

Kindergarten Program Makes the Grade and Gets Noticed

By Superintendent, Marc Thielman

Five years ago the Alsea School District made the decision to host all-day Kindergarten under the belief that it would better prepare students for reading at grade level. The goal was to accelerate student learning and get all kindergarten students reading at the first grade level while in kindergarten. The thinking made sense, but the question was would it work?

The results speak for themselves. As of this week, the Alsea Kindergarten program is boasting its' fifth consecutive year of students scoring well above the mark in reading and math. "What this means is that **all** of our current Kindergarten students are reading at the first grade level to date, and we still have a lot of school year left to build on," says teacher Betsy Miller. When asked about the results, she states, "I was concerned at the beginning of the year because this is a younger group, but they are going like gang busters." She went on to say, "most of our kids are coming into kindergarten from our preschool/preK program well prepared and used to school routines." Betsy has worked closely with the preschool program teacher Dorethea Templeton and her assistant Mirium Ulm to develop prekindergarten activities and curriculum designed to get incoming preschoolers kindergarten ready.

Coordination with the preschool program has gotten the attention of other school districts such as Gaston and Lebanon who are just beginning the process of preschool to kindergarten inclusion. The development of early learning programs is being supported by early learning grants from the Department of Education and its push to create a seamless education system from preschool to college.

This push is research based and is rooted in the goal of getting all students reading at grade level by the third grade. Students who meet this milestone are much more likely to graduate from high school on time than those students who do not. Thus, the work that has been done here in Alsea is truly cutting edge and rooted in sound educational practice. As Betsy Miller states, "our students are reading, writing and doing math at a level that builds their confidence and endures them to learning." She goes on to say, "we have lots of time for other important things like PE, Music, Library, and Art. It is not all nose to the grindstone. Kindergarten is still a lot of fun." When asked if she is proud of the success of her program, Betsy is quick to note that it is a team effort, as her work is enriched by a lot of dedicated teachers and support staff. "I could not create these results alone," she states. A team effort coupled with a small school environment and quality teaching and learning is serving to make the Alsea School second to none when it comes to early learning. Go Wolverines!!!

Woodshop Class

By Jami Harper

J.H.: How do you think that woodshop has gone so far this year?

Mr. Roberts: I think it has gone very well. I think that everyone has learned some good skills and has put out some good projects. We have one project done and those all came out very nicely. People are starting to work on their second projects and have put out some very good ideas. People have learned some very good skills, like the joinery that we are doing on your project, the box we are making. Yeah, I think it's going really good.

J.H.: What activities are you going to do in the shop?

Mr. Roberts: In woodshop we are on our first two projects so far, our next project that we are going to do, you are going to work on with a partner where you will work together to come up with an idea and build it together. We're going to do another project where you get to pick and design your own thing and then we are going to hopefully do some projects around the school. That's what we have got planned for now.

J.H.: Do you have any ideas about improving the shop?

Mr. Roberts: A lot of our equipment is in good shape. A lot of our equipment is older, which in woodshop terms is actually a good thing because older tools that they used to make are often very heavy duty and last a long time compared to the more modern tools that have a lot of plastic pieces and stuff like that and they break very easily. So from a tool standpoint we are in pretty good shape. Some of our tools need repairs or just day to day simple things like replacing blades or saws. For the most part we have a fairly well equipped shop. It's just taking what we have and making sure that they have the day to day parts we need.



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Teen Summit 2016

By Kandela Echeverria



Every year, the Benton County Positive Youth Development Coalition organizes a gathering for Benton County high schoolers at OSU. They expect students to attend with an open mind, engagement, and interest in meeting new people and trying different workshops. Alsea High School Students attended the Teen Summit this January.

The Teen Summit workshops were very diverse in topic. Some of them introduced the students to college with a guided tour of the campus, and others were related to science or social studies. Others were about basic living skills, the advantages of working in groups, and the importance of stress-relief activities.

