

## Next School Year Brings New School Grade Level Configurations & Full-Day Kindergarten

Change brings challenges... along with opportunities. Knowing this, the teachers, staff and administrators of Lincoln County School District are excited to begin offering full-day kindergarten to next year's entering students – members of the senior graduating class of 2028!

While there are always pros and cons to consider when making any decision, the consensus is that this is the best approach for helping our students attain their highest academic success.

### WHY EXPAND TO FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN?

The state of Oregon is strongly encouraging all public schools to implement full-day kindergarten. Beyond that, LCSD administrators agree that a well-designed full-day kindergarten program can provide essential early learning skills for young children.

As **Superintendent Steve Boynton** explained at a School Board meeting on Jan. 13, Lincoln County students are arriving in kindergarten below the state average in school readiness, and our Grade 3 mathematics and literacy rates are below the state average. (Third grade is considered to be the most important year in a student's academic career and can impact a student's future academic success; search

for The Matthew Effect & Education to learn more).

This means that many of our children are at a disadvantage because they start behind, and the teachers are always playing catch-up, Boynton said.

A full-day program provides more time to accelerate academic performance as well as develop social/emotional skills. A full-day program can increase school readiness, encourage regular student attendance, and lead to greater academic achievement in the higher grades.

### HOW WILL THIS BE ACCOMPLISHED?

Offering a full-day kindergarten program creates the need for 10 additional classrooms and teachers across the



district, most of these in the North Area (Lincoln City) and West Area (Newport).

Another necessity is to create a program that is customizable to individual students, so that the teaching is appropriate for each child's rate and level of learning. This will require overall systemic changes so the child's initial acceleration in performance can be maintained into the higher grades.

A third consideration – unrelated to a full-day kindergarten program but definitely related to physical space needs – is the fact that Newport High School is at full capacity with no room to grow.

Among the solutions that were considered included constructing additional classrooms on existing buildings; redrawing boundary lines to balance student population across existing school buildings; and reconfiguring schools to accommodate student population. This last option, school realignment, is the one that Superintendent Boynton recommended, and which the School Board approved at their Jan. 13th meeting.

As he stated at the meeting, there are several benefits to the school reconfiguration plan. Among them: it will help build a singular educational community, vision and purpose (rather than having competing schools in one town). It will help consolidate resources and create a building-wide approach to be more efficient. It also will allow for greater consultation and collaboration for teachers of similar grade levels.

The reconfiguration plan is as follows:

#### North Area

- Oceanlake Elementary School will change from grades K-6 to grades K-2.
- Taft Elementary School will change from grades K-6 to grades 3-6.
- Taft High School will stay as grades 7-12.

#### West Area

- Yaquina View School, which closed as a school in 2009, will be reopened to grades K-2.

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## Letter to the Community

*NOTE: We invited **retired Superintendent Tom Rinearson** to write this issue's community letter because of his pivotal role in the 2011 general obligation bond that funded many major capital improvements to district schools. For additional information about these projects, go online to [www.lincoln.k12.or.us/our\\_district/bond\\_projects.php](http://www.lincoln.k12.or.us/our_district/bond_projects.php)*

### Dear Lincoln County School District Residents:

In May of 2011 the voters of Lincoln County approved a \$63 million construction bond for the school district. The School Board had set goals to remove all schools from the tsunami zone, eliminate all portable classrooms, upgrade roofs, etc. However, the most ambitious goal was to spend as much of the money as possible within Lincoln County. Well, here we are in February of 2015 and the spending and work of the bond are nearly done. I was fortunate to have been the Superintendent through all but the last six months of this endeavor.

We accomplished all we set out to do and promised. Major projects happened in every area of the district, and charter school facilities also were helped. Approximately 65% of the proceeds were spent in Lincoln County. Economic development research indicates that money spent locally goes around the community 3 to 7 times... so, the \$42.6 million spent Lincoln County had the impact of adding between \$127.8 million to \$299.6 million into local paychecks,

stores, and more. When asking voters to approve the bond measure, we had tagged it as a local stimulus package – and it proved to be just that!

