



Eagles Nest



Yoncalla, Oregon

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New Teachers Join Yoncalla Elementary School

Yoncalla Elementary School welcomed several new classroom teachers this year. Two of the new teachers are Mrs. Churchwell and Mrs. Hernandez. Mrs. Churchwell, a third-grade teacher, and Mrs. Hernandez, a first-grade teacher, were inspired by other wonderful teachers to pursue their passion for teaching. Both teachers enjoy the silly reactions of their students and watching them grow. Churchwell thought the hardest part of teaching was the first day when the teacher and students were getting acquainted with one another. Hernandez struggled with the complexity versus reality of being a teacher, but she learned by understanding how her students learn. Both teachers create a positive environment by building a family-like atmosphere where students feel safe. Their favorite lessons they have taught also come from their family environments. Churchwell said she has four houseplants that have now become classroom "pets". Her students have named the plants; Barry, Spooder-Man, Needon, and Spike. Meanwhile, Hernandez loves teaching phonics and showing her students how to understand the alphabet. Both teachers want to keep their students engaged and help create a better community. They said they want to support the community and bring everyone together. Churchwell was surprised by how much she loved teaching and how much she missed it during the summer. Hernandez was surprised by how much time she would spend with her students. Both teachers offered advice to students and future teachers: Even when things get hard, don't give up. Teaching is filled with meaning, and it's important to keep learning fun. Churchwell hopes to gain more experience and knowledge in the coming years of her career by keeping a growth mindset and learning from her mistakes.

Photos and Story by Charles Barber, Eithin Schunk, and Annabelle Edwards

Inside this issue

New Teachers at YES.....	1
Transition to the High School.....	2
Around the School.....	3
Mrs. Wilde's Summer Adventure.....	4
Update on the Grandstands.....	5
6th Graders Ready for New Year.....	6
Opening Doors to the Future.....	7
Natural Resources and Forestry team up.....	8
YES Open House.....	9

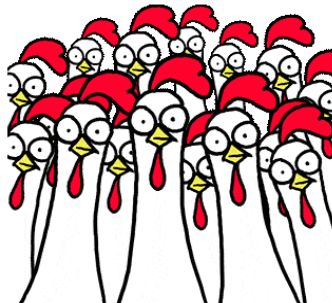


Welcome 7th Graders



Moving from elementary school to middle school can be an exciting right of passage. The move can also be stressful and worrisome. We recently spoke with several 7th graders to get their thoughts and feelings as they enter the next chapter of their life. First asked about teachers, Chloe Devlin, Cameron Swearingen, and Adrien Vigue all agreed that history is the best subject, and they are very excited for Mr. Elkins as their teacher. Everyone is super excited about sports and our middle school dances. All three have very diverse wishes for their futures. Chloe and Jordyn wish to be nurses. Cameron wants to join the military while Adrien wishes to be a chef. They are all relatively nervous to be here but way more excited!

Story and photos by Kade Davison, Adaleigh Bowman, and Haley Tibbatts



High School Calendar

September

19th. Volleyball @ Mohawk Tournament

Cross Country @ Northwest Classic

22nd. Volleyball vs. Pacific

24th. Volleyball @ Powers

26th. Cross Country at Willamette

28th. Homecoming Week

28th. Mud Tug

29th. Volleyball vs. Days Creek

29th. Noise Parade

30th. Bonfire

October

1st. Volleyball @ UVC

2nd. Homecoming Dance

6th. Volleyball @ Glendale

8th. Volleyball vs. New Hope

13th. Volleyball @ Elkton

15th. School Board Meeting

16th. Volleyball @ Oakland

17th. Cross Country @

Cottage Grove

21st. PSAT for Grades 10/11

29th. End of Quarter 1

31st. Halloween



Spaghetti
Towers



The Return
of Eddy the
Eagle!

Senior Emmet and Eddy
the Eagle hold up a
sign.



Gabby passing
the ball



Teammates
Corbin, Trenton
, and Preston



Funds for Teachers: An Opportunity to Grow

In August, Ms. Wilde went to New Zealand on a Fund for Teachers/Ford Family Foundation grant. The mission for her trip was to research forests and endangered animals in New Zealand, to learn directly from scientists, conservationists, and indigenous communities about their approaches to climate change and provide students with authentic, globally relevant learning.

Ms. Wilde and her husband, Adam Falk, traveled the North Island from the top, at Opononi, to the bottom, Wellington. Along the way, they saw one of the largest trees in the world. It is a kauri tree named Tane Mahuta. It measures 46 feet in circumference and over 150 feet tall. If it was cut down and made into lumber, it could make over 100 houses!

Conservation is very important to New Zealand and Ms. Wilde went to two different sanctuaries with extensive biosecurity. Birds have developed over time in New Zealand to not fly and to lay their eggs on the ground. There just weren't any predators. But there are now and feral cats, stoats, Australian possums, weasels, and other animals have decimated the bird population. These sanctuaries have eliminated these predators and now the native wildlife can reproduce in peace, at least in those areas.

It was winter in New Zealand and the cold was appreciated since it was over 90°F at home. Ms. Wilde had a wonderful time and she and her husband would love to go back and visit the south island someday .

Story and Photos by Ms. Wilde.



