm.



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