SINESS IN HAID HAS These kids are minding their own business(es)

Student chapter engaged in leadership

By Katherine Lacaze For Seaside Signal

The success of Seaside High School's fledgling Future Business Leaders of America chapter reveals how team members have taken to heart the idea of jumping in feet first.

The chapter, which is led by business teacher Mike Verhulst, is preparing to send 21 students to the FBLA State Business Leadership Conference in Portland from April 6 to 8, and a few students have even secured their spot at the National Leadership Conference.

"I'm really blown away



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Seaside High School junior Bryre Babbitt (left) and senior Kara Ipson talk on their Future Business Leaders of America chapter's involvment in the school's Don't Catch This Wave campaign.

by the connection I've been able to make with the kids and how engaged they are," said Verhulst, who is in his first year at Seaside. "These kids have made my life really easy in terms of their support."

He structured Seaside's FBLA chapter as a class/club hybrid. During the second term, students participated in the business leadership class, where they developed a basic understanding of business, picked their projects



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During the FBLA prep night March 22, Seaside High **School junior Isaiah Collins** gives a presentation on the 3-D animated video he created with his teammates, senior Brent Walsh and junior Rafael Sibony.

and for which competitive events, and developed skills necessary to complete those projects. Once the class ended, students had to find time

project partners and finish their work.

Because of the size of Oregon FBLA, schools hold on-site regional competitions where members take an online test. In Seaside, the regional contest took place in February, and all the students qualified to compete at the state level.

FBLA competitions feature a myriad of events, some of which include a presentation and are judged in-person. Students may participate in one judged event and one written event — such as business calculations, accounting, personal finance or business communications.

As they get ready for state, many Seaside students already have submitted pieces from their project, but will

on their own to meet with meet their judges face-toface and give a presentation at the competition in April.

That was the competitive aspect students addressed during an FBLA Prep Night, held March 22 at the school.

"At this point we all have our projects and presentations ready," said senior Zeynep Payzanoğlu, who is competing in 3-D animation with senior Kara Ipson. "Today is a practice competition for us."

The teams presented their projects, which included 3-D animated videos, business plans and e-business propositions, in front of volunteer judges and other community members. In the six years Verhulst has been an FBLA adviser, he's found

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