

Lafayette brings honor to Taft and LCSD as Oregon Assistant Principal of the Year

Taft High School in Lincoln City has seen a renewed excitement and growing pride inside its walls over the last couple of years. This change in morale and student achievement has come about through the concerted efforts of students, teachers, staff and administrators.

Acknowledging this effort, the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators named **Julie Lafayette** the Oregon Assistant Principal of the Year, and entered her name for consideration for the national honor.

"I am very honored and humbled to receive this award," Lafayette said. "I thank those who nominated me and who have been supportive as Taft 7-12 continues to make strides toward increasing student achievement. I enjoy working for Lincoln County School District and at Taft 7-12. We have great leadership and teachers in this district, and it's exciting to be a part of the standards-based and proficiency-based transition."

So, What is Proficiency- and Standards-Based Learning?

This is a process that helps all students to reach their potential. To accomplish this, the school has established specific expectations:

- Middle school students must meet minimum competencies in core subject areas before being promoted;
- High school students must pass all grade level credits before being promoted to the next grade level;

- Students must redo their work until they meet proficiency on each standard; and

- Students must attend Friday Intervention when assigned (because of failure to pass standards and/or because of behavior issues that need attention).

Along with emphasizing academics, the Taft High staff is helping to develop caring and supportive relationships with students through Advisory Tiger Time.

(In a related article, read about LCSD's approach to teaching and learning on Page 4.)

Applauding Her Approach. "Personal excellence describes Ms. Lafayette's approach to life," says **Scott Reed**, Taft High School principal. "She has attacked improvement at Taft by applying what she believes in an authentic manner. Julie lives out high expectations, trusting relationships, and real-life relevance in all of her interactions."

LCSD Superintendent **Tom Rinearson** agrees that Lafayette is a prime force behind the positive changes at Taft High, bringing "energy, excitement and exceptional knowledge to Taft 7-12."



AWESOME ADMINISTRATOR! This group of Taft 7-12 students took a moment away from their books to pose for a photo with their award-winning assistant principal **Julie Lafayette**, center. From left are **Lupe Bustamante, Elizabeth Brooks, Jessica Santos, Keilyn Rodriguez** and **Kayonda Flores**.

"Since her arrival at Taft, Julie has worked tirelessly to improve the school in a number of ways. The most significant of these is her excitement about and dedication to proficiency-based learning," Rinearson said. "This year, Taft has gone to a new four and a half day schedule, with students expected to meet state and national academic standards. As you might imagine, this change has demanded extraordinary amounts of time and talent in making all the pieces fit (schedules, grading, contracts, etc.) Julie has been the 'point person' for the entire effort."

Rinearson also points out that suspensions and expulsions at Taft have been significantly reduced, and absenteeism has also improved during her tenure. Also, the number of students at Taft needing credit recovery has decreased more than 80 percent.

Lafayette's Work History.

Before coming to Taft High School in January 2008, Lafayette was employed with Jefferson County

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Letter from Your Superintendent



Dear Lincoln County School District Residents:

We have passed the half-way mark of the 2009/10 school year – already! Our students, staff and patrons continue to focus on student learning, despite the

trying financial times.

Passage of the tax measures in the January election will certainly help, though their approval does not change the overall financial picture for our district. Our enrollment continues to decline, which means less funding from the state. Our costs are increasing at a higher rate than our revenue.

The picture in Lincoln County School District is still an exciting one. Students and staff are doing great things: Waldport High is once again named in the U.S. News and World Report "Best Schools" report; Sam Case Primary has

been nominated for a Celebrating Student Success Award from the Oregon Department of Education; students in professional/ technical classes at Taft 7-12 and Waldport High will benefit from grants from the Oregon Department of Transportation; we had more outstanding schools (three) on the Oregon Report Card than any time in the past ... there are examples too numerous to list.

Our district is headed in the right direction. Please feel free to join us in our endeavor to "develop passionate learners and responsible citizens." It is by working together that we will achieve this mission.

Sincerely,

Tom Rinearson
Superintendent

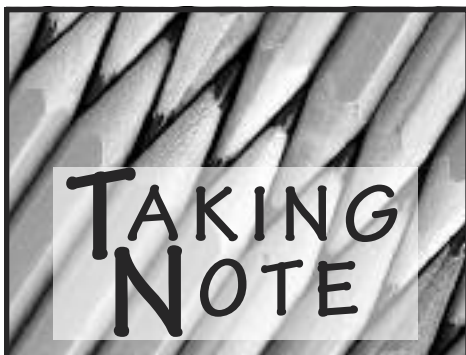
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NEWS OF INTEREST
from around the district

Youth Talent Show to Raise Funds For Homeless Kids

Ten young performers have been selected as finalists for the "Lincoln County's Got Talent!" competition to be held **7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 27**, at the Newport Performing Arts Center.

