

CGHS tops Lane grad rates

BY CAITLYN MAY
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The Oregon Department of Education announced that the state—which has routinely fallen to the bottom of the list regarding graduation—has made the single largest improvement in graduation rates in eight years with an overall average of just under 77 percent; up from 75 percent last year.

Cottage Grove High School padded the average, reporting 95.98 percent of its seniors as on-time graduates.

“All our staff in South Lane is working hard to ensure our kids succeed,” said South Lane School Board Chair Alan Baas of the report. “From our elementary schools, to our middle school and at the high school level, it is clear that our priority is ensuring all our kids are succeeding and getting the support they need.”

District-wide, South Lane’s average hovered around 76 percent, on track with the state average. No other school in the district, other than Academy Charter (which reported three seniors) met a 50 percent on-time graduation rate. Child’s Way came in at 36 percent and Kennedy High School scored 20 percent. Academy Charter reported 100 percent.

“For the third time in four years Cottage Grove

High School has the highest four-year graduation rate of any comprehensive high school in Lane County,” a press release issued by South Lane Communications Coordinator Garrett Bridgens read.

State officials attribute part of the overall percentage jump in graduation rates to the improvement in the number of Latino graduation rates around the state. Students who identify as Latino, approximately 20 percent state-wide, saw an increase of just over seven percentage points over the course of the last three years.

However, the increase in Oregon’s rate still falls short of the national average. The state’s graduation rate has been ranked as the third worst for the last two years, falling short of the top three spots which all earned between 88 and 90 percent graduation rates.

Statistically, schools around South Lane, such as Kennedy High School, see improvement in the five-year graduation rate that is not included in the state’s on-time graduation rate. Because the state of Oregon is mandated to provide public education to students until the age of 21, students who drop-out of traditional high schools often find their way to schools such as Kennedy to complete their education after being enrolled in a South Lane high school for more than four years.

Ms. Dimock’s kindergarten and first grade class just finished a unit on communities. They studied how communities are developed and why certain buildings need to be where they are. They finished up their unit with a walk around Cottage Grove. They visited the Cottage Grove library for story time, the Cottage Grove police station and Stacy’s Covered Bridge restaurant. A special thank you to Kim at Stacy’s who served the students a fancy lunch of spaghetti or chicken strips with sides. She also gave them a walk around in the commercial kitchen.



We just finished our first round of STEAM Fridays with great success. Students and teachers alike were thrilled and excited by the concepts they were learning and the hands-on approach. The next week, everyone switched to a new teacher and a new concepts. We are still looking for helpers during this time so if you are interested call the school office. Our next step in this year’s STEAM endeavor is meeting with a representative from JEMS. He will be helping us further formulate and deepen our program for next year.

London School will be sponsoring a Family Heritage Night on March 21. Families can choose photographs, heirlooms, illustrations or other items to display in the Family Heritage Museum.

Scholarships

Continued from C1
selves with hard work.”

OCF awards about 3,200 scholarships to a wide range of students each year. Available scholarships include those for people interested in varying subjects, from a variety of schools and with an extensive range of backgrounds.

See the complete list of available scholarships at <http://oregonstudentaid.gov>. An electronic application form and instructions on how to apply are also available there.



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February Students of the Month

LONDON SCHOOL



ISABELLA KEATING
Isabella Keating is London

School’s February Student of the Month. Isabella consistently has a positive attitude and is a wonderful classmate to all. She knows hoe to be a good friend. Bella is always willing to lend a hand. She does a fantastic job on all her classwork and always goes the extra mile with her assignments. In addition to her exemplary school work, Isabella is also a dedicated equestrian and rides weekly. Congratulations Isabella!

DORENA ELEMENTARY



ABBY DOUGHERTY

Abby is a great role model for the all of Dorena school. She is always friendly and willing to help others when needed. Abby is on Dorena student council and is a representative on the SLSD student advisory committee. Abby takes great pride in her school and takes responsibility for taking down the flag at the end of the day. Abby does an awesome job and continues to grow as a leader in the classroom.

HARRISON ELEMENTARY



ARIEL FITZGERALD

Ariel is a very little person with a very big heart. She brings it to school with her every day. Her heart is so big, that she always has a smile to share, a kind word to say and a two little hands to help. Ariel’s big heart helps her to do big work. She gets smarter every day, doesn’t stop until the job is done and when it is, she is ready for the next one. Ariel, thank you for sharing your big heart with the kids and adults at Harrison School. You make us want to be more kind,

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LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL



EMMA WALKER

Emma Walker is an outstanding 4.0 student at Lincoln Middle School. Her teachers say she is a leader who participates actively and interacts with her classmates in a positive way. Emma is kind and always willing to help others. Her friendliness, integrity and work ethic make Emma a great contributor to the LMS community.

ELKTON HIGH SCHOOL



BROOKE CARTER

Brooke a freshman at Elkton high School is a caring, kind and sensitive student. She is enthusiastic, hardworking, and intelligent. She always does her best. She is fun, curious and always positive. She is an honor roll student and gets along well with all staff and students.

KENNEDY ALT. HIGH SCHOOL



JAKE ALLEN

Jake has persevered through half of the school year with outside commitments. He has come in and worked hard on Friday’s to make up work.

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