

# School Exclusion Day is Feb. 17

*Parents must provide schools or licensed child care facilities with children's immunization records*

The Oregon Immunization Program is reminding parents that children will not be able to attend school or child care starting Feb. 17—School Exclusion Day—if their records on file show missing immunizations.

State law requires that all children in public and private schools, preschools, Head Start and certified child care facilities have up-to-date documentation on their immunizations, or have an exemption.

"Immunization is an effective way to keep schools and the entire community healthy," said Stacy Matthews, school law coordinator at the Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division. "We want to make sure children are fully protected against vaccine-preventable diseases such as whooping cough and measles."

Some updated vaccine requirements include:

-The hepatitis A vaccine is a two-dose series required for children 18 months and older in child care, preschool and kindergarten through seventh grade.

-Seventh graders will also need a Tdap booster for pertussis (whooping cough).

-A child getting ready to leave for college (in their senior year of high school) is required to have the measles vaccines. They are also encouraged to get a meningitis vaccine but are not required by all colleges.

There have been some changes with the immunization laws this past year. Religious exemptions to immunization signed before March 1, 2014 are no longer accepted. If a child has an outdated religious exemption, parents will need to complete new documentation of immunizations, a medical exemption, or a nonmedical exemption.

What are the options for parents of children with old religious exemptions?

-If your child has received the vaccines, turn in this information to your child's school or child care.

-If you want a non-medical exemption for your child, complete the new process and turn in two forms:

1) Certificate of Immunization Status—fill in the dates of any vaccines your child has received, fill out the nonmedical exemption section by marking the vaccines for which you want the exemption, and then sign and date the exemption. AND

2) Vaccine Education Certificate—you will get this certificate after completing the required education about immunizations from a health care practitioner or the from the online vaccine education module. Go to [www.healthoregon.org/vaccineexemption](http://www.healthoregon.org/vaccineexemption) for more information about nonmedical exemptions.

-Anyone who needs a medical exemption for their child should get a letter from the child's primary care provider with the information stated on the Certificate of Immunization Status form. Turn in the letter to the child's school or child care. Medical exemptions are reviewed and approved by the health department.

Parents are encouraged to turn in the documentation of immunizations or exemption as soon as possible. If you don't get the information in, you may receive a notice that your child will be excluded from school or child care because of missing immunization records. Schools are required to send their vaccination information to the local health departments no later than January 13, 2016.

If school and child care vaccination records are not up-to-date, the child will be sent home on February

17. In 2015, local health departments throughout the state of Oregon sent 29,234 letters to parents and guardians informing them that their children needed immunizations to stay in school or child care. A total of 4,666 children were kept out of school or child care until the necessary immunization information was turned in to the schools or child care facilities. This year letters to parents will be mailed on or before Feb. 3.

Parents seeking immunizations for their children should contact their health care provider or local health department, or call 211 Info—just dial 211 for a place to get vaccinated. No one can be turned away from a local health department because of the inability to pay for required vaccines. Pharmacists can immunize children seven and older. Parents can contact their neighborhood pharmacy for details if they are interested.

Additional information on school immunizations can be found at the Immunization Program website at [www.healthoregon.org/imm](http://www.healthoregon.org/imm). For further information, contact the local health department.

# Lady Cards take second in tournament



Top L-R: Ivy Sandford, Hannah Padberg and Maggie Flynn play defense in last week's Oregon Trail Classic tournament game against Enterprise. Ione defeated the Outlaws to place second in the varsity girls' games. Bottom: Morgan Orem watches as Hannah Padberg fights a Helix player for the jump ball in Saturday's game, in which Helix defeated the Lady Cards 36-62. —Photos by Sylvia Sandford