The LCSD students selected include soloists **Hallie Ezzell**, Newport intermediate; **Sarah Davis**, Taft Elementary; **Faith Wood**, Oceanlake Elementary; **Pat Delantar**, Taft Elementary; and **Casey Rilatos**, Toledo Junior/Senior High. A dance group, "Approximately Equal" is comprised of **Jamie Keller** and **Jesse Liggett**, both from Newport High.

Other students will entertain during the evening, as well. **Krysten Flowers** of Newport High School will sing and accompany herself on guitar. Her original song is in remembrance of the devastating Haiti earthquake, "One Last Good-bye." The dance troupe, **NPTD**, will showcase the talents of seven dancers, also from Newport High School.

The Homeless Youth Alliance of Lincoln County (HYALC) is producing the competition. Proceeds from ticket sales will go directly to help homeless youth through Lincoln County School District's Homeless Youth Fund.

"The kids have amazing talent and all received roaring applause [during the auditions]. I was close to tears several times in sheer amazement," said **Gloria Baum**, HYALC fund-raiser coordinator.

"Lincoln County is in for a very, very special event at the PAC."

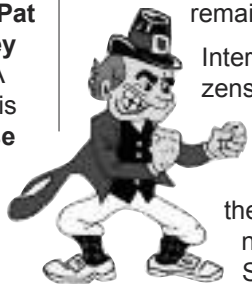
General admission tickets for "Lincoln County's Got Talent!" finals performance are \$12 for adults, and \$10 for seniors and students. The Performing Arts Center's box office opens at 6 p.m.

"It is a thrill to be able to combine young people with the arts they love in an effort to help other youth through the LCSD's Homeless Youth Program," Baum added.

For more information on how you can help the homeless, call Baum at 765-4558 or email her at hyalc@centurytel.net

Community Considers Options for WHS Relocation

Located just a few feet above high tide, Waldport High School – home of the Fightin' Irish – is at significant risk for inundation by a tsunami. The LCSD Board of Directors has a goal of moving all district schools out of tsunami zones, with Waldport High being the last one remaining in a tsunami zone.



Interested South County citizens have banded together to form a steering committee that is exploring the steps needed to relocate the high school to an area next to Crestview Heights School. They also are seeking ways to develop

broader community support of the project. All ideas, questions and suggestions from the public are important to this process.

Interested individuals are welcome to attend steering committee meetings and/or to join the steering committee. For more information, call committee member **Susan Woodruff** at 563-2479.

Enrollment Fairs Planned for Healthy Kids Insurance

Do your children have health care coverage? Oregon Healthy Kids provides free or low-cost care coverage for children who don't have health insurance. Even kids with current health conditions can enroll,



ENJOYING SOME JAM FOR LUNCH!

Friday Lunch Jam at Newport High School, that is! Since last October, students and faculty have been flocking to English teacher Matt Love's classroom during Friday lunch periods to participate in – or just listen to and enjoy – open mic performances of original spoken word, poetry, music, magic, singing and more. During a recent session, senior **Chris Petersen**, junior **Liz Crandall** and senior **Phoebe Horvath**, from right, sing an original song called "Little Johnny's Oregon Christmas."

Junior **Jordan Fanucchi** films all the performances and posts them on YouTube, the popular video sharing website. Even though most of us won't ever have the opportunity to witness this artistic expression by NHS students and staff in person, you can go online to www.youtube.com/user/NHSFridayLunchJam, and click on "all" to see all Friday Lunch Jam videos posted for the past several months. (Photo by sophomore **Nikita Turk**.) ♦

and eligibility is mostly based on income.

Parents are invited to learn more about this program and the newly simplified application process at "Kids Insured NOW" enrollment fairs presented by Progressive Options.

The first fair is planned for **Saturday, March 13**, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Newport Library, 35 N.W. Nye St.

The second one will take place **Saturday, March 20**, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Lincoln City Community Center, 2150 N.E. Oar Place.

Progressive Options is an information and referral center for human services and support in Lincoln County, and is an outreach partner of Oregon Healthy Kids.