I would like to thank everyone who voted for the bond measure, the many district staff who helped make it all happen, all of the vendors, and all of the local craftsmen and businesses that were a part of this major accomplishment. I also want to single out **Rich Belloni, Julie Baldwin and Darla Zagel**. Without their project management, the School Board goals would never have been reached.

I am proud to have been a part of making Lincoln County School District a better place for students to learn.

Sincerely,

**Tom Rinearson**  
Retired Superintendent



Lincoln County Schools  
P.O. Box 1110  
Newport, OR 97365

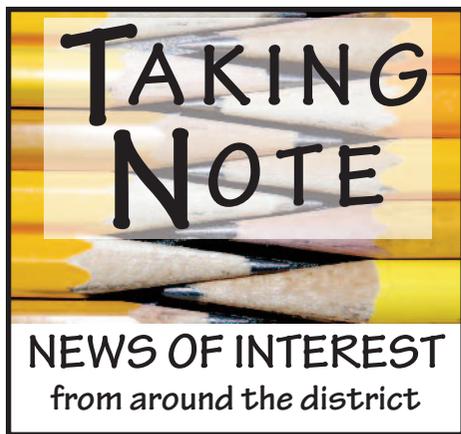


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## Respect, Patience, Kindness: NIS Students Learn Virtues

Do you know that the act of forgiveness has many benefits?

Students at **Newport Intermediate School** have learned that forgiveness allows a person to feel healthier and happier and to have empathy for others. Forgiveness provides a sense of peace that helps you move on.

Each month, NIS students have been learning about one good character trait, and putting it into practice. At the end of the month, each classroom teacher chooses two students who best exemplify the trait. These Students of the Month are awarded a certificate and have their photo displayed on a bulletin board the following month.

By the end of this school year, the students will know all about many other

positive character traits, including patience, kindness, respect, selflessness, honesty, humility and commitment – traits we would all do well to emulate!

## Taft Sixth Graders Learn & Apply ROV Technology Skills

Have you ever seen the cool looking contraption known as an ROV that twists, turns and dives as it performs essential underwater work for in the science and marine industries?

Well, **Taft Elementary School Principal Nick Lupu** reports that his sixth-graders are partnering with middle school/high school mentors to learn how to build and operate their own Remotely Operated Vehicles, and about the real-world application of such technology.

Students are working in teams of four to establish a mock corporation that will research the site and needs of the 2015 International MATE ROV competition.

With the help of their mentors, the sixth-grade teams of four will learn to wire their own control boxes to control the motors; construct their proposed design out of PVC pipe or other materials of their choice; and design and attach “tools” to their ROV to complete the competition challenges. In addition, each team will create a poster sharing their knowledge of the competition site and how their design matches the required challenges and needs.

The MATE ROV competition is all about

project-based learning. It challenges students to apply physics, math, electronics, and engineering skills to solve problems from the marine workplace. The goal is not to “win” a competition but to focus on the learning process.

A class-level competition will determine the one team that will attend the Oregon Regional MATE competition on **Saturday, April 25**, in North Bend.

## Schools, District Now Using Social Media to Communicate

Instagram... Twitter... Facebook – LCSD schools and its central office have begun using one, two or all three of these social media tools to better communicate with students, parents, staff and the community.

Check it out! But remember, there are several Lincoln County School Districts, Taft Highs, etc., in the United States, so be sure you connect to the correct account before posting and tweeting!

Oh, and we’re still using the “old-fashioned” way of communicating via our school websites, which can be accessed through the district website at: [www.lincoln.k12.or.us](http://www.lincoln.k12.or.us)

## Competition to Showcase Students’ Cooking Skills

Elementary students have been invited to enter the first annual LCSD / Sodexo Culinary Cooking Competition planned for **Saturday, March 14**.

The theme for this year’s competition is “After School Healthy Snacks.”

