

SCHOOL NOTES

CCC renames Dallas location Polk

DALLAS — Chemeketa Community College's board of education voted last week to change the name of its satellite campus in Dallas to "Chemeketa Polk."

The switch more accurately reflects the area the school serves in Polk County, said Board Chairwoman Betsy Earls.

"We offer classes in Independence as well as Dallas, and we want all the residents of Polk County to think of Chemeketa as their college," Earls said.

Chemeketa offers a range of college classes at its locations in Dallas and Central High School. This year a building inspection degree program has been added to the college curriculum at the Polk Center.

There are no plans to move operations and classes from Chemeketa's Dallas location, added Glen Miller, director in charge of the location.

"We're changing signs and such, but we have no plans to leave our home at 1340 SE Holman Ave.," Miller declared.

DSD board adopts 2016-17 budget

DALLAS — The Dallas School District Board adopted the district's 2016-17 budget on June 20 with no major changes from the original proposal.

The total budget is \$47,287,906, with \$31.2 million in the general fund. Other funds include: special revenue and grant projects — \$2.9 million; debt service fund — \$2.2 million; student activity funds — \$1.1 million; capital construction bond projects fund — \$7.8 million; and unappropriated funds — \$825,000.

Polk Parent program expands to Yamhill

Itemizer-Observer staff report

POLK COUNTY — On Friday, the Polk County Parent Education program will expand into Yamhill County through Yamhill Community Care, thanks to an award from the Oregon Parent Education Collaborative (OPEC) Expansion Grant.

The \$100,000 grant will be used to coordinate parent education, increase the number of trained parent facilitators, and expand parent education to all the communities in both counties. This award is part of a multi-year initiative developed by The Oregon Community Foundation in partnership with the Meyer Memorial Trust, The Ford Family Foundation, The Collins Foundation, and Oregon State University.

Organizations in Polk and Yamhill have partnered for the past three years with the Mid-Valley Parenting website (www.midvalleyparenting.org) to connect parents, caregivers, and the community with parenting classes, workshops, resources, and community family events.

Parenting does not come with a handbook; the evidence-based parent education classes offered through the grant will help all parents gain some new tools for their parenting toolbox that include child development, setting rules, school readiness, positive discipline strategies, and most importantly self-care strategies for parents.

Families will also be able to connect with other parents and learn that they are not alone in their parenting struggles. All parenting classes will be offered with a free meal and free child care.

To learn more about parenting education, when the next class is offered, and to register for classes visit www.midvalleyparenting.org.



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer file

Lyle Elementary School kindergarten teacher Kari Witt reads a book to her class at the beginning of the 2015-16 school year. The first year of full-day kindergarten classes had academic highlights, and challenges in other areas.

Full-day kinder offers lessons

Successes and challenges mark the first year kindergarteners attended all day

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — The first year of full-day kindergarten in Dallas School District had students making academic strides, but they had difficulty adjusting to spending six hours in class each day.

The 2015-16 school year was the first many district across the state held full-day kindergarten, after the state agreed to pay for the added class time. In Dallas, kindergarteners attended class for six hours and 10 minutes per day, up from two hours and 30 minutes per day in previous years.

Kindergarten classes are offered at two elementary schools, Oakdale Heights and Lyle. The principals of those schools, Todd Baughman and Caleb Harris, outlined the successes and challenges of the year for the Dallas School Board at its



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer file

Kindergartens at Lyle Elementary line up for recess.

June 20 meeting.

"I think we've learned a lot about what to do with 5-year-olds for six hours and 10 minutes," Harris said. "I think our teachers would choose to do things, not completely different, but they are going to take different approaches, I think, when it comes to September."

The percentage of students recognizing letters

and letter sounds increased from 83 percent at the end of the 2014-15 school year to 92 percent in 2015-16. Harris noted that mid-year assessments showed about 80 percent of students had mastered letters and sounds.

Reading achievement increased even more. The percentage of students assessed at or above grade level for

kindergarten jumped from 71.5 percent to 84.5 percent. Of those, 64 percent scored very well.

Though no formal assessments were given, Baughman noted that students reached higher levels in writing and numbers.

Baughman noted another highlight.

"On attendance, overall, we have great news in kindergarten," Baughman said.

Lyle had 22 students attending less than the 92 percent threshold, a reduction by half from 2014-15. Oakdale's attendance had 23 of 84 (27 percent) students falling below 92 percent compared to 26 of 76 (34 percent) students the year before.

Academic improvement in 2015-16 means expectations for what can be learned in kindergarten may need to be revised, Baughman said.

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