For more information, call 867-4546 or go online to www.progressive-options.org.

H1N1 Flu Vaccine Available at School Health Clinics

It may seem that the H1N1 flu pandemic is over, but the reality is that the pandemic can come in waves. Because H1N1 can cause serious illness and even death in younger populations, federal, state and local public health officials continue to urge everyone of all ages to get the H1N1 vaccine.

The Lincoln County Public Health Department has been partnering with LCSD to offer the H1N1 influenza vaccine to students. More than 1,200 students have been vaccinated at clinics held at the district's elementary and high schools this school year.

Now, the H1N1 vaccine is available at all four of the district's School Based

Health Clinics. Parents are urged to call their local SBHC for complete details (available times, arranging for transportation, etc.):

→ **Newport High School SBHC**
265-9281 ext. 253

→ **Taft 7-12 High School SBHC**
996-2311

→ **Toledo Jr./Sr. High School SBHC**
336-5419

→ **Waldport High School SBHC**
563-7666

Youth age 14 and under must have parental consent to receive the vaccine; youth age 15 and older are legally able to sign for their own vaccination. There is no charge for the vaccine. Those who have insurance are asked to bring their insurance card so administrative costs can be billed.

Elementary School Attendance Competition

Each month, the LCSD elementary-level school with the best attendance rate has the honor of displaying the colorful Attendance Champions flag at their school. Most recent results are:

NOVEMBER: Newport Intermediate took first (with attendance rate of 93.1%), and **Sam Case Primary** in Newport was second (92.8%).

DECEMBER: Oceanlake Elementary in Lincoln City took first (94.1%), and **Toledo Elementary** was second (93.3%)

JANUARY: Toledo Elementary took first (93.4%), and **Crestview Heights** in Waldport was second (93.2%). ♦

PROUD TO FLY THE U.S. FLAG

Just before the Christmas break, members of the Oregon State Society Daughters of the American Revolution – Yaquina Chapter of Lincoln County presented a new U.S. flag to Crestview Heights School in Waldport. Principal **Mary Schaer**, second from left, accepted the gift from **Alice Moran**, state chair-

man of the Junior American Citizens Committee. Also pictured are **Ardess Christensen**, chapter librarian; and **Nancy Edwards**, right, chapter registrar.

DAR members are dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children. ♦



**Budget Update:
LCSD Waiting on
State Decisions**

Lincoln County School District Finances: Funding down, expenses up, economy flat

Even with voter approval of Measures 66 and 67 in January, Lincoln County School District administrators remain cautious about the district's finances.

"While it is true that passage of the tax measures will help us, it does not mean that everything is fine financially. It simply means our troubles are less," Superintendent **Tom Rinearson** stated in an email message he sent to all

"The declining enrollment looks like it might stabilize in four to five years. Basically, we are still in white water... the waves just aren't as high."

With the passage of Measures 66 and 67, the tax increase on corporations and high-income wage earners that was enacted into law last summer will be retained. These tax increases are expected to generate approximately \$733 million in revenue and was already included in the state's 2009-2011 budget for schools.

"It's good for schools that 66 and 67 passed, however, the state's economy has been slow to recover from its slump," says **Julie Baldwin**, LCSD business services manager. "Our legislators are meeting now in

special session, but we won't know the definite impact to our funding for the next fiscal year until May or June."

"At this point we are not anticipating any reduction to our current year

funding, but it all depends on what our legislators may do," she added. "If you recall, the Legislature made big mid-year cuts to the K-12 budget last year."

The state revenue forecast on Feb. 8 shows that even though Oregon's economy is on a slow rebound, the state budget will get an estimated \$183 million less than expected since the last forecast three months ago. With a \$77-million cushion built into the budget, state lawmakers now face a \$106 million deficit – even with the Measures 66 and 67 funding left intact.

\$200 Million Trigger: Another part of the Legislature's revenue package is the \$200 million "trigger" promised to schools if the overall state reserves stand at \$300 million or more in June 2010. According to state economists, state reserves are "right on the cusp" of having sufficient funds to make this allocation from state reserves to the State School Fund. Unfortunately, LCSD administrators won't know for certain until the June forecast if this will happen – yet the school district is obligated by law to adopt a balanced

budget for the 2010/2011 school year by June 30.

LCSD Budget Planning Cycle: Budget development is an ongoing process, with school district administrators, school board members, budget committee citizen members and school site councils involved throughout the school year.