To compete, students will prepare the snack on his or her own, supervised by kitchen staff. All necessary ingredients and supplies will be provided by Sodexo, the school district’s food service partner.

To kick off the competition, students were invited to submit recipes, and three finalists from each school were selected for the cook-off. The finalists will prepare their recipes in front of a panel of judges, who will vote on the following categories:

- Health-conscious foods
- Simple, kid-friendly preparation
- Judge’s Choice
- Best table presentation

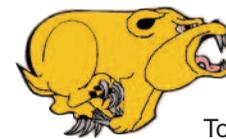
All finalists will receive a chef’s coat and hat. Winners will receive prizes and could qualify for a trip to a national cooking competition.



For questions, call the Nutrition Services Office at 541-336-2156.

## Toledo Brings Parent/Teacher Conferences Closer to Home

Parent/Teacher Conferences are an integral part of a successful partnership between teacher, student and parents.



To encourage greater participation and an improved experience in this important activity,

Toledo Junior/Senior High is trying a couple of new things this year.

First, they are holding one evening of conferences at Siletz Valley Charter School as a convenience for families that have students at both Siletz and Toledo schools, says **Principal Clint Raever**.

Second, they are offering a number of appointment times for parent/teacher conferences, in addition to the open arena conferences. The appointment times provided staff and parents the opportunity to have more extended conversations about their students.

Conferences for all district schools will be held **Wednesday evening, April 15**, and the day and evening of **Thursday, April 16**. However, parents are encouraged to take an active role in their child’s education *throughout the year*, not just at conference time. Ask your child’s teacher or principal what you can do to help your child succeed, academically as well as with social/emotional skills. ♦

### PRACTICING GOOD CHARACTER.

School Counselor **ERIN CAREY**, *second from right*, poses with some of the recent Newport Intermediate School Students of the Month (See story above).



## Kindergarten & School Realignment Continued from Page 1

- Sam Case Elementary School will change from grades K-3 to grades 3-5.
- Newport Intermediate School & Isaac Newton Magnet School will be combined as grades 6-8 and renamed Newport Middle School.
- Newport Prep Academy will close to allow Newport High to expand into the campus located to the west of the high school campus.
- Newport High School will stay as grades 9-12.

### East Area

- Toledo Elementary School will stay as grades K-6.
- Toledo Junior/Senior High School will stay as grades 7-12.



BOYNTON

### South Area

- Crestview Heights School will stay as grades K-8.
- Waldport High School will stay as grades 9-12.

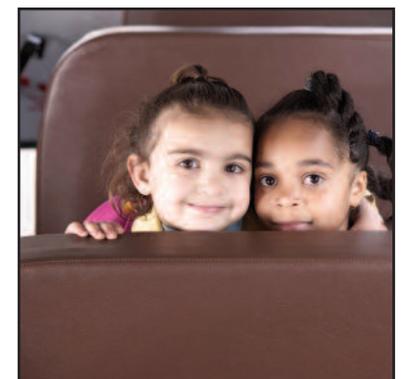
### HOW WAS THE DECISION MADE?

In seeking input for this proposal, the superintendent and school principals held six community meetings; met with individuals and groups; spoke with local reporters; went on radio programs; received comments through social media and email; heard public comments at school board meetings; and even had informal over-the-fence conversations.

Superintendent Boynton commented that all the input received was very helpful in that it brought forth important issues and

considerations. For instance, many parents in the north area were worried about the length of time children would be on a bus, so the district has asked Mid Columbia Bus Company to evaluate and reorganize bus routes, add additional bus routes, and explore express bus routes with the intent that no child is on the bus any longer than they currently are.

A concern in the West Area is that the absorption of Isaac Newton Magnet School and Newport Prep Academy into the middle school could limit higher level learning. The district has reiterated its commitment to replicating the successful attributes of both schools at the middle school; this includes project-based learning, emphasis on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM learning), collaborative learning, a close and caring school culture.



