



School News

For October 2019

A monthly newsletter covering area schools

Lane, Douglas counties lead state in bullying incidents

By **JOSHUA LEACH**
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tion (OSSCC).

There have been some glimmers of hope — the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has said that the number of kids reporting being bullied has gone down by 11 percent in the last decade.

Sometimes viewed as a rite of passage through life, bullying can have real health consequences for children and teens. HHS says that bullied kids are more likely to go through depression, anxiety and may even see changes in their diet and sleep patterns.

This could continue into adulthood.

Nationally among eighth graders, 1-in-4 students report being bullied, which is still a lower rate than those reported in Oregon.

— Oregon Health Authority '2017 Healthy Teens Survey

Bullying has the added effect of hurting kids academically, too. Victims of bullying are “more likely to miss, skip or drop out of school” and can feel the

effect on their report cards. The bullies, on the other

hand, are more likely to get into fights, abuse alcohol, be sexually promiscuous in their youth, be domestic abusers and have criminal records.

“Every bullying situation has two victims, both the bullied and the bully,” said Terry Bennett, superintendent of North Douglas School District (NDS).

The Oregon Health Authority’s (OHA) 2017 Healthy Teens Survey revealed that 3-in-10 Oregonian eighth-graders reported being bullied. Closer to home in Lane and Douglas counties, that number was higher, at 34.2 percent and 42.2 percent, respectively.

For eleventh-graders, the numbers were lower, but still alarming: 1-in-5 across the state, including Lane and Douglas counties,

report to have been bullied. That number matches up with 2017 data on eleventh-graders from the National Center for Education Statistics.

Nationally among eighth graders, the number is higher, with 1-4 reporting being bullied, which is still a lower rate than those reported in Oregon.

And it’s not just that the rate is higher in Oregon. It’s stayed nearly the same in the last six years.

The state has made efforts to curb bullying. The

See **BULLY 2C**

YMCA programs expanding services to include Cottage Grove area youth

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ganization opens more programs in the Bethel School District.

“High-quality afterschool programs have consistently been found to contribute to student success and higher graduation rates,” said YMCA CEO Brian Steffen in a statement. “This expansion of our afterschool program builds upon our 133-year commitment to grow and innovate in order to meet the evolving needs in Lane County.”

The program at Harrison makes use of the school’s cafeteria, gym, playground and project studio for an array of activities.

Children are treated to fruit snacks, games, physical activities, cooking, art projects and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) activities.

In addition, the program offers homework assistance to students to need it.

Harrison Elementary School Principal Heidi Brown is a fan of the new service.

“The YMCA is about keeping kids physically active and mentally engaged in creative and fun activities and I love watching the kids do that every day after school,” she said. “The activities are really well thought out and fun for kids. They’re loving what they’re doing.”

The program runs from the end of school until 6 p.m. and services are exclusive to Harrison students due to high demand.

Still, the enrichment program has found it challenging to attract program staff applicants and is not

currently operating at full capacity. Jackson said the

recent addition of another staff member from Eugene is raising the enrollment to about 30 children, but while the wait list of children grows, the YMCA is

looking for more qualified

adults. “Somebody that has experience in a licensed center, certified summer camp experience or credits in the field,” said Jackson. “That’s primarily what we’re look-

ing for, but we’re definitely

willing to hire aides.” Qualifications for aides could include people who have limited to no experience, but demonstrate a

See **YMCA 4A**

School news from Dorena

The middle school is having a great year so far. Older students are setting good behavior examples for the younger students, and most have stepped up the increased responsibilities of being a middle school

student.

We’re just finishing up a unit on facing our fears in Language Arts, and are moving ahead with learning about Mesopotamia in Social Studies and plant and animal cells in Science.

We will soon be preparing to read “To Kill a Mockingbird,” begin this year’s DIACK ecology program, and start learning about ancient Egypt once we finish with Mesopotamia.

The world is our oyster!

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