The LCSD Budget Committee will review the proposed 2010/11 budget document at a meeting scheduled for May 20; public testimony is encouraged at this meeting. Additional meetings may be scheduled if needed. The committee will then approve the budget and present it to the LCSD Board of Directors. After a public hearing on June 15, the board will adopt the budget for the next school year.

Despite ongoing budgetary challenges, Rinearson says he is continually amazed at the level of professionalism and dedication from LCSD staff. ♦



JULIE BALDWIN
Business Manager

"Our troubles are less... Basically, we are still in white water... the waves just aren't as high."

– **Tom Rinearson**
LCSD Superintendent

school district employees the day after the election.

"We still have declining enrollment and costs that are increasing at a higher rate than our revenue," he continued.

LOOKING INTO THE UNIVERSE

400 years ago, Italian astronomer Galileo looked beyond Earth with a telescope and made scientific observations that changed our perception of the universe and Earth's place in it. Now, many LCSD students in grades 5-8 will have the opportunity to explore how optics work and go outside at night to see the celestial wonders for themselves.

A dozen teachers from throughout LCSD attended a Galileoscope Teacher Workshop Jan. 20 at Yaquina View School. The Galileoscope project was developed for the International Year of Astronomy 2009 by a team of leading astronomers, optical engineers, and science educators. The local workshop was led by **Chris Donovan** of the National Optical Astronomy Observatory.

During the half-day workshop, the teachers assembled their own Galileoscope, a high-quality, low-cost telescope. They



also received five Galileoscope kits each to take back to their classroom. In addition, they were trained in standards-based lessons plans that are aligned to Oregon state standards for earth science and physical science, and incorporating language arts, history, mythology and more.

Top Photo: 5th/6th grade teacher **Valerie Baker** of Taft Elementary tries out the Galileoscope she just assembled.

Bottom photo: Taft Elementary 5th/6th grade teachers, from left, **Valerie Baker, Kimberly Miller and Kara Allen**, assemble their scopes. ♦



LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT THANKS DAVE MILLER, owner of Yaquina Bay Communications and KNPT radio, for his donation

*With much
Appreciation*

of Shilo Inn lodging scrips. These vouchers saved the school district approximately \$2,000 in hotel expenses for staff members who attended International Baccalaureate (IB) professional training out of the area, and

for presenters who came to Lincoln County to speak to Oregon Coast Aquatic and Marine Science Partnership (OCAMP) participants.

Julie Lafayette continued from Page 1

School District in central Oregon. In her last role there, she designed a new small non-traditional high school. Prior to that special assignment, she was assistant principal at a middle school in the same district. For 14 years prior, she worked as an ESL coordinator and language arts teacher in different roles, and is well versed in K-12 curriculum mapping, second language programs, poverty and cultural understanding, and school improvement.

Lafayette also teaches college level workshops and gives trainings on how to design proficiency-based school structures. Because of the numerous requests for information, she has written three soon-to-be-pub-

lished books on the topic.

Her application was forwarded to the National Association of Secondary School Administrators for consideration as National Assistant Principal of the Year finalists. She still has not received any word yet on whether she is a finalist for the national award.

As the state winner, Lafayette will be recognized at the COSA Assistant Principals' Conference March 15, as well as the annual COSA Conference June 24-25. In addition, she will attend the State and National Assistant Principals' Forum and Awards dinner in Washington D.C. April 21-24. ♦

Giving students confidence and skills for success in school and life

During the past couple of years, parents of LCSD students have been hearing more and more about standards, K-12 alignment, assessments, data analysis, instructional intervention, and other unfamiliar terms. The most important point parents and students really need to know is this – each district staff member strives to give students the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to be successful during their school years and beyond.

Lincoln County School District embraces a vision, a mission, a set of core values and goals, and a guiding philosophy. There is not enough space in this article to print each of these principles, but the predominate emphasis of these tenets is providing quality learning in an atmosphere of continuous improvement.

In simple terms, we teach our students how to take the basic knowledge and skills they have learned and apply them to their own lives, so that they can become critical, high-level thinkers.

How is LCSD Providing Quality Learning for All? Working toward the overarching goal of providing a quality learning experience for every student, LCSD began its K-12 alignment during the 2007/08 school year. This three-pronged approach includes:

- **Curriculum** (what we want students to know and be able to do; also known as power standards and core standards);
- **Assessment** (measuring students' progress and using the information for improvement); and

→ **Instructional Strategies** (improving the teaching/learning process for both student and instructor).