Years in the Making, Nearing the End

Middle School Calendar

September

17th. Football vs. North Douglas
21st. Cross Country Team Pictures
21st. Volleyball vs. North Douglas
22nd. Football @ Elkton
23rd. Volleyball vs. UVC
23rd. Advisory Council Meeting
24th. Progress Reports
30th. Volleyball vs. Oakland
30th. Football vs. Camas Valley

October

6th. Football @ Powers
7th. Volleyball @ ND
10th. Volleyball B Tournament
@ Elkton
12th. Volleyball @ UVC
13th. Volleyball vs. Elkton
14th. Football vs. Days Creek
29th. End of 1st Quarter
31st. HALLOWEEN



As construction continues on the new grandstands, the final product can be seen for the first time in several years; the skeleton of steel signaling the project is nearing completion. Next will come the roof and *Eagles Nest* before the bleachers will be erected under the new structure. The old grandstands were deemed unsafe and were demolished in 2022. Since then the project has faced several setbacks and delays due to rising costs and several contractors have come and gone in that time. Although this year the high school could not field a football team, we have a strong middle school team and look forward to fill the stands with staff, students, community members, and fans; cheering loud for the Eagles.

Story and Photos by Mr. James.

6th Graders Ready for the 2026-27 School Year

Student of the Month for September



Landen Powers
Yoncalla Middle School
Class of 2031

There are some familiar topics and a lot of new curriculum and textbooks for this year's sixth graders as we prepare for the new school year. To name a few there is Twig Science, Top Score Writing, Ed Gems Math, but most of the interest is in the social studies and the newest textbook adoption.

The social studies text is ERAS: World History to 500 CE which is the studies of ancient civilizations and also included is the text BRIDGES & BOUNDARIES: World Geography that includes areas tied to ancient civilizations. We are starting the units with Ancient Egypt History Pockets that the students are putting together to add a literacy art element for a deeper understanding of specific events in ancient times. We are all excited to extend our learning this year!

Story and photo by
Kelly Campbell
6th grade teacher



Kaiden Marshall
Yoncalla High School
Class of 2027



Opening Doors to the Future

Through dedicated college and career readiness programs, Yoncalla High School's Class of 2026 secures nearly \$690,000 in scholarships and grants

Yoncalla High School's Class of 2026 turned a busy senior year into an impressive investment in their futures. With 24 seniors on campus and support through **YHS Senior Success**, students earned nearly **\$690,000 in offered and awarded scholarships and grants**, including **\$25,000 from the Yoncalla Alumni Association**. Additional financial aid through FAFSA-related grants and Oregon Promise contributed approximately **\$188,000** toward students' postsecondary goals. Students also benefited from YHS's **Expanded Options** program, which allows eligible students to earn high school and college credit through Umpqua Community College with tuition and fees covered by the district. These opportunities have helped students like Bailey Richey begin college coursework and career training before graduation and Riley Templeton earn the prestigious **Ford Scholars Program scholarship**, providing up to \$40,000 per year toward her education at Bushnell University. Preparing students for life beyond graduation begins well before senior year at YHS. Juniors participate in a year-long **Careers** course exploring colleges, trades, military service, and local career pathways, while Senior Success moves students from exploration to action through scholarship applications, financial aid, college and trade school admissions, résumé and cover letter development, interview preparation, and workforce readiness.

Strong partnerships with **Umpqua Community College, Recruit-Hippo, Douglas Education Service District, local businesses, and industry partners**, along with YHS Career and Technical Education programs, provide students with meaningful connections between classroom learning and future opportunities. As College and Careers Advisor Kristy Westbrooks explains, having a dedicated class gives students the time, encouragement, and support to recognize their potential and successfully pursue the opportunities available to them.

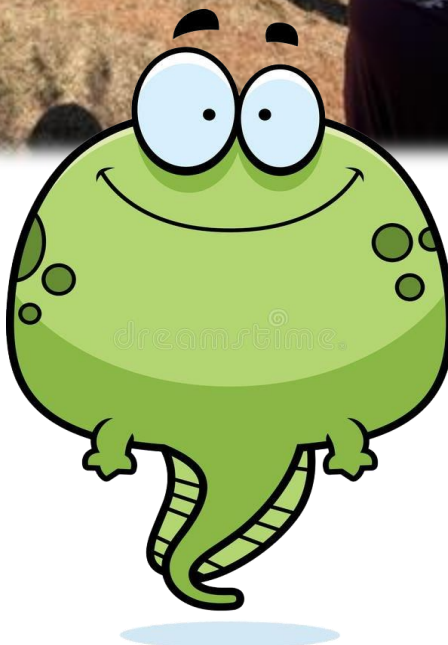


By Kristy Westbrooks, College and Careers Advisor at YHS

Working Together to Help the Environment

Natural Resources I and the Forestry class worked together to help get rid of invasive bull frogs at the Applegate Pond. Ponds and lakes in Oregon weren't meant to have fish or non-native frogs, either. YHS's Natural Resource classes have gone to her pond the last 5+ years to help, in a small way, eliminate these invasive species. September 9, the NRI class went to the pond and set out minnow traps to catch tadpoles. On September 10, the Forestry class went to collect them and to see what we trapped. We don't have final numbers yet, but we caught over 300 tadpoles, four salamanders, four actual frogs, and several "morphs," tadpoles with legs.

Story and Photos
by Ms. Wilde



Student of the Month for September



Raylee Parker
Yoncalla Elementary
Class of 2038



Rilynn Carrigan
Yoncalla Elementary
Class of 2034



Truman Geyer
Yoncalla Preschool
Class of 2039

Yoncalla Elementary Hosts Their 2026-27 Open House



The elementary had their annual open house on Tuesday! Over 200 people showed up to eat dinner, hear about the goals and vision of the elementary and students got to show off their classrooms to their families. The library was full of people looking over curriculum, learning more about our Indian Education program and signing up to volunteer with our new garden coordinator. It was a great night, and we loved having our building full of families to start the new school year!

Story and Photos by Mrs. Crosby