One thing to keep in mind, Boynton added, is that as superintendent, his duty is to advocate for all children in the school district, making the best possible decisions with the greatest positive impact for all. ♦

**Note:** Watch for more information as we work to make this a smooth transition for all students, staff and the community!

# SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATH STEM HAPPENINGS ON THE OREGON COAST

**T**here's a whole lot of STEM happening in Lincoln County School District this year, and along the entire Oregon Coast!

In case you haven't heard, The Oregon Coast STEM Hub is one of six Regional STEM Hubs funded in 2014/2015 by the Oregon Department of Education. The Hub promotes integrated science, technology, engineering and math education, and serves coastal teachers, informal educators, students and communities.

The Oregon Coast STEM Hub is centered at OSU's Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport and serves the entire Oregon coast region from Astoria to Brookings. Lincoln County School District and Tillamook School District are the lead districts, with a multitude of partners assisting with the mission and goals.

The Hub's mission is to improve STEM educational opportunities for ALL students in our region. Goals are to:

- 1) Improve student performance in STEM subjects,
- 2) Increase interest in and improve preparation for STEM careers,
- 3) Increase proficiency in STEM concepts necessary to make personal and societal decisions, and
- 4) Create enhanced teaching capabilities by providing professional development opportunities to educators.

The Hub is providing professional development for teachers and partners in effective instructional practices focusing on STEM integration and Project-Based Learning (PBL).

The Hub supports STEM learning experiences for students in grades K-14 by providing connections to STEM professionals in the classroom and in the field; equipment and resources for carrying out STEM related activities; and opportunities to showcase student created designs and STEM projects.

Finally, the Hub is creating a STEM network of resources, programs, and professionals to support STEM learning for K-14 students, including a website which serves as a



**KIDWIND TRAINING.** LCSD fifth-grade teachers **Emily Small** from Newport Intermediate, *left*, and **Rachel Martin** from Taft Elementary, designed, constructed and tested wind turbine blades. They will take their new knowledge about renewable energy resources back to their classrooms and students.

clearinghouse or conduit for connecting business and community resources with educators, parents and students.

**Here is a sample of the opportunities our teachers and students have through the Oregon Coast STEM Hub:**

**ROV TRAINING:** In December 2014, 30 teachers were trained at Waldport High School in the Marine Advanced Technology Education ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) program, and received thousands of dollars of materials to return to their classrooms and teach their students to build ROVs. Many of these students will compete in the Oregon Regional ROV competition on April 25 in North Bend. Also in December, 30 coastal formal and informal

educators spent a day learning how to align STEM materials to the new Next Generation Science Standards.

**RENEWABLE ENERGY:** In January, 30 coastal educators took part in the Kidwind training at Oregon Institute of Marine Biology in Charleston. They each received a \$100 Kidwind kit of materials and lessons to bring back to their classrooms. Their students will have the opportunity to participate in the Renewable Energy Challenge at Hatfield Marine Science Center on April 4.

**WEB-BASED PD:** This month starts two web-based professional development series for teachers. Picture Perfect Science is a five-week online course that will help K-5 teachers integrate science and literacy using picture books and hands-on experiences. In "Spotlight on Coastal STEM," participants will learn about the unique technologies we use to monitor our natural resources, engineering careers along the coast, and how math is applied in the management of local resources.

**PRIVATE EYE:** Also this month and in March, two "Private Eye" workshops, one in Coos Bay and one in Astoria, will train educators in using jeweler's loupes for looking closely at the world, thinking by analogy, changing scale, and theorizing. This training helps teachers to develop critical thinking skills, creativity and scientific literacy in their students, across multiple subjects.

**STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES:** Upcoming STEM opportunities for students include a "Girls in STEM" two-night camp at the Oregon Coast Aquarium, and a three-night 4-H Surfing Outdoor Stewardship camp in Gold Beach during spring break. The STEM Hub pays for students from partner districts to attend these events.

