

Reading, reading and more reading emphasized in Banks classes

The highlight of the Banks School Board meeting October 9, was a lively presentation by Becky Cottman, library assistant at Banks Elementary School, of two reading programs in progress at the elementary school. The first, "Reading is the Key," rewards individual students for time spent reading outside of the classroom. Small incentives are offered monthly and annual awards range from a blue ribbon for 35 hours of reading, to a "letter" for 525 hours and up to a Reading Medal for 825 hours. Reading hours are accumulated throughout elementary school, from kindergarten to sixth grade. One student currently has more than 1000 hours of reading. Cottman is searching for a suitable reward. Reading is the Key is funded by the Parent Teacher Organization.

The second program, open to third/fourth and fifth/sixth students, is the popular "Battle of the Books" library quiz, which is designed to encourage students to read a variety of books. Students form teams,

with each team determining its own system of reading. Third/fourth grade students read five books; fifth/sixth grade students read ten books. The book lists are determined by the library and are available in both the school and city libraries. Competition begins the week after spring break and takes place during lunch breaks until the final round. The Battle of the Books started two years ago with eleven teams. Last year, there were 33 teams. Teams are now being formed for this year's competition. Entry forms are due November 1. For information, contact Cottman.

Superintendent Marilyn McGlasson recommended that the board revise regulations for use of facilities to include two new rooms in the remodeled District Offices. An upstairs conference room, similar to a classroom, is now available, as is the boardroom. The fee for use of the conference room will be \$25 and \$75 for the boardroom.

The superintendent presented goals for the school year.

The first goal is to establish and maintain sound business and fiscal practices. The second is to support continuous improvement of educational programs. A third goal concerns facilities improvements. The final goal is to foster positive, open communication with students, staff, parents and community. Each of these goals has a series of targets. These goals and targets are consistent with the district's guiding principles used for budget purposes.

The board approved targets for the goal to "emphasize good boardmanship techniques." The targets include increased knowledge of various district and school programs and increased visibility at school events and programs. Other goal targets are increased communication with employees and development of board and superintendent evaluation instruments. The board will also serve as advocate for local education.

Leslie Sipp, from the Community Resource Program, discussed several programs. Twenty-nine students participated in a day camp funded by grants from the Trailblazers and the Boys & Girls Club, and had a wonderful time exploring cultural differences. Other programs include providing supplies to needy students through Project Back-Pack, a parenting library of books, audio and videos for the public library funded annually by a district patron, and a Love and Logic class for parents of teenagers.

High School Principal Jeff Smith discussed Banks students' progress toward the Certificate of Initial Mastery (CIM). The CIM is awarded in the fall, after testing in the spring to demonstrate proficiencies in reading, writing, speaking, math, problem solving and science. Five students earned a CIM in the fall of 1999 and 24 students earned a CIM in 2000. Banks students achieved a phenomenal average score of 92-percent in writ-

ing, one of the highest in the state. While math problem solving scores are still well below state average, Smith reported that Banks was one of only four schools to show improvement. McGlasson cautioned that these scores are a snapshot of a single group of students and that it is important to focus on multi-year trends in scores on state tests.

Other high school news included the announcement of the fall play, "Snow White," scheduled for November 16-18.

Junior High School Principal Ted Faro reported that junior high enrollment is over 200 students, the highest ever. He also thanked everyone who participated in the SOLV Western Washington County Project that resulted in preparing the junior high courtyard for planting. Approximately 40 - 50 people from all over the county came September 16 to till, rake and shovel topsoil. The courtyard is ready to be planted!

ODOT helping with completion of B-V trail to depot

The vision of a recreation trail linking the old railroad depot in Banks to Lake Vernonia, via a vacated railroad right-of-way, is nearing completion. Efforts to develop the Banks-Vernonia Linear Park were begun approximately 15 years ago and many obstacles have been surmounted in that time. Work on the northern end of the trail, to Lake Vernonia, will be completed soon. A major obstacle has been completion of the southern end of the trail, into

the City of Banks...but that may not be a problem much longer.

K.J. Won, City of Banks Planner, reported at the Banks City Council meeting October 10 that he had recently met with representatives from the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation (ODPR) and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). Both agencies are very interested in completing the final link, bringing the park into the Port of

Tillamook Depot.

According to Won, the next step is to complete design work to bring the park across the intersection at Sellers Road. He will be meeting soon with an engineer from the ODOT Quick Response Program (QRP). The QRP may be able to provide preliminary designs in four to five weeks after the initial meeting. The preliminary designs would then be reviewed at a public hearing.



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