

APRIL 21, 2025

GOOD NEWS

EDITION NEWSLETTER



Pedals, Patrols & Produce: A Safety-Focused Afternoon at McBride

It was an exciting afternoon at McBride Elementary as local community partners came together to deliver hands-on learning experiences for students in the afterschool program. Officers from the St. Helens Police Department led interactive lessons on bicycle and crosswalk safety, giving students a chance to practice what they learned in real time. To top it off, students in need were fitted with brand-new bike helmets to take home, ensuring they ride safely and confidently.

Adding a healthy twist to the day, the OSU Extension Office guided students through a fun, kid-friendly recipe as they blended up nutritious smoothies for everyone to enjoy.

These collaborative moments are made possible through the strong partnership between St. Helens Recreation and the St. Helens School District, supported by the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) grant. We're incredibly grateful to our community partners who help us build meaningful, skill-based experiences for St. Helens youth!



VIDEO LINK

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District Mission:

Strengthening Our Community Through Exceptional Schools

District Vision:

St. Helens School District inspires all students to learn, connect, and commit to a thriving future.

**LEARN
CONNECT
COMMIT**

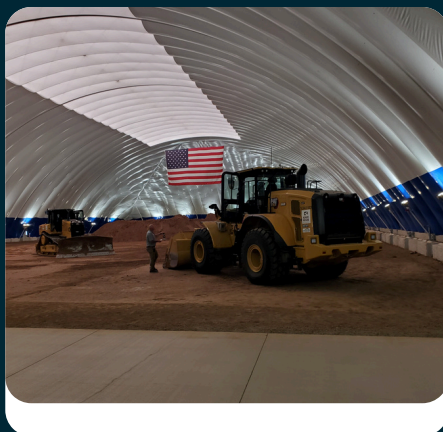
ST. HELENS HIGH SCHOOL HEAVY EQUIPMENT STUDENTS VISIT KNIFE RIVER TRAINING CENTER



Students in Mr. Groom's **Heavy Equipment class at St. Helens High School** recently had the opportunity to visit Knife River's state-of-the-art training center in Albany, Oregon. The field trip gave students an inside look at the company's operations, career opportunities, and in-house training programs.

Knife River actively recruits and hires students directly out of high school—no prior experience required. The company offers on-the-job training and even provides support for earning a Commercial Driver's License (CDL). Entry-level positions start at \$25 an hour, with many employees earning more than \$30 an hour within their first year.

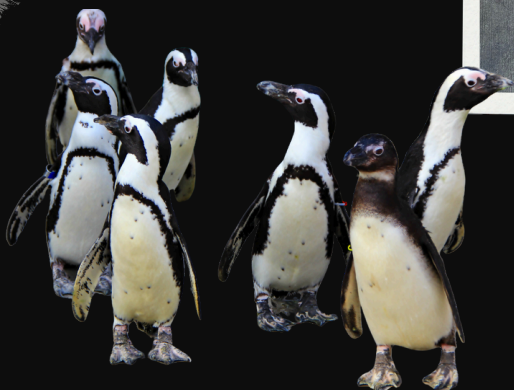
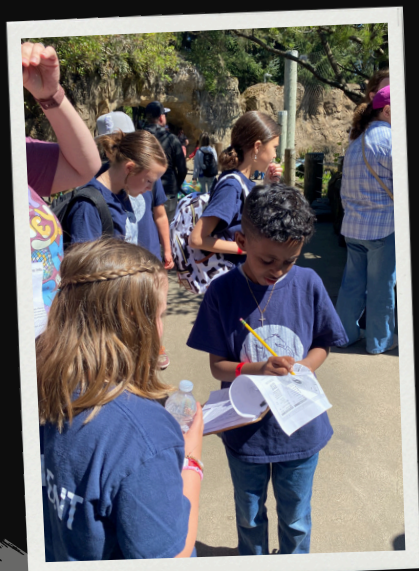
This hands-on experience offered students a real-world perspective on the high-demand, high-wage careers available in the construction and heavy equipment industries, **reinforcing the value of the career technical education (CTE) programs offered at SHHS.**



OREGON ZOO

Field trip!

McBride Elementary students had a wild time exploring the wonders of the animal kingdom during their recent field trip to the Oregon Zoo! From watching playful penguins to spotting majestic lions, students were all smiles as they learned about wildlife up close. It was a fun-filled day of curiosity, discovery, and unforgettable memories.



ST. HELENS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SHINE AT SKILLSUSA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS



St. Helens High School students recently competed in the **SkillsUSA State Championships** held at Linn-Benton Community College, showcasing their talents in Automotive Service Technology.

SkillsUSA is a national nonprofit organization that supports students preparing for careers in trade, technical, and skilled service occupations. Each year, schools send their top students to compete in a range of industry-driven contests across various trades.

Please join us in congratulating the following St. Helens High School students for their outstanding performance in the **Automotive Service Technology** category:

- **Jace Simonson** – 3rd Place
- **Jared Chavez** – 4th Place
- **Ashton Boser** – 6th Place

We are proud of these students for representing St. Helens High School with skill and professionalism!



OREGON ZOO

Field trip!



Kindergarten students from Lewis & Clark Elementary had an exciting adventure at the Oregon Zoo! The field trip was full of wide eyes and big smiles as students explored exhibits, learned about animals from around the world, and enjoyed a day of hands-on discovery. A fun and memorable experience for our youngest learners!

Early Learning Conference 2025



We are incredibly proud of **SHSD Director of Early Learning, Dani Boylan**, for being one of the **featured speakers** at this year's **Oregon Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (OASCD) Early Learning Conference**.

