



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer

Gov. Kate Brown reads to Ash Creek Elementary School students on Thursday's Read Across America kickoff.

'A Great Day for Up'

Students get a chance to meet Gov. Kate Brown, learn what she does for fun

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — What is Gov. Kate Brown's favorite food? What kind of music does she like? Has she ever been scared? What does she do for fun?

"I like to do yoga for fun," Brown said. "I like to stand on my head, and I like to do frog pose, and I like to do downward dog."

Students laughed imagining the governor standing on her head or doing poses with animal names.

These were a handful of questions curious students at Ash Creek Elementary School had for Oregon's governor. Brown came to ACES Thursday morning to celebrate the Read Across America kickoff, which also honors author Dr. Seuss' birthday.

Students also learned that



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Gov. Kate Brown receives a gift from ACES on Thursday.

Brown loves roasted vegetables, listens to Katy Perry, and was scared recently when flying in a Black Hawk helicopter in Eastern Oregon.

"The other person I was with — there was a big open

window — and because he was in the gunner's seat, he leaned out the window while we were flying in the helicopter," Brown recalled. "It was very scary."

Brown was greeted by student ambassadors from

each grade level before heading into a packed library to read, "A Great Day for Up," by Dr. Seuss.

"Who likes to sleep in on Saturdays?" Brown asked the engaged students. Everyone raised their hands. "Me too!"

On learning that the eagle is the ACES mascot, Brown said, "Oregon's state motto is, 'She flies with her own wings,' so I encourage each and every one of you to fly with your own wings."

Read Across America was started by a small reading task force at the National Education Association in 1997. March 2, Dr. Seuss' birthday, serves as a "pep rally" to get kids excited about reading.

The beloved children's author's birthday was chosen in part because of his efforts to increase children's literacy.

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SCHOOL NOTES

DSD enlists help for CTE development

DALLAS — Tim Ray, Dallas High School's former agricultural teacher, is returning to the district to help design DHS' career and technical education program.

"We are very excited to have Tim Ray come back on to help us with CTE," Superintendent Michelle Johnstone said as she introduced Ray on Feb. 27 at a Dallas School Board meeting.

School districts across the state will be receiving funding for CTE from Measure 98, which voters approved in November. Dallas expects to receive about \$400,000 in each of the next two years.

Ray said he is eager to get started and will begin work next week.

"Very, very pleased at this stage in my career to come back to a district, in a community like this, that cares so much about kids, and to have a small piece in however this plays out," he said.

State approves Measure 98 rules

SALEM — The Oregon Board of Education on Feb. 23 adopted the rules school districts must follow to receive Measure 98 funding.

Voters passed the ballot measure in November to provide financial support for high schools to establish or expand career technical education programs, teach college-level classes and to prevent dropouts.

"Measure 98 presents a unique opportunity to target resources at one of Oregon's most pressing challenges, our graduation rate," said State Deputy Superintendent Salam Noor in a press release.

Districts applying for the funding — up to \$800 per student — must submit a biennial plan for approval by the Oregon Department of Education. The plan must address all three of the measure's focus areas.

Funding amounts will be determined by how much money is available for the state legislature to allocate to the "High School Graduation and College and Career Readiness Fund" created by Measure 98.

Seeking Oregon's next Teacher of Year

SALEM — Every year, the Oregon Department of Education honors teachers and their impact on students' lives through the Oregon Teacher of the Year award.

The award recognizes an outstanding teacher as a representative of all of the educators in our state and gives Oregonians an opportunity to share information on teachers who are making a difference in their communities.

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2018 Oregon Teacher of the Year award.

Anyone can nominate a prekindergarten through grade 12 teacher for the award, but teachers may not nominate themselves. Candidates should have the respect and admiration of their colleagues and:

- Be an expert in their field who guides students of all backgrounds and abilities to achieve excellence.
- Collaborate with colleagues, students, and families to create a school culture of respect and success.
- Deliberately connect the classroom and key stakeholders to foster a strong community at large.
- Demonstrate leadership and innovation in and outside of the classroom walls that embodies lifelong learning.
- Express themselves in an engaging and articulate way.

The deadline for nominations is Friday.

To learn more about the Teacher of the Year program or to make a nomination today, go to: <http://ore-gonteacheroftheyear.org/>.

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