

Grant Union holds bully-free week

50 students recognized for acceptance

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — “No teasing,” “No torments,” “No name-calling,” “No put-downs,” “No rumors.”

These were just a few sayings on T-shirts worn by 50 Grant Union Junior-Senior High School students as they work to make their school a bully-free zone.

The students were selected by their teachers for showing characteristics of inclusion and acceptance among their peers for the March 10-16 No Name-Calling Week.

Several student body leaders helped plan activities for the weeklong campaign, with anti-bullying messages and statistics posted all month on the school office door and on hallway bulletin boards.

A school assembly included a game, testing students’ knowledge on bullying, and leadership class advisor Elizabeth Shelley shared a school pride lesson on bullying prevention, which included a motivational video.

“Our hope was to bring awareness to the struggles that some students face with harassment and bullying,” she said. “We try to teach and model inclusive behaviors here at school and don’t want to ignore the situations that can arise. The more that we bring awareness to the issue of harassment or bullying, hopefully students and staff will be more comfortable and confident in addressing the issue.”

The video in Shelley’s lesson shows kids who had been bullied in school, but went on to become successful. The video can be found at: <https://youtu.be/mB-wf-VPZqDs>.

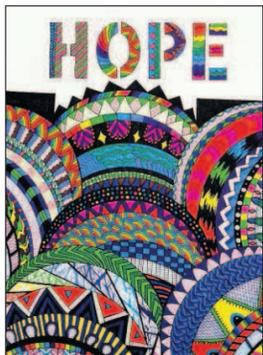
Grant County health department manager Jessica Winegar worked with Grant Union students and staff, helping kick off No-Name-Calling Week with a core grant received through the Grant County School-Based



Grant Union student body leaders show their support of No Name-Calling week at the school, March 10-16, including, from left: Natalie Stearns (grade 11 president), Kenzie Wilson (ASB president), Tyler Blood (grade 8 president), Keila Qual (grade 12 president), Tanner Elliott (grade 9 president) and Trejan Speth (ASB activities director/vice president).



Contributed photos
Grant Union art student Dana Norland received recognition for her artwork “Mosaic Elephant” at Gallery 15 in Burns.



Grant Union art student Meisha Meyerholz received an honorable mention award for her drawing called “Hope” at Eastern Oregon University’s regional high school art exhibition which included 300 works from 13 high schools.

GU students receive art awards

By Angel Carpenter
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BURNS — Two students in JJ Collier’s Grant Union art class were recognized for their work in recent weeks.

Senior Dana Norland received one of three awards last Friday for her artwork titled “Mosaic Elephant” at Gallery 15 in Burns.

The gallery is hosting a regional show through April 16, displaying student artwork from Burns, Crane and Grant Union.

Senior Meisha Meyerholz won honorable mention for her 12x18-inch drawing titled “Hope” at the Eastern Oregon Regional High School Art Exhibition at Eastern Oregon University.

The Feb. 19-March 15 show included 300 works from students at 13 high schools.

Grant Union had 28 students participating, some submitting two pieces of artwork.

Nightingale Gallery director Corey Peeke said he was pleased with the students’ work and the art teachers who guide them.

“On behalf of EOU and the Nightingale Gallery I would like to congratulate the winners and all the student participants,” he said. “I would also like to congratulate the art teachers who on a daily basis go out of their way to help students create work of such a high caliber.”

What is bullying?

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Both kids who are bullied and who bully others may have serious, lasting problems.

In order to be considered bullying, the behavior must be aggressive and include:

- An Imbalance of Power: Kids who bully use their power—such as physical strength, access to embarrassing

information, or popularity—to control or harm others. Power imbalances can change over time and in different situations, even if they involve the same people.

- Repetition: Bullying behaviors happen more than once or have the potential to happen more than once.

Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose.

There are three types of bullying:

- Verbal bullying is saying or writing mean things.

- Social bullying, sometimes referred to as relational bullying, involves hurting someone’s reputation or relationships.

- Physical bullying involves hurting a person’s body or possessions.

Experts say youth can show support to friends and peers who are being bullied by talking to them, telling them that what happened to them isn’t OK or inviting them to join in an activity.

Information from StopBullying.gov and pacer.org/bullying.

Health Center.

Grant Union eighth-grade class president Tyler Blood addressed the Grant School District No. 3 school board at their March 16 meeting about the campaign.

“We feel that this was a good project for us, even though most of our student

body does not see bullying as a huge issue in our system,” she said. “Some students do experience bullying, so we want to make sure we address it and how to stop bullying at our school.”

At the close of the campaign, Blood said she was happy the event went well.

“I hope we do it next year,” she said.

“We want to be 100 percent bully free,” added Kei-

la Qual, senior class president. “We’re a close school, and we don’t stand for that.”

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