There is so much more happening, and the Hub has a great website that provides up-to-date information for parents, students, educators, community members, and businesses. Check it out at <http://oregoncoaststem.oregonstate.edu/>

Also, you may like and follow the Hub on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/OregonCoastSTEM>. ♦

## Eagle Scout Project at Taft High Continued from Page 4

more effusive when talking about the young man she has watched grow through the years as a Scout.

"He is such a well-rounded person," Joy says. "He participates in school activities, is strong with academics, has great work ethics, and has enjoyed his adventures in Scouting. Zach is an individual I admire. I believe he will go far in life.

It's been an honor and a pleasure to work with him on his project and to watch him grow up to be an awesome individual."

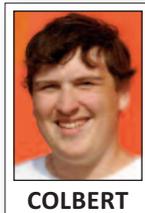
Joy explains that Zach met with school district officials months ago to discuss the scope of the project and to determine what part of the work he could accomplish. Her role was to guide the aspiring Eagle Scout through the process. Otherwise, it was Zach's sole responsibility to demonstrate the leadership and organization needed to accomplish the work.

"There was an enormous scope of work

to be done at Voris Field," Joy says. "We didn't take on everything, such as painting the whole stadium, because that was just too much to ask of him to do. Zach had to figure out the scope of the work, then manage the project – figure out the funding, plan out the materials and costs, figure out what equipment he would need, and find people to

work. I helped keep him on track and answered his questions. Otherwise, it was all his responsibility."

Colbert worked with school district personnel on logistics and securing needed equipment and supplies. And, he was able to inspire youth and adult volunteers to put in some hard labor to help him complete the service project. The volunteers included members of the Taft High student body leadership, and fellow Scouts and Scouting adults from Lincoln City and Eugene. His father, Jeremy Colbert, gave a



COLBERT

helping hand; and his mother, Amanda Colbert, certainly offered moral support, even if she didn't climb atop a scissor lift with a paint brush in hand.

"Zach has been an outstanding student, leader and Tiger since the seventh grade," says **Taft High Principal Majalise Tolan**. "His dedication to making Taft a better place has been evident through his commitment to journalism and the yearbook, his volunteer efforts in school and community events, and in his most recent Eagle Scout Project at the Taft 7-12 Voris Field."

**Rich Belloni**, director of support services for the school district, was Zach's main contact during the project.

"Zach was very organized. He had a plan and completed it. He communicated very well throughout the project and kept the district in the loop at all times," Belloni said. "We need more young men like Zach

who obviously have lots of pride in their community and their school."

Among the requirements to become an Eagle Scout, a Scout must be under the age of 18; must earn a total of 21 merit badges from 13 areas such as citizenship in the

world, personal fitness, family life, and communication; must have personal, religious, educational and employer references attesting that he abides by the principles of the Scout Oath and Scout Law in daily life; and he must plan, develop and provide

leadership to others in a service project that benefits the community – such as the Voris Field improvements.

After the Board of Review certifies that Colbert has met all the requirements for the rank of Eagle Scout, a special Eagle Scout Court of Honor will be scheduled, most likely near the end of the school year. ♦



TOLAN

# Eagle Scout Candidate Spearheads Taft High Stadium Improvements

During this most recent high school football season, Taft Tiger fans may have noticed improvements to their home stadium.

Some walls, the bleacher seating, and the large exterior Voris Field sign had fresh coats of bright orange and black paint. Rotten wood slats in the bench seating were replaced, and restroom stall doors were refurb-

ished. A hole in a restroom ceiling was repaired, and concrete walkways were power-washed clean.

Less noticeable, but sure to make a difference in the future, bird spikes were installed high overhead on the stadium's 200-foot long support girder to keep birds from nesting and... well... making a mess of the newly cleaned and painted area below.

A crew of volunteers performed the work during a few unseasonably hot September days. But, what was the inspiration behind the volunteers' hard work? It has something to do with honor, loyalty, bravery, and serving up service with a smile.

