



Katherine Lacaze

Cannon Beach Academy Director Amy Fredrickson prepares the school for the start of the 2019-20 school year. The academy's enrollment was at full capacity with 50 students.

Full enrollment at the Cannon Beach Academy

Moving forward, school will use waiting list, lottery system

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For Seaside Signal

The Cannon Beach Academy is looking forward to starting the 2019-20 school year with a full capacity of students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Moving forward, the academy will use a waitlist and lottery system to fill open positions as they come available.

"Because of the demand for the seats, so to speak, there needs to be an equitable way to be able to determine who gets to come to the school," Director Amy Fredrickson said.

The academy faced possible closure last school year due to financial woes tied to lower-than-expected enrollment and unpaid pledges.

For the new school year, which began Tuesday, 50 students from Astoria to Nehalem were registered at the academy, with one student on the waitlist. The school's admission is capped at 50 students, based on the number of teachers, as they are committed via their charter to having 25 or fewer students per classroom.

"It's kind of a circular thing: Our enrollment is limited to our staff and our staff is connected to our enrollment," Fredrickson said.

Once the school has at least 16 more students registered to attend, they can hire another full-time teacher and increase their capacity to 75, which is the goal for the 2020-21 school year.

The random lottery process

In Oregon, using a random lottery system for admissions is common among charter schools, which provided a model for the academy.

For each grade, applicants are divided into two groups: In-district and out-of-district. Once the lottery is conducted, all students who have been selected for admission are notified. The remaining students are placed on a waitlist, and as openings come available, "we offer them to families based on their waitlist position," Fredrickson said. If a student leaves, the position is offered to the next person on the waitlist, if they are interested in transferring mid-year.

Applications continue to be accepted throughout the year for transfers or after Jan. 1 of each calendar year for the upcoming school year. The lottery is normally held the first week of April. Applications are still accepted after the first lottery and drawn at random May 1 and June 1 to be added to the current waitlist.

See CBA, Page A8

FIRST DAY!



Photos by Katherine Lacaze

Raine Krecic steps off the bus for her first day of school. Raine recently moved to Seaside with her family from California.

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For Seaside Signal

The Heights Elementary School was a hive of activity Tuesday morning as students, teachers, and parents ushered in the start of the 2019-20 year.

Parents and guardians snapped photos, offered encouragement, and bid farewell to their kindergarten through fifth-graders, several of whom expressed excitement and trepidation — or some of both — heading into the new school year.

"I most look forward to seeing all of my students," said Juli Wozniak, principal of The Heights and Gearhart Elementary School. "Their smiling faces make my job truly the best job in the world."

For all four schools in the district, administrators anticipate this year will be a bittersweet one, as



For this student, the first day of school is a family affair.

three of the four student bodies are transferring to the new school campus after next summer.

"This is probably going to be one of the most momentous years in the history of our district," Superintendent Sheila Roley said. "We have

so many important things on our plate."

Despite Gearhart Elementary School, Broadway Middle School, and Seaside High School having some leaks in their roofs and outdated heating systems and being located in the tsunami zone, "they've been home for us for a long time," Roley said. Each activity and event that occurs at the facilities throughout the year will be tinged by the awareness that it is happening in that location for the last time.

"The process of closure is not just locking the doors and handing over the keys," Roley said. "We really feel it's important to honor the history and the traditions and to close those buildings with a worthy ending for the service they've given to our community and our kids."

Wozniak agreed.

See School, Page A8

A fond farewell to Ken and Sons Market

'It was good for our children and it was good for us'

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For Seaside Signal



Ken Smith at Ken and Sons market. During the past 52 years, each of his five children, along with other in-laws and grandchildren, have worked at the neighborhood grocery store at one time or another.

As Smith, 87, reflects on the past 52 years running the small, neighborhood market, he identifies

his wife Carolyn and five children as pivotal players in its success.

"They help make it what it is," he said. "It was good for our children and it was good for us."

Giving the business a go

After working several years in the grocery industry as a young man, Smith had the inclination to run his own business. The family was living in Hillsboro when the market on Avenue U, then owned by the Biamont family under a different name, became available.

See Farewell, Page A8

Passing on the 'mom and pop' torch

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal



R.J. Marx
Natasha Montero and Mike Hamilton, who will open Hamilton Market at the site of Ken and Sons.

A Seaside landmark grocery will change hands Sept. 9 as Ken and Sons Market becomes the Hamilton Market. Originally known as the Ocean Vista Market, Ken Smith and his family have owned the market at 250 Avenue U since 1967.

See Market, Page A8