Dani had the honor of co-presenting alongside Julio Bautista from the Children's Institute on the topic **"Reimagining Learning: Bringing Play Back into the Classroom."** Their powerful presentation highlighted the intentional steps taken to reintroduce play through the use of loose parts in PreK-2nd grade classrooms, and the positive impact it has had on student engagement, staff practices, and overall classroom environments.

CONGRATULATIONS

**St. Helens
School District**

**Director of
Early Learning**

Dani Boylan

COLUMBIA RIVER MARITIME MUSEUM

VISITS MCBRIDE ELEMENTARY

Students at **McBride Elementary** recently enjoyed a special visit from the **Columbia River Maritime Museum**! During the visit, students explored the significance of trees in the Pacific Northwest, focusing on the iconic Western Red Cedar.



They learned how these trees play a vital role in the region's ecosystem. The shade they provide along streams and creeks is essential for maintaining cool water temperatures, which are critical for healthy salmon spawning. Students also discovered how the Western Red Cedar's softer bark and wood make it more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, contributing to a decline in its population in our area.



It was a hands-on and informative experience that deepened students' understanding of local environmental connections and conservation efforts.





Ready Freddy Fun at McBride Elementary!



We had an incredible time at our second **2025 Ready Freddy event**, hosted at McBride Elementary! Incoming kindergarteners were welcomed with a fun and engaging experience designed to give them a great first look at what school is all about.

The event featured a special literacy theme, centered around the beloved book *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*. Students enjoyed listening to the story and then got hands-on with creative activities inspired by the book. They made colorful coconut tree crafts and built their own coconut tree snacks using pretzel rods, apple slices, and alphabet cookies — a perfect blend of learning and fun!

To wrap up the day, McBride Elementary Principal, Mrs. Dubuque, led a special tour of the school. This gave our future students the chance to explore the building and start feeling comfortable and excited about their new learning environment.

We're so excited to continue the Ready Freddy fun as we help our youngest learners get ready for kindergarten!

Upcoming Events:

- **READY FREDDY EVENT**
April 30, 2025
5:00 – 6:00 PM
Lewis & Clark Elementary
- **KINDERGARTEN WELCOME**
May 8, 2025
5:30 – 7:00 PM
Join us at the school your child will attend: McBride, Lewis & Clark, or Columbia City.



COLUMBIA CITY ELEMENTARY



On Saturday, April 12, students from Columbia City Elementary made history as the first team from a St. Helens School District school to compete in a Chess for Success Regional Tournament. Held at WL Henry Elementary School in Hillsboro, the tournament brought together young chess enthusiasts from across the region to compete both individually and as teams.

While our students did not qualify for the state tournament, each one contributed to the overall team score and represented Columbia City with pride. Their grit, determination, and perseverance throughout the day were truly inspiring. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and the positive example they set for future competitors.

**COLUMBIA
CITY
ELEMENTARY
STUDENTS
MAKE
HISTORY AT
CHESS
TOURNAMENT**



BRIDGES AND BEYOND: FAMILY NIGHT EVENT

ST. HELENS MIDDLE SCHOOL

354 North 15th Street | St. Helens | OR

About the event:

We are offering a parent and caregiver substance use prevention and education event that will involve community resources, tools, and information.

- ✓ Free Dinner
- ✓ Resource Fair
- ✓ Prize Drawings
- ✓ Group Art Project
- ✓ Video Screening

Details:

- **WHEN:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025
- **TIME:** 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
- **WHERE:** St. Helens Middle School | Cafeteria
- **ADDRESS:** 354 North 15th Street

Food is first come, first served! While dinner supplies last.

Spanish translation services are available.

Hosted by:

- Columbia Health Services
- Columbia County Public Health
- Youth Era
- St. Helens School District
- Columbia Community Mental Health
- The New Drug Talk

Questions:

- Haley Schimmel 503-396-0007
- haley.schimmel@columbiacountyor.gov



Help us bridge the gap in substance use prevention throughout our community and beyond!



Ready Freddy 2025 EVENTS

**Open to all incoming 2025-26
Kindergarten students!**



APRIL 30

Kindergarten Ready Event 3
5:00-6 pm, Lewis & Clark Elementary

MAY 8

Kindergarten Welcome
5:30-7 pm, McBride, Lewis & Clark, Columbia
City (go to the location your student will attend
school)

Please RSVP to:
<https://forms.gle/VzkXPWFSPJDjJdVg6>

Or Scan The QR Code



SCHOOL NEWSLETTERS



[CLICK HERE](#)



Plymouth
High School
Panthers

[CLICK HERE](#)

St. Helens
Virtual
Academy

[CLICK HERE](#)



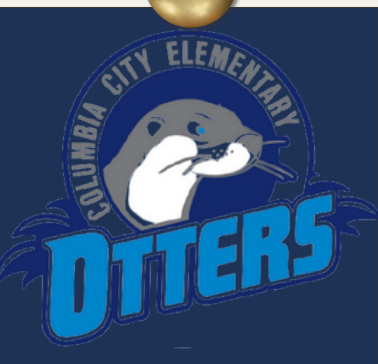
[CLICK HERE](#)

We're thrilled to share that we've added every school's newsletter to our Good News Edition!

Now, families can easily view what's happening across all of our schools—from classroom highlights and student achievements to upcoming events and community celebrations.

It's never been easier to stay connected and celebrate the amazing things happening every day across our district.

Check it out and discover the incredible stories unfolding in our schools—one great update at a time!



[CLICK HERE](#)



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UPCOMING CALENDAR DATES

- May 26 - Holiday - NO SCHOOL

Stay **CONNECTED!**

St. Helens School District Media Platforms:

St. Helens Schol District Website

Facebook Page

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X Page

YouTube Channel

LinkedIn Page