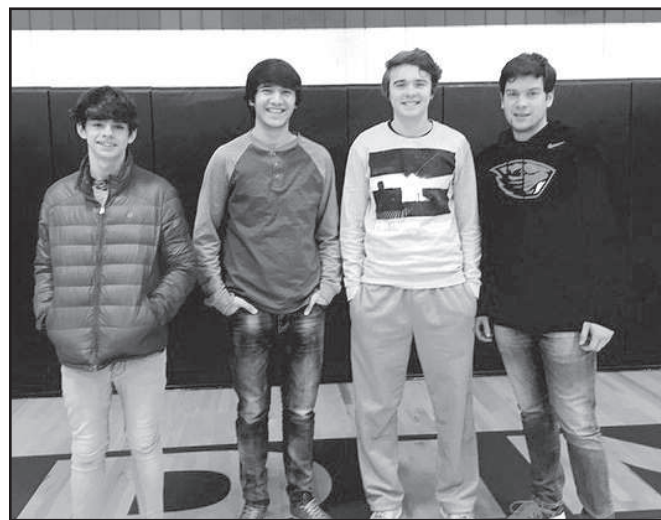
# EXCHANGE STUDENTS

*-Continued from PAGE ONE*  
**Alessandro Panozzo, cont.**

to Seattle, football games, NBA games. They really helped me to understand their culture and live part of their lives."

*Anything else?* "I want to say thank you to the community because everyone was patient with me and I felt at home, and in particular to my family because they really made me happy."

Thanks to my coaches because they really helped me. I really enjoyed the sports part of the experience."



Ione exchange students (L-R) Pablo Ramos, Umedali Rajabaliyev, Gonzalo Rodriguez and Alessandro Panozzo. Gonzalo and Alessandro both return home this month after a semester at Ione High School. —Contributed photo

**Gonzalo Rodriguez, cont.**

*chance to attend any special events? What did you think of that experience?*

"The most special was Christmas because all my family here came to our house to celebrate it and there were like 30 people at our house. I was really involved in everything and I liked it. It made me forget I was missing Christmas in Spain."

*Anything else?* "I would like to thank my host family, my friends, my teachers, my coaches, and everybody I've met here. Now they're part of my life, and I hope I'm part of theirs."

# Ione boys take down Grizzlies



Above (L-R): Alessandro Panozzo, Colton Hollis, Austin Carter, Jason Juarez and Aaron Smythe man up against an Enterprise player. Ione boys lost to the Enterprise Outlaws last week at the Oregon Trail basketball tournament in Pendleton. Below: Austin Carter blocks a Helix player Saturday. The Ione boys took wins against the Grizzlies in both the JV and varsity games. —Photos by Sylvia Sandford



# Heppner JV splits games at Shoot-Out

The Heppner Mustang Junior Varsity took part in the Les Schwab Shoot-Out last week at the Pendleton Convention Center. The JV Mustangs split their games there at the tournament. They fell to the Hermiston JV2 team 51-30 on day one and then came back to beat the Ione JV team by the score of 41-34 on day two. It was a great experience for the Heppner JV team members to get a chance to play on the NBA court at the Convention Center.

The first game against the long and athletic Hermiston team had the Bulldogs ahead at halftime 27-19. Everyone on the Heppner team got to play in the game, and that included many freshman who made the trip. The Mustangs were outscored 24-11 in the second half and lost the game by the score of 51-30.

Derek Howard led the team in scoring with 8. Wyatt Steagall finished with 6 points and Hunter Nichols had 5. Gibson McCurry had 4 points and several blocks in the game. Beau Wolters

chipped in 3 points while Kevin Smith and Trent Smith each scored 2 points in the game.

In the game with Ione, Heppner trailed after the first quarter 11-8. Heppner was also outscored in the second quarter and trailed 25-19 at halftime. The game started to change in the third quarter as the Mustangs outscored the Cardinals 13-9 to only trail 34-32 at the end of three. In the fourth quarter Heppner held Ione scoreless and netted nine points for themselves. That gave the Mustangs the win by a score of 41-34.

A balanced scoring attack was led by Coby Dougherty with 9. Steagall finished with 8 points and Nichols had 7. Kevin Smith had 4 points and Derek Howard recorded 3. Wolters, McCurry, Cason Mitchell, Dakota Howard and Keegan Gibbs each scored 2 points in the game.

The JV Mustang team will resume play this weekend against Irrigon and Stanfield.



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