Before starting with the workshops, we received a speech from Saul Paul, a musician with a rough background, who encouraged us to follow our dreams even if we fear being judged or failing. He is a rapper, singer, and songwriter who went to prison, but he overcame the difficulties and graduated college to start to work towards his dream. He performed some songs with his guitar and his loop pedal and invited the audience to make music with him, which was a great and fun experience.

In my case, I went to One Circle, Mindfulness and Stress Relief, and a College Life Tour. Personally, my favorite panel was Mindfulness and Stress Relief, because it was really interesting to realize how stress and technologies do not allow us to be present and be aware of ourselves and what surrounds us.

College Life Tour was a tour through the campus, classes, and different common areas, and it showed us how the life of a college student is. We also listened to different college students share their experiences and the skills they have learned in college.

The experience itself was really fun and I think Teen Summit is a good program that shows students a close-up view of college.

Getting to Know New Alsea High School Teachers

Interview with Gay Beaudet

By Nicole Griffith

N.G.: Where are you from, and where did you go to school?

Ms. Beaudet: Montana and Montana State University.

N.G.: What made you want to be a teacher?

Ms. Beaudet: My father always called me a professional student, because I always went back to school every time I felt like I was lost in life with what I wanted to do. And I just love learning, which is something I really want to get across to my students.

N.G.: What subject do you teach?

Ms. Beaudet: I'm an English teacher.

N.G.: Why did you choose to teach this subject?

Ms. Beaudet: Literature is fascinating to me. Seeing things come together in literature is very exciting.

N.G.: What are your goals for the remainder of the year?

Ms. Beaudet: Well, I'm trying to incorporate more technology into my classroom, as well as trying to teach my Spanish students to conjugate verbs, and then to hopefully come up with some awesome art projects.

N.G.: How did you discover Alsea?

Ms. Beaudet: The world-wide web. I lived in Portland at the time. I was only going to go so far away from there, and Alsea was in my distance, so it worked out.

(Continued on next page)

N.G.: What do you think about the small school setting?

Ms. Beaudet: I think it's good that everyone knows everyone. I also enjoy working one-on-one with my students.

N.G.: What's your favorite part of the school?

Ms. Beaudet: The staff has been really fun to work with.

Interview with Jordan Terriere

By Anna Chilcote

Ms. Terriere is one of our new teachers this year. She teaches 10-12 grade English, Art, Journalism, and an elective English class on Literature and Film. She is originally from Portland. I asked her why she came to Alsea to teach, and she said, "I was living in Corvallis for school at OSU for many years, and I wanted to stay in the area. I also liked the idea of teaching at a small school."

She's always wanted to be a teacher, "I love helping people learn." She has worked with many ages of students, from elementary to college, but high school is her favorite. She loves all her classes equally, but she loves to watch her art students work on their projects. "Art is so fun!"

Ms. Terriere likes our close knit community. "Alsea students are very funny and kind people, and I've learned a lot about nature from them. Alsea students' are connected to the nature around them, and I think that is wonderful." Her plans for this year are to help her students achieve the skills they need to move up to and succeed at the next grade level.

A couple little facts about Ms. Terriere are that she is good at finding four leaf clovers and she is also very fond of food, "I love all foods but chicken tacos are my favorite!"

Interview with Nathan Roberts

By Emily Garcia-Anson

Nathan Roberts, Alsea Middle and High School's newest social studies teacher, originally came from San Clemente, California. San Clemente is home to "the western white house." Many political leaders have spent time there, such as Japan's Prime Minister Eisaku Sato, and Mexican president Gustavo Diaz Ordaz. Mr. Roberts attended school at California State University Fullerton and got his teaching degree at Concordia University.

At his previous job, He taught living history programs about the Civil and Revolutionary Wars and even sometimes about pirates. For that job, he dressed up as historical figures, such as pirates, and taught lessons on historical ships. Mr. Roberts' favorite classes to teach here in Alsea are ninth grade social studies, because he gets to teach his favorite parts of history, and his military history class.