The LCSD K-12 Alignment is being integrated vertically between grade levels and horizontally among subject matters in the same grade level. This is an ongoing and complex process that will take five to seven years to complete.

"The idea of aligning and implementing standards, assessments and instructional strategies is not new," says **Tiana Tucker**, Newport High School English teacher and head of the Teacher Leadership Team that is helping to guide the LCSD K-12 Alignment process.

"For years, the state has given us the 'what' – that is, what standards students must meet – and individual school districts decide the 'how.' The bottom line is learning and achieving," Tucker said.

The standards are extremely detailed and specifically developed for each grade level and each subject matter. Here are just a couple examples of an LCSD standard: Sixth grade science students will learn about matter and will have to explain that matter is made of atoms which can be combined to make molecules.

QUALITY LEARNING IN ACTION

Right Photo: Toledo High School teacher **Meg Groat** interacts with her 7th and 8th grade students as they perform a dramatic reading of a play based on the book, "The Diary of Anne Frank."

Left Photo: Toledo Elementary teacher **Dana Spink** helps 6th grade students **Kobe Rhymer**, front, and **Kevin Passmore** figure out fractions during a recent math class.



First grade social studies students will understand and use geographic skills and concepts to interpret contemporary and historical issues.

The idea behind standards is not merely having a checklist of topics that kids should be taught. Standards are designed to help children develop critical thinking skills and to be prepared to advance to the next learning level.

One of the dozens of teachers from throughout the school district who is actively assisting in the K-12 Alignment process is **Dana Spink**, sixth grade teacher at Toledo Elementary School.

"Our power standards focus teachers on the critical concepts that must be learned at each grade level in each subject area. This alignment takes a considerable amount of time, effort and materials," Spink said. "I'm proud of how Toledo Elementary teachers are forging ahead with the changing curriculum and the new ways we are assessing students and reporting it to parents. I look forward to additional training and support from the district in implementing these new changes and sharing information with the community about the changes."

Changes Coming. One of the most visible changes parents



will notice in connection with the K-12 Alignment is their ability to electronically access important information about their child's progress in school. Using a computer, parents will be able to click on the Pinnacle Internet Viewer, or PIV. After entering a secure, password-protected login, they will see their child's grades, attendance, class schedule, progress toward standards, homework assignments, and more. The PIV is currently being used at all four of the district high schools.

A second improvement is now being fine-tuned and will be rolled out during the next school year: a comprehensive electronic report card that more accurately explains your student's progress and learning.

For specific information about improvement efforts (including K-12 Alignment) at your child's school, you are welcome to contact your school principal. ♦

Your School Board

Jana Cowan *Chairman*

Ron Beck *Vice Chairman*

Karen Bondley – Brenda Brown – Jean Turner

LCSD VISION:

Quality Learning For All

LCSD MISSION:

To Develop Passionate Learners and Responsible Citizens

Student Plans Outreach for Ocean Literacy



MCDOWELL
Ocean Science Ambassador

One goal of LCSD's Strategic Plan is to help our students to be the best prepared Oceanic Science students in the country. Current efforts toward this goal include professional development for teachers and field experiences for students supported through our strong partnerships and grants with Hatfield Marine Science Center, Ore-

gon Sea Grant, Oregon Coast Aquarium, Oregon Hatchery Research Center, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Yaquina Head (BLM) and Oregon State Parks.

Waldport High School senior **Dylan McDowell** has developed a plan to increase ocean literacy of students by acting as an Ocean Science Student Ambassador. He will present information to his peers at LCSD high schools to let them know of the myriad opportunities available to them in marine and aquatic science, including volunteering at the Aquarium, job shadowing, Career Days at HMSC,

Junior Ranger Programs at Yaquina Head and Oregon State Parks, summer work collecting data for researchers, and more.

McDowell will share his own experiences volunteering at the Oregon Coast Aquarium, and he hopes to excite students into getting involved. He plans to continue his outreach next year (while he is a freshman Fisheries and Wildlife major at Oregon State University) to recruit and train other LCSD high school students to become Ocean Science Student Ambassadors. ♦

IMPORTANT DATES

■ **SPRING BREAK** – No School

week of March 22-26

LCSD has five school calendars for its different areas and schools. Please contact individual schools for a copy of the school calendar or go online to the LCSD website at:

www.lincoln.k12.or.us