

## SCHOOL NOTES

### WOU scheduled to host preview day

MONMOUTH — Online registration is underway for Western Oregon University's Winter Preview Day, scheduled Saturday, Feb. 7. Deadline to sign up is Feb. 4.

The event, designed for prospective and admitted students, starts at 9 a.m. with check-in and collection of admission applications at the Werner University Center.

Attendees will have an opportunity to learn more about WOU's academic programs, meet faculty and staff, attend information sessions, and tour the campus and residence halls.

Online registration by 5 p.m. on Feb. 4 is required; registration may close earlier in the event preregistration numbers exceed available space, which is what happened in advance of the fall preview day event.

For more information: WOU Office of Admissions, 503-838-8211; email to [wolfram@wou.edu](mailto:wolfram@wou.edu); online at [www.wou.edu/student/admissions/previewday/winter.php](http://www.wou.edu/student/admissions/previewday/winter.php).

### New school planning info sessions

DALLAS — Dallas Community School, a new charter school slated to open in Dallas in the fall of 2015, has scheduled four upcoming information sessions for parents of prospective students.

The sessions are Feb. 19 from 6 to 7 p.m.; March 22 from 2 to 3 p.m.; April 13 from 7 to 8 p.m.; and May 20 from 6 to 7 p.m.

Room is filling up fast on the sessions, so parents are asked to RSVP via email to [info@DallasCommunitySchool.org](mailto:info@DallasCommunitySchool.org) to receive directions to the meeting location.

For more information about the school: [www.dallascommunityschool.org](http://www.dallascommunityschool.org).

### MVCA students take part in project

MONMOUTH — Students at Mid-Valley Christian Academy are wrapping up the school's annual Mission Week, which started Jan. 21.

Students have been encouraged to do jobs at home to earn money to donate during the week toward a project, which this year is "Gospel for Asia — Gifts from the Stable," an effort to purchase farm animals. For example, students could buy a chicken for every \$5.50 raised, or a water buffalo for \$490.

The project gives students an opportunity to learn about other countries, the needs of people and sharing with others.

Mid-Valley Christian Academy is also currently participating in National School Choice Week, being held through Saturday.

For more information: Gaye Stewart, MVCA, 503-838-2818.

### Foundation scholarships available

POLK COUNTY — Single parents and those 25 and older looking to earn a college degree can apply for scholarships through the Ford Family Foundation.

Two scholarships are available for Oregon residents who can demonstrate financial need by filing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), available at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

The Ford Opportunity Scholarship Program is for single parents planning to earn a bachelor's degree at an eligible college. Applicants must be the head of a household and without a live-in partner. For more information: [www.oregonstudentaid.gov/scholarship-doc/Ford-Opportunity.pdf](http://www.oregonstudentaid.gov/scholarship-doc/Ford-Opportunity.pdf).

The Ford ReStart Scholarship Program is for those 25 and older seeking an associate degree or bachelor's degree at an eligible college. Those applying should be no more than halfway toward completing their degree and a reference form is required. For more information: [www.oregonstudentaid.gov/scholarship-doc/Ford-ReStart.pdf](http://www.oregonstudentaid.gov/scholarship-doc/Ford-ReStart.pdf).

Scholarships are 90 percent of unmet financial need with a maximum of \$25,000 per academic year. Applications must be completed online by March 1 at [www.OregonStudentAid.gov](http://www.OregonStudentAid.gov).

For more information: email to [fordscholarships@tfff.org](mailto:fordscholarships@tfff.org); call 1-877-864-2872; or go to [www.tfff.org](http://www.tfff.org).

Oregon State University physics major Jake Fitzharris, left, demonstrates the reaction between dry ice and warm water to Oakdale students Addison Bobeda, second from left and Ariana Bobeda, center on Thursday night during "Family Science Night" at Oakdale Heights Elementary School. Fitzharris described the combination as creating "a cloud in a cup." The experiment was one of the more popular featured during the event.



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

## Getting hooked on science

Dallas' 'Family Science Night' exposes kids to learning in a fun way

By Jolene Guzman  
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Want to trick your brain into thinking that healthy broccoli actually tastes good?

Just put something you like to eat up to your nose and breathe in while chewing your vegetables.

That was just one of the scientific tidbits Dallas elementary school students and their families learned during Family Science Night Thursday at Oakdale Heights Elementary School.

The "taste and smell" experiment was a popular one all night — perhaps because it used candy to teach students, and the occasional parent, how connected our sense of taste is to our sense of smell.

Margie Haak, an Oregon State University chemistry instructor and science night event coordinator, lured the students with jelly beans, M&M's and Skittles.

In the first experiment,



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Elementary students try the "taste and smell" experiment. They chew on a M&M and smell a Skittles candy, tricking the brain into thinking they're eating fruity chocolate.

Haak had participants chew on the jelly beans while pinching their noses closed for five seconds. Then she had them unplug their noses. It took a few seconds, but soon their eyes would light up.

"It tastes better, huh?" Haak asked the students,

who responded by nodding their heads and smiling. "A lot of what we know as taste is not in your mouth at all. It's in your nose."

To power the point home, she had them bite into a Skittle and hold it to their nose while eating an M&M. "Tastes like fruity choco-

late doesn't it?" she asked to more nods to the affirmative.

OSU has sponsored "Family Science Nights" throughout the Willamette Valley for about a dozen years, Haak said. The university's chemistry, physics, chemical engineering and other science departments were represented at about 10 booths featuring fun and safe science activities for youngsters. Science majors and instructors alike guided the students through the experiments.

Thursday was the first time a "science night" was held in Dallas schools. By the looks of the lines waiting at each booth, it was a hit.

"The turnout has been great," Haak said. "Adults and kids are jumping into experiments. That's been really nice."

She added the goal is to introduce science to elementary students in a fascinating and fun way.

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