

SCHOOL NOTES

LVCS to host kinder round-up April 14

DALLAS — Luckiamute Valley Charter Schools Kindergarten Round-Up for 2016-2017 school year will be held on April 14 from 5:30 – 7 p.m.

The school is public and students can enroll from any district. It has small class sizes, averaging 18, and busing is available.

Bring a copy of birth certificate and immunization shot records. Open enrollment for all grades will be May 1. Contact Amber Chase with any questions at 503-623-4837 or search for information online at www.lvcs.k12.or.us.

MES students compete in math tourney

MONMOUTH — Monmouth Elementary School had four fifth-grade teams of five students each participate in a math tournament at Mount Hood Community College on Feb. 6.

Fifth-grade teachers Bailey Lind, Brian Wakefield and Timothy Kreta coached the four teams for the tournament.

Students participated in an individual timed test (15 questions in 30 minutes) and a team timed test (10 questions in 20 minutes). The combined scores from the individual and team competition was used to determine placing. This was the first year MES students participated. Although the teams did not place, they have already started talking about convincing their sixth-grade teachers to help them prepare for next year's competition.

State universities to visit Dallas High

DALLAS — Eight Oregon public universities will be at Dallas High School, 1250 SE Holman Ave., on April 13 at 6:30 p.m. This is an informational evening with breakout sessions for each university throughout the night and opportunities for students to spend time with at least two colleges of their choice.

This "meet and greet" is open to all students, all grades, parents and community members, and will be in Bollman Auditorium at the school.

Participating schools are: Oregon State University, University of Oregon, Western Oregon University, Southern Oregon University, Eastern Oregon University, Portland State University, Oregon Institute of Technology and Oregon State University-Cascades in Bend.

WOU celebrates Arbor Day Friday

MONMOUTH — Western Oregon University will recognize being listed as a Tree Campus USA by the Arbor Day Foundation during a celebration Friday.

The event kicks off at noon at the north entry to the campus, one block north of the Oregon Military Academy Building. Kristin Ramstad of the Oregon Department of Forestry will present the tree campus award to WOU President Rex Fuller.

A tour of three campus legacy trees will follow the ceremony. "This recognition acknowledges that we're conscious of the significance of trees on campus and it makes people aware of their environment," said Paul Finke, chairman of the University Tree Committee.

WOU is the fourth college in Oregon to earn the honor.

WOU announces affordability grant

MONMOUTH — Western Oregon University has eliminated its tuition increase for some undergraduate residents with a grant.

The grant would be offered to students whose expected family contribution on their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is zero. WOU's grant will reduce financial barriers to educational access.

"The WOU Affordability Grant is further evidence of WOU's strong commitment to support Oregon students by keeping WOU affordable and accessible so that more students can earn bachelor's degrees," said Jim Baumgartner, chairman of the WOU Board of Trustees.

Students must fill out their FAFSA to receive the grant.



SHARMAN ENSMINGER/for the Itemizer-Observer

Princess-IPAL Isabell Garcia-Becerra (right) consults with Assistant Superintendent Rich McFarland on Friday.

PRINCESS-IPAL FOR A DAY

IES second-grader is principal after raising the most money for jogathon

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — Isabell Garcia-Becerra walked the halls of Independence Elementary School on Friday afternoon. She passed a line of students waiting to return to their classroom.

"Be quiet or the Princess-IPAL will take you with her," their teacher cautioned.

"Hi Princess-IPAL!" students said and greeted Isabell with a hug or a high-five.

Isabell, second-grader, was principal for the day at IES.

"I've been doing a checklist," she said. "I had to get ready for the assembly to tape our gym teacher to the wall, and go over my daily calendar."

Tape the gym teacher to the wall? A second-grader in charge of the school? What's

going on at IES?

"She earned the privilege of being principal for the day," said Sharman Ensminger, usual principal at IES. "She earned \$500 out of a total of \$9,252 for our jogathon."

That was the most anyone raised for the annual event, Ensminger said. This is Isabell's second year in a row taking the top prize for her fundraising efforts.

"We thought it would be really fun to call her 'princess-IPAL' and give her the tiara," Ensminger said.

Last year as principal for a day, Isabell said she participated in a pizza party and handed out birthday pencils. A year older — and nearly to third grade, Ensminger pointed out — she has a lot more responsibility.

Isabell had to go with the custodian and help with safety inspections.

"I had to check the hallways, the restrooms, and then the fire extinguishers, the front door lock — to make sure it still worked," she said. "I had to go through the first aid cabinet, and I did look at the safety hazards on the playground."

After careful inspection, she found IES in compliance with all regulations, Isabell said.

It being April Fools' Day, some fifth-graders thought it would be fun to cover Ensminger's car windows with Post-it notes. Isabell said she, Ensminger and Superintendent Buzz Brazeau had to address the vandalism.

"They didn't think they'd get caught," Isabell said. "Then Mrs. Ensminger brought them down as if they were in trouble."

Once the students realized they had been caught, but administrators had a

sense of humor, they all started laughing, Isabell said.

Catching students playing April Fools' jokes was the best part of the day.

"It feels like today was part of my weekend," Isabell said. "Like a three-day weekend."

Though she knows it's not always so easy to run the school, noting that Ensminger "has to work a lot."

After spending a day in Ensminger's shoes, Isabell said it is one thing she will consider being when she grows up.

"I want to either be a principal or a teacher or a gymnast, because I'm really good at gymnastics, or a basketball player," she said. "I've done every single one a lot."

If she were principal all the time, Isabell's first proclamation would be no homework.



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