Donkey Basketball

By Keegan Anderson

This year we had an event that Alsea hasn't had in a couple of years— Donkey Basketball! It used to be a favorite community event, and thanks to the junior class, it's again becoming the once well-known event it used to be. One player said, "It was amazing! I would totally do it again next year!" The money for the event went towards the junior class for their senior class trip. Through the event, the junior class raised approximately \$2000.



Music and Drama Class

By Bud Kentta

The high school music and drama class is an artistic elective making use of the student's musical and acting skills. The class consists of five students. The instructor, Mrs. Ellis, is a great motivator and she pushes the students to do better and pursue a great and fun set of skills. When asked about the class, she said, "There is so much drama today, we might as well get credit for it!" (continued on the next page)

The students are learning great skills, such as how to play guitar and piano. Mrs. Ellis hopes to teach them the basic how- to's in order to set them off on their own. Later on, towards the end of the year, the students will be instructing and directing a middle school play showing off more of the Alsea students' talents. The goal is to make a fun and exciting production for the Alsea School to enjoy.

High School Girls' Basketball

By Abbie Lowther

Alsea's High School basketball team had a great season. We have four freshman; Abbie Lowther, Kaleea Bishop, Jamison Harper, and Gracie Lynch. Two sophomores; Anna Chilcote and Arielle Reed. One junior, Natalie Olsen, and one senior, Bow Plengpradab, who is an exchange student from Thailand. Head coach is Ricki Hendrix and Assistant coach is Angela Jacobsen.

Our season started off with a few losses, but we had a come back and had a win against Mapleton, 43-20, Eddyville, 38-9, and Mohawk, 36-25, and plenty more. Our league record ended up 6 wins 8 losses. Our first playoff game was against Mohawk and we took them with a 57-29 win, which then put us up against Triangle Lake (who we had already lost to twice). We showed up at Triangle Lake ready to fight for the win and we got it! After a hard game we took them 33-23! Our final game was played against McKenzie, who we had also lost against two times by at least 15-20 points each time. Once again, we played hard and even though we lost at 30-39, we didn't give it to them easy. It was a great season and we improved so much by the end.

The Alsea girls basketball team also got some recognition for all their hard work. Our coach, Ricki Hendrix, was named Coach of the Year. And the following players got league honors awards:

Abbie Lowther - 1st Team **Ariel Reed** - 2nd Team **Natalie Olsen** and **Anna Chilcote** - Honorable Mention

Congratulations Coach Ricki and to the entire team for working so hard to make it a great season! Can't wait until next year!

Middle School Girls' Basketball

Alsea middle school girls' basketball is having a good year. Head coach is Katie Sapp and Assistant coach is Joy Jordan. Several girls on the team will be moving up to play at the high school level next year including; Lexie Oleman, Jordyn Foster, Megan Harper, and Abby Parker.

The girls have had several wins so far this season and their most recent game was a loss to Siletz. As the season goes on they are showing improvement and are playing hard. It will be a great season for the middle school girls.

High School Boys' Basketball

By Jarred Hendrix

The high school boys' basketball team had two wins on a JV schedule against Mohawk (63-44) and McKenzie (56-36). The team faced the obstacle of one of our best players getting injured in the middle of the season, but we look forward to next season. Next year we will have more players and some freshmen that will be hungry for some more time on the court. Go Wolverines!

The Experience of an Alsea Exchange Student

By Bow Plengpradab

Have you ever imagined living in a place that you haven't been to and talking in a different language? Being an exchange student is not easy, but it helps me learn more responsibilities. Life begins at the end of your comfort zone. Many things are very different like the language and culture. Many people here like to do outdoor activities such as hunting, shooting, and fishing. For me this is a new experience. I have enjoyed playing basketball, cheerleading, and track. Thank you everyone for everything you do! I will treasure this experience forever and won't forget.