

LOCAL
POSTAL CUSTOMER



Local Students Battle Over Books

By Kelli LaFramboise

The Oregon Battle of the Books (OBOB) program fosters a love for reading and friendly competition among students across the state. Humbolt Elementary School proudly joins the ranks of OBOB enthusiasts, with its dedicated team of young readers striving for excellence in literary knowledge and teamwork.

This year's OBOB club began with approximately 15 enthusiastic students, who competed in a local battle that took place on February 8, 2024, at Grant Union Jr/Sr High School. Local competitors included: Cleome McKnab (grade 4), Braeden Webb (grade 3), Penelope Green (grade 4), Milo Hernandez (grade 5), Annabelle Raschio (grade 5), Owen Armstrong (grade 3), Shaylynn Kerr (grade 4), Keranee Dowdy (grade 4), Josie Hollowell (grade 5), Samantha Reitz (grade 4), and Sam Bailey (grade 5).

After the battle, five students were selected for the team to compete in the regional battle in Bend on March 9. This year's regional team, who have chosen

the name Little Prose, consisted of Cleome McKnab, Milo Hernandez, Sam Bailey, Samantha Rietz, and Josie Hollowell. This year's OBOB coaches include Carrie Sullivan, a fourth-grade teacher at Humbolt, Kim Hernandez, a parent volunteer, and Kelli LaFramboise, a fifth-grade teacher at Humbolt.

After clinching third place at last year's regional battle, this year's team aspired to soar higher. With their sights set on the top spot, the team fervently prepared for victory. They accomplished their goal with a first-place finish at the regional competition at The Warm Springs Academy on Saturday, March 9th. This victory earned them the opportunity to compete at the Oregon Battle of the Books State Competition on April 13th in Salem. Good luck Little Prose!



PROSPECTOR PRIDE

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Advice From a Grant Union Alumnus

By Jack Southworth

My first entrance into Grant Union High School in the fall of 1969 nearly started with disaster. I had ridden the bus down from Seneca to the high school. It was my first time on the bus and the trip had taken quite a while and I was nervous - scared to death of going to such a big school after attending grade school in Seneca. By the time I got off the bus, I needed to go to the bathroom. I went in the doors of the New Gym - which it really was new in 1969 - and, luckily, saw a sign to the men's bathroom. When I went into the bathroom, right in front of me was the largest urinal I had ever seen. It looked like half a stock tank for watering cattle. While I had never seen a urinal shaped like this one, it would surely work for what I needed. I was just starting to unzip my pants as I approached the basin when an upperclassman stepped around the corner, walked up to what I thought was the urinal, stepped on the bar at the bottom, and washed his hands in the jets of water that came out the top. I was astonished - why was he washing his hands in a urinal? He saw what I was thinking and was about to do - and just smiled and said, "You might want to step around the corner and use a urinal instead." Now that was kindness. I learned a lot of valuable lessons at Grant Union but the first one was that a little kindness can go a long way.

Additionally, there were two other big things I learned in high school:

1. Have enough confidence in yourself that you can be generous to others. For most of high school, I was pretty shy and insecure. When I was overly concerned about myself it was hard to be generous to others. When I

learned to be just a little more outgoing - in a positive way - and started saying nice things to others, better things happened to me. I became more involved and made more friends. That in turn helped me become more confident in myself. It was a win-win.

2. Be proactive. Create goals for yourself and go out and obtain them. It took me a while to learn that the world does not really care whether I succeeded or failed. It was up to me to take responsibility for my own life. Great opportunities (for the most part) do not come to you out of the blue, opportunities are earned. A quote of Thomas Edison's has always stuck with me. "Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work." A good example was when I was struggling in Chemistry. Taking the time and making the effort to go and talk one-on-one with our chemistry teacher, Mr. McGuire, made a big difference. Just a little bit of extra guidance got me back on track. While I was never a straight-A student, I was able to get an honest 'B' in that class when I had been headed for a 'C' or worse.

All of the above, of course, comes from a very old person. One might ask, "Can the lessons that old-timer learned have any real application in today's world? I mean c'mon, the guy can hardly use a cell phone." The answer is a vigorous and enthusiastic 'yes'. Though the world has changed and is changing at an ever increasing rate, we can still see every day the benefits - and the need - for being kind, generous and proactive. Oh, and it's still a good idea not to confuse wash basins with urinals.

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Jack and his wife, Teresa, own and operate Southworth Bros. Ranch in Bear Valley near Seneca. Both on the ranch and as a facilitator for collaborative organizations, Jack has found that being kind, generous, and proactive are skills that he can use every day... Teresa just wishes that he would.

Once a Prospector, Always a Prospector...
 Hadley Boethin has been a great addition to the Grant Union High School Custodial and Maintenance Crew. He works tirelessly to make our school a clean and well-maintained place for students and staff. His enthusiasm and ownership are noticeable and appreciated. He is a Prospector through and through. Thanks Hadley.
 - Andy Lusco, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director

A Shout-out to Boys Basketball...
 I work the Pendleton basketball tournament each year, Weston McEwen '75 graduate. I so ENJOY YOUR BOYS AND COACHES! Very RESPECTFUL team you got! PLEASE tell the coaches that the old man with the grey beard and Trail Blazers hat enjoyed him, his staff, and the boys so much! Next year come back and let's do it again and get past those Stanfield boys!!!! I just felt compelled to send this, they were a breath of fresh air in today's world. Keep up the good work coaches!!!! It is paying off!
 - Duane Mitchell, Athena, OR

Shout-out to Chester's and 4A Stitching...
 Thank you so much to Chester's and 4A Stitching for donating t-shirts and screen printing to the third-grade students for our Winter Games t-shirts! They turned out amazing and students love them! We appreciate your support so much!
 -Robyn Miller and Kristal Hansen, 3rd Grade, Humbolt



Chemistry Students Excel...
 I would like to give a shout-out to my Chemistry class for doing a great job in their double replacement lab.
 - Sonna Smith, Science, Grant Union

Shout-out to Iron Triangle...
 1st graders want to give a huge shout-out to Iron Triangle for gifting every student a new hat. What started as one child wanting to share his excitement about his dad's workplace turned into a whole grade level wanting an awesome Iron Triangle hat! Thank you for supporting our students!!
 -Bobbie Boethin and Vanessa Houpt, 1st Grade, Humbolt

EOU Hosts Career Day...
 I would like to give a shout-out to Ashley Armichardy for putting together the College and Career Exploration/ Mountie Connect day at Prairie City for all Grant County Schools. I also would like to shout out to all the students who attended from Grant Union.
 - Sonna Smith, Science, Grant Union

Shout-out to Figaro's Pizza...
 Thank you so much to Figaro's Pizza for donating pizza boxes to the third-grade classes so students could create their amazing invented dinosaur habitats! We appreciate your support so much!
 -Robyn Miller and Kristal Hansen, 3rd Grade, Humbolt

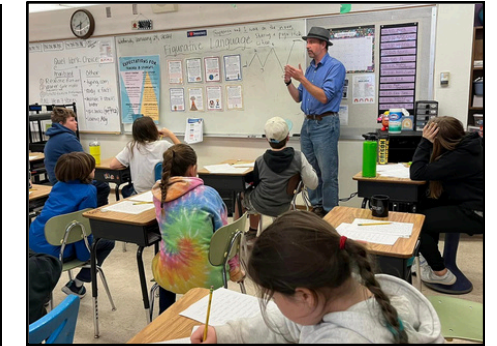


Transportation Gets It Right...
 Sharon Flory has worked incredibly hard to get our students where they need to be and on time. Despite shortages of personnel, vehicle breakdowns, weather and road hazards, and constant changes to the schedules she has worked diligently to ensure that we get there safely. In a job where it is only noticed when something goes wrong, it is important to acknowledge how often Sharon gets it right. Thanks, Sharon.
 - Andy Lusco, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director



Send a shout-out to staff, students or community members, in 100 words or less by sending an email to shoutout@grantesd.org.

Humbolt Elementary Writer in Residence



Thank you to Mr. Samuel Cronin for coming to Humbolt and providing a wonderful opportunity for our students to visit with and learn from an author. They loved writing their own stories! Thank you also to the Juniper Arts Council's Oregon Cultural Trust grant and the Humbolt PTA for providing this opportunity.

Humbolt Elementary Artist in Residence



Thank you to our amazing artists!
 -Angel Carpenter taught painting to Kindergarten and first-grade students.
 -Brenna DesJardin taught pottery to the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th-grade students.
 -Julie Smucker taught leather working to the 5th and 6th-grade students.
 -All the students had amazing experiences, taking home their paintings, pottery, or leather keychains and bookmarks. The Artist in Residence program was sponsored by the Humbolt PTA and an Oregon Cultural Trust grant from the Juniper Arts Council. Thank you for investing in our students!

Changes Ahead for Seneca Elementary School

by Janine Attlesperger

Grant School District 3's one-room schoolhouse will see changes in the upcoming school year. One of the many things that make Seneca Elementary School a one-of-a-kind learning experience is the opportunity for hands-on learning of local history through archaeology, geology, and the arts. The school will be expanding these experiences for the 2024-2025 school year to include project-based agricultural learning through Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). Part of this expansion will include the hiring of two new teachers who are experienced in project-based multi-grade teaching in similar school communities.

Wyoming native Laney Ulrich has been hired as head teacher and will teach the primary grades classroom. Mrs. Ulrich brings a wealth of knowledge and experience from her youth in 4-H and FFA to her years of teaching in small, rural communities in Southwestern Nevada and Eastern Oregon. She also works as a ranch hand and was raising her young family off-grid before relocating to Seneca.

The district is currently interviewing for the intermediate grades teacher and hopes to announce our second hire in the coming weeks. We are excited to provide this hands-on, project-based learning option to better serve the unique needs of each Grant County elementary student.

Alumni Share Advice for Students

Grant School District 3 challenges students to take charge of their own future. Each student pursues an Oregon high school diploma while also preparing for their individual career plans. This may include military, trade school, career, or college. We checked in with a few recent graduates to ask about their high school experiences and advice for current students.

Whitney McClellan Cyree is a 2018 graduate of Grant Union Jr/Sr High School. She is currently an All Source Intelligence Analyst, Sergeant (E-5) with the United States Space Force, while also taking college courses towards a bachelor's degree. "Post military retirement I would like to utilize a Forest Management degree to rejoin a field in the Forest Service." The military has opened many opportunities for Whitney. "I have learned many skills and different tradecrafts since I joined that enable me to be a better leader and analyst." The most useful skills she learned in high school were resiliency and problem-solving. She credits playing sports with teaching her "discipline, patience, communication, and teamwork."

Cyree credits Mr. Lusco's US Government class as her biggest challenge. "I felt that he had high expectations of the class to think outside of the box and experience life and values through different lenses. I left that class feeling like I had learned so much but also knew nothing, which is a great way to face your own ignorance." Her hardest course was math. "I may not solve times tables every day, but math is a valuable skill when it comes to my current job and personal finances."

As far as advice for other students? "I wish I would've taken my learning more seriously rather than just passing the classes. I do think young people could benefit with a better understanding of real-world economics, personal finance, and politics. I would say there is no one right way to plan or prepare for your future. Having short and long-term goals, working hard, and pushing yourself outside of your comfort zone are great guidelines to your own personal success. However, life will never go exactly as you plan it; be flexible and kind to yourself."



Whitney McClellan Cyree

“Life will never go exactly as you plan it; be flexible and kind to yourself.”

Parker Neault, a 2022 GU graduate, is an apprentice with North River Electric and working towards his journeyman's license. His dream is to someday achieve his supervisor's license and start his own electrical business. Neault has found math to be the most important skill he learned in school. "Math and common sense help a lot in this field." He also credits his shop classes and sports for preparing him for adulthood. Mr. Lusco and Mr. Miller were teachers who held him to the highest standards because they "wanted me to be a good person and work hard like they knew I could. Mr. Lusco's government class was difficult for me, but it was worth the struggle."

Neault stated that if he could change anything, he "would've paid more attention in math class. He would like every student to know, "Work now, play later. Get what you need done and don't procrastinate."



Parker Neault

“Get what you need done and don't procrastinate.”

2018 graduate Maggie Justice attended Walla Walla University and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Biology. During school breaks, she spent time working, "which exposed me to different career options that were out there." She credits her internship with the Grant County Extension Office for directing her into her current career as a 4-H Extension Agent. Her most useful skill from high school is communication. "Whether we are talking, emailing, or texting, how we communicate and what we say can have a major impact." She also recommends establishing a strong work ethic. "The skills and habits that you develop now are the ones that you will use for the rest of your life. Being dedicated to completing tasks serves you well."

Biology was the class that prepared Justice most for her degree and career because "I had a teacher who modeled the class similarly to college courses, which allowed me to understand many of the concepts before getting to college." She also feels 4-H & FFA "helped me find out what I was passionate about, refine my public speaking, and gave me skills that I will use for the rest of my life: record-keeping, sewing, cooking, and thinking outside the box." All of her teachers held her to high expectations. "I know they expected quality work and to put genuine effort into projects and school-

work." Her hardest courses were physics and math. "Both were subjects that did not come easily to me and were my first introduction to college courses. Getting them done while I was in High School was extremely rewarding because it started the groundwork that I needed in my college career." Justice stated that she would not change anything about her high school education. "I had an excellent education, was involved in extracurricular activities, and learned from excellent teachers. I felt very prepared for my college experience and that my teachers had prepared me to be successful."

As for advice? "Be okay with changing your plan. When I was in high school, I put so much pressure on myself. I felt that I would disappoint myself and let down my family and community. Your growth does not stop when you get a diploma, you are allowed to change. It's your life, you are allowed to live it on your terms, and your family and community just want to make sure that you are happy and healthy." She also shared that a general degree is a flexible option for

those who aren't sure what they want to do, and "while you are in college, investigate different careers. I didn't know about the opportunities in Extension until I became an intern. There are many experiences and opportunities out there; you just have to look for them."



Maggie Justice

“Your growth does not stop when you get a diploma...”

Thank you to the John Day Senior Center and the Painted Sky Center for the Arts for providing an intergenerational painting party with Angel Carpenter on Thursday, March 14, 2024. Grant Union Jr/Sr High School Art Teacher JJ Collier was excited to share the experience with several of her students.



Grant School District 3 Strategic Plan

Tagline: Where your future begins!

Mission Statement: Our Prospector Promise: A place for every student to feel support, achieve success, and learn respect.

District Vision Statement: A Place Where Every Prospector is Known, Empowered, and Ready for the World!

District Foundational Values:

ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE by fostering an environment where respect for learning nurtures a community that thrives on curiosity, collaboration, and understanding.

RESPECT by building relationships, developing trust, and providing transparent communication.

COMMUNITY by honoring traditions, strengthening partnerships, and serving others; where every student is known.

PREPARATION by individualized guidance to prepare each student for their unique path.

District Goals:

1. Recruit, train, and retain staff able to implement, adjust, and achieve excellence!
2. Create a student-focused environment where each student is known and prepared for success in life!
3. Provide positive perceptions, community ownership, and support for our district's facility improvements!

Grant School District 3 would like to thank the school board members, community members, and students involved in the strategic planning process and meetings. "The school board looks forward to having a clear direction and implementing a plan that benefits our entire school district. We appreciate everyone who dedicated their time to developing the strategic plan, especially the insightful discussions from staff, administration, community members, school board members, and our students," stated board member Amy Charette. For additional information, or to obtain a copy of the full plan, please contact the District Office at 541-575-1280.

CTE Focus: Agriculture and Metals Shop

"I believe in the future of agriculture" is a phrase well-known among the FFA community. The Agriculture program at Grant Union has a renewed spirit and determination in the form of a new teacher and club advisor. Kailee Oliver is the Agriculture and Metals Shop Teacher at Grant Union Jr/Sr High School, bouncing energetically between teaching agriculture classes, welding classes, and middle school leadership, in addition to her position as FFA advisor.

Oliver was raised on the Alvord Ranch, 30 miles north of Fields, Oregon. She graduated from Crane Union High School and spent one year at Blue Mountain Community College before heading to Oregon State University where she earned a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Science and a master's degree in Agricultural Education. She taught for three years in Hansen, Idaho before returning to Eastern Oregon and teaching at her alma mater, Crane High School for three years where she rechartered the FFA program. She married Alec Oliver in the summer of 2023, moving to Seneca and accepting the teaching position at Grant Union.

The agriculture and metals classes are a part of the CTE (Career and Technical Education) program at Grant Union, teaching life skills that many students will use in their future careers. While the agriculture classes teach everything from crops and soils to livestock techniques and veterinary medicine, the

beginning and advanced welding classes work on shop skills and metal projects. The FFA program is inter-curricular, giving students a platform to network with other schools and compete using the skills they have learned.

In addition to teaching a full load, FFA includes coaching, shuttling, and chaperoning students in various leadership activities and competitions. Oliver is also working towards many future goals for the program. Oliver is working to reconnect with Treasure Valley Community College and Blue Mountain Community College to offer dual-credit classes for her students. As she gets to know the staff and students at Grant Union, Oliver is working towards growing class sizes and offering diversified classes.

Oliver is also working on a building project, the Grant Union Farm Academy, which consists of a new greenhouse and chicken house to be built at Humbolt Elementary with the help of the CTE Revitalization Grant. While the project is being built at Humbolt, Oliver and her students will be responsible for staffing the facility. While there are still many details and responsibilities to be figured out, Oliver is excited to use the new facility to gain working experience for Grant Union and offer agricultural education at the elementary level.

Oliver definitely believes in the future of agriculture, and the future of Grant Union! Go Prospectors!



2023-24 FFA Officers:
Advisor Kailee Oliver
President Bailey McCracken
Vice-President Cooper Ross
Secretary Zoey Beam
Treasurer Zach Montwheeler
Reporter Monel Anderson



Oliver and students visit Humbolt Elementary to teach agricultural education.



Announcing our
Community Partner of
the Quarter...
Chester's Markets!
Thank you for
supporting our local
schools!



Congratulations to Chester's Markets, Grant School District 3's First Community Partner of the Quarter. School Board Chair Will Blood presented the award to Chester's Markets' Bob and Kay Cowan-Thompson and Mike and Tirza Shaffer at the March 13th School Board Meeting.

Social/Emotional Learning: What is it and Why?

By Marci Judd, School Counselor

"Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all."—Aristotle

In the past, addressing students' mental health concerns was considered separate from addressing academic achievement. What educators are finding now is that students' emotional and social well-being is as crucial as their academic performance. Research shows that Social/Emotional Learning (SEL) not only improves achievement, but also increases pro-social behaviors (such as kindness, sharing, and empathy), improves student attitudes toward school, and reduces depression, anxiety, and stress among students.

With Social and Emotional Learning, we teach:

RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

(Forming positive relationships, working in teams, dealing effectively with conflict)

RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKING

(Making ethical, constructive choices about personal and social behavior)

SELF-AWARENESS

(Recognizing one's emotions and values as well as one's strengths and challenges)

SELF-MANAGEMENT

(Managing emotions and behaviors to achieve one's goals)

SOCIAL AWARENESS

(Showing understanding and empathy for others)

Greater social and emotional competency can increase the likelihood of high school graduation, readiness for postsecondary education, career success, positive family and work relationships, better mental health, reduced criminal behavior, and engaged citizenship.



Marci Judd
School Counselor



Jennifer Reyes
School Counselor



Colleen Lindley
Behavior
Interventionist

Grant School District 3 employs one full-time and one part-time school counselor and one Behavior Interventionist, who work to address each of these areas. How they are addressed differs slightly from elementary to middle to high school levels. For example, at Humbolt Elementary and Seneca Elementary, each class receives SEL classroom lessons regularly. A school counselor or behavior interventionist may enter the classroom to host class discussions or meet with smaller groups during lunch. Lunch groups are run daily to encourage conversation skills and build relationships.

At the Middle School and High School levels, more advanced topics are presented related to suicide prevention, drug and alcohol prevention, internet safety, and school violence awareness and prevention.

We have been excited this year to re-introduce our Lunch Buddies program. We currently have 14 high school students who visit Humbolt weekly to spend lunch and recess time with a student. This has created another connection for some of the elementary students

Relationships and connections are key to any work with students. Whether teaching them math, Spanish conjugations, or conflict resolution skills, kids learn far more when they feel safe, heard, and connected. Relationships take time, energy, and effort, which is why we cannot do this work alone! It takes the entire community. It takes grandparents, businesses, and community partners. It takes collaboration and working relationships to meet the needs of every kid who walks through our doors!

We love every one of our students at Grant School District 3 and are excited to offer them the social and emotional support they need to thrive in their learning.