The Voris Field improvement project was entirely organized by **Zach Colbert**, in photo below, a 17-year-old senior at Taft High 7-12, who is working to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout.

A native of Lincoln City, Colbert has been a member of the Boy Scouts of America since he was in third grade. He shrugs off praise and gives credit to everyone who helped – within the Scouting organization, the school district, and at the school.

"It was just the next logical step," Zach says, explaining his motivation. "Earning the Eagle Scout rank is symbolic of achievement and of what I am capable of doing."

As Eagle Scout advisor for BSA Troop 47, **Kathy Joy** is much

**Continued on Page 3**



# Cadet Firefighters at WHS

**H**igh school graduate today – certified firefighter tomorrow? Yes, indeed!

This year, Waldport High School is partnering with Central Coast Fire & Rescue to build a cadet firefighting program. Upon successful completion of the course and graduation from high school, the students will be eligible to complete their certification as a firefighter in the state of Oregon.

The first WHS students to participate in this program are seniors **Blake Bittick**, **James Henderson** and **Kira Shadden**, and sophomore **Jonah Land**. They have been working with Chief Dennis Cannon and Training Officer Adam Wilkinson to learn fire, rescue, and emergency medical service response in accordance with the fire district's standard operating guidelines. Hands-on training activities allow these teenagers to gain experience with personal protective equipment, ropes and knots, structural search and victim removal, water supply, hose control and more.

The Cadet Firefighting Program is taught at the high school during school hours, with various firefighters having the opportunity to teach mini-lessons on different chapters. However, the students did have to commit to work outside of the school day at the fire station, to gain experience with some of the larger apparatus.

Students are not allowed to be in an

IDLH (Immediate Danger to Life and Health) environment until they are 18 and have graduated; live fire exercises fall under this category. Therefore, these students will be required to complete about a month of training, post-graduation, to complete their firefighter certification.

**WHS teacher Melissa Steinman** says Central Coast Fire & Rescue has shown an amazing level of commitment to the program and desire to provide additional learning opportunities to Waldport students. In fact, they are hoping to offer a First Responder course next year. Because certification is possible with individuals as young as 16 years old, Waldport students could, upon completion, be of immediate service to their community. ♦



**WHS STUDENTS IN THE CADET FIREFIGHTING PROGRAM** are, from left, **Jonah Land**, **Blake Bittick** and **James Henderson**. **Kira Shadden** not pictured.

## IMPORTANT DATES

### RECORDS DAY

No School Monday, Feb. 2

### SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT DAY\*

No School Tuesday, Feb. 3

No School at Toledo Jr/Sr High Feb. 3 - 4

### SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Newport High | 7 PM | Tuesday, Feb. 10

### PRESIDENTS DAY HOLIDAY

No School, No School Staff Monday, Feb. 16

### SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Toledo Elementary | 7 PM | Tuesday, March 10

### END OF 1ST PROGRESS

Friday, March 13



### SPRING BREAK

March 23 - 27

No School

No School Staff

### SCHOOL BACK IN SESSION

Monday, March 30

### SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Crestview Heights | 7 PM | Tuesday, April 14

### PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Evening Conferences.....Weds., April 15

Day/Evening Conferences .....Thurs., April 16

No School .....Thurs., April 16

No School, No School Staff.....Friday, April 17

### END OF 2ND PROGRESS\*

Depending on school April 30 or May 1

\***PLEASE NOTE:** All LCSD school calendars follow the same basic schedule, with some differences for staff development, early release, end of progress, etc. Please verify dates by checking the calendar at your child's school or online at:

[www.lincoln.k12.or.us](http://www.lincoln.k12.or.us)

## Your School Board

**Liz Martin** Chairman - **Karen Bondley** Vice Chairman  
**Ron Beck** - **Kelley Ellis** - Vacant Position

### LCSD VISION:

Quality Learning For All

### LCSD MISSION:

To Develop Passionate Learners and Responsible